



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON  
4551 LLEWELLYN AVENUE, SUITE 5000  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5000

IMND-MEA-PWE

September 10, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR Restoration Advisory Board Members

SUBJECT: Minutes for the July 18, 2013 Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

1. The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was held on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express located at 7481 Ridge Rd, Hanover, Maryland, 21076. The next RAB meeting will be **Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., at the same location.**

2. The following RAB members were present:

Mr. John Burchette, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (by phone)  
Mr. Mick Butler, Fort Meade Co-Chair  
Ms. Kellyann Few, Provision Community Member  
Mr. Paul Fluck, Fort Meade Restoration Manager  
Mr. Martin Madera, Community Member  
Mr. Howard Nicholson, Community Member  
Mr. Kurt Riegel, Community Member  
Mr. David Tibbetts, Community Co-Chair  
Ms. Kerry Topovski, Anne Arundel County Health Department  
Mr. Fred Tutman, Community Member

3. Members not present:

Mr. Tim Berkoff, Community Member  
Mr. Rusty Bristow, Community Member  
Mr. Wayne Dixon, Community Member  
Ms. Laura Ann Hutchinson, Provisional Community Member  
Ms. Ivana Maksimovic, Community Member  
Mr. Harry Neal, Community Member

4. Others present were:

Mr. Walt Chahanovich	Fort Meade, Office of SJA
Mr. Thomas Crone	ARCADIS
Ms. Elisabeth Green	Maryland Department of the Environment
Ms. Katrina Harris	Bridge Consulting Corp.
Ms. Jackie Lee	Resident
Ms. Anne Marie Lee	Resident

Mr. George Knight  
Ms. Nicole Walworth

Fort Meade Environmental Division  
Fort Meade Environmental Division (Osage of Virginia, Inc.)

5. Announcements and Minutes:

a. Mr. Paul Fluck welcomed everyone, and Mr. David Tibbetts called the meeting to order. Mr. Fluck invited all present to introduce themselves and sign in. Mr. Fluck advised Mr. John Burchette of EPA was on speakerphone due to travel restrictions.

b. Mr. Tibbetts made a motion to approve the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes.

6. Outstanding Items:

a. Mr. Fluck stated there had been a discussion at the last meeting regarding the possibility of changing the meeting date from the third Thursday of every other month. He advised he had sent an email in early July soliciting additional input from the Board members. Mr. Fluck said he would summarize the responses and send another email asking for additional input. He noted it may be appropriate to vote on the issue by email and the Board agreed. Mr. Fluck said he would discuss the results at the next meeting so action could be taken to formalize the decision.

7. Update on Architect of the Capitol Site:

a. Mr. Fluck introduced Mr. Tom Crone of ARCADIS, a contractor to Fort Meade, to provide several updates.

b. Mr. Crone stated he would first be providing an update on the status of the investigation at the Architect of the Capitol site and upcoming actions.

c. Mr. Crone showed an aerial photograph of the site and noted it is a 93-acre parcel, adjacent to Route 32.

d. Mr. Crone displayed a list of the major steps in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. He explained the remedial investigation is the first step, and is the phase where samples are collected from groundwater, sediment, surface water and soil. He stated that phase was started in 1990 and finished in 2011; he noted it is generally the longest phase due to the data collection and the characterization of the site performed in conjunction with EPA and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Mr. Crone said the remedial investigation of the Architect of the Capitol is complete, and the next phase, the feasibility study, has advanced to completion of a draft report.

e. In response to questions, Mr. Fluck explained the Architect of the Capitol property is owned by the Library of Congress. He stated the Army had been directed by law to transfer the land to them, and the Architect of Capitol has developed the land for storage. Mr. Walt Chahanovich noted the ownership presents challenges, as the Army does not have jurisdiction on the property. Mr. Mick Butler stated the Architect of the Capitol was invited to be a signatory to

the Federal Facility Agreement which governs the environmental cleanup process, and they are participating in that process as is the Department of the Interior.

f. Mr. Crone noted the Army used the site prior to it being transferred to Architect of the Capitol, and had multiple warehouses and storage sheds, as well as a transportation motor pool facility located on the property. He continued explaining those uses likely resulted in some of the contamination at the site prior to the transfer in 1994. He said since 1994 the Architect of the Capitol has used the property for document storage and warehouses.

g. Mr. Crone stated comments have begun to be received from the stakeholders on the Feasibility Study. He said a draft Proposed Plan has been developed which summarizes the possible remedial actions to address contamination in soil and groundwater. He advised once the Proposed Plan is finalized, it will be released for a formal 30-day public comment period and a public meeting will be held. Mr. Crone said comments received will be addressed in the Record of Decision. Mr. Crone noted the public meeting will be held in the upcoming few months.

8. Manor View Dump Site Update:

a. Mr. Fluck noted Mr. Crone would be providing an update on the removal action and an upcoming Proposed Plan for Manor View Dump Site.

b. Mr. Crone displayed a list of the key phases of the CERCLA process and noted this project was slightly ahead of the Architect of the Capitol project in terms of the process so the Manor View public meeting would be sooner.

c. Mr. Crone displayed a map of the site and pointed out the shape of the approximately nine acres of buried waste (municipal and construction debris). He noted the site is in the center of the installation.

d. Mr. Crone noted the remedial investigation had been completed, and he would be summarizing the findings of the investigation. He stated the draft final Feasibility Study is nearly complete and is pending the resolution of comments on the risk assessment. He noted the next steps of a public comment period and public meeting would be happening soon, followed by a Record of Decision which would document the final remedy for the site.

e. Mr. Crone stated that the non-time critical removal action was completed in 2012 and approximately 30,000 tons of soil and material were removed. He explained that the balance of the CERCLA process still needs to be completed.

f. Mr. Crone briefly reviewed the environmental history of the site and stated in 2003 the Army's residential housing partner was beginning construction when the waste was discovered. He stated a preliminary assessment/site investigation was started, and the initial sampling event determined there was a need for a remedial investigation due to the discovery of buried waste. Mr. Crone stated the remedial investigation was completed in 2005 which determined methane was being generated by the buried waste in a distinct section above the lower explosive limit and migrating out from the site. He said a soil vapor extraction system was installed in 2005 and

harmlessly vented the methane to the atmosphere. He explained the methane concentrations persisted at elevated levels, and the removal action was undertaken and completed in 2012. Mr. Tibbetts asked for the volume of material removed beyond the original excavation delineation, and Mr. Crone said he did not have the number with him but would provide it to Mr. Tibbetts. [After the meeting, Mr. Crone advised 11,200 tons of soil was removed from beyond the original excavation limits.]

g. Mr. Crone advised the human health risk assessment was revised after the removal action. He explained the risk assessment considers the chemical data collected from the site and calculates the risk posed to current and potential future users of the site. He stated for this site it is the current and future students and teachers at the nearby Manor View Elementary School, outside recreational users on the playground, and perhaps trespassers. He said the Feasibility Study and risk assessment are nearing completion.

h. Mr. Crone reviewed historic use of the site, noting the site was used as a landfill during the 1940s, with municipal waste, construction and demolition debris placed at the site and covered with two to eight feet of soil.

i. Mr. Crone reviewed the work done during the remedial investigation and stated groundwater samples were collected both on-site and off-site to evaluate whether the buried waste was impacting the aquifer. He explained at this site the depth to the aquifer is about 50 feet and the waste was buried to about 15 feet. Mr. Crone said soil borings were collected along with surface soil and sub-surface soil samples and surface water samples. He noted soil gas and sub-slab samples were collected to analyze for the methane or any other contaminants that might be present. Mr. Crone said all the data collected was used to develop a human health risk assessment and a Feasibility Study.

j. Mr. Crone summarized the data collected. He stated some of the contaminants detected in the surface soil were arsenic and iron, at one of 30 locations sampled, and trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected as well as PAHs in 9 of 30 samples. Mr. Crone said in the sub-surface soil, metals were detected as well as volatile organic compounds. He explained the soil gas and indoor air sampling showed the site was not impacting ambient air, nor were vapors accumulating under the sub-slab of the school. He stated there is very little surface water on the site, and with the exception of one detection in 2003, no elevated levels of chemicals were found.

k. Mr. Crone stated five rounds of groundwater sampling were conducted at 11 monitoring wells, and the only detections above drinking water standards were thallium and vinyl chloride. He stated there have also been some sporadic detections of TCE over the nine years of sampling, as well as some sporadic detections of metals which could be naturally occurring. Mr. Crone explained that if a chemical is detected at a site in 2003 but not in 2010, the data from 2003 is still included in the risk assessment. Mr. Crone said the levels of contaminants in the groundwater have been steadily declining from the historical highs in 2004 to near the drinking water standards.

l. Mr. Crone further discussed the risk assessment and reiterated the assessment evaluates current and future users of the site, the amount of time they might be exposed, whether they are

residents or industrial workers, and other assumptions and scenarios. He said calculations are then performed to determine if any chemicals could cause a cancer risk or non-cancer health hazard. He explained for the current users (trespasser, student, teacher, construction worker) and reasonably anticipated future users (recreational, student, teacher, construction worker) there was no unacceptable risk. He continued explaining that while Fort Meade's master plan does not call for residential use of the site, there would be an unacceptable risk if this hypothetical use were to occur. He summarized that groundwater is the only media driving an unacceptable risk and it is only for a hypothetical future use. He noted some buried waste still remains on site and was also addressed in the feasibility study.

m. Mr. Crone discussed the Feasibility Study, noting it evaluates remedies for the potential risk. He said the feasibility study considers the existing cover to be effective at eliminating exposure to buried waste, and there appears to be no cohesive plume of contaminants in the groundwater, only sporadic detections. He said another consideration in the Feasibility Study was that the dump site was not properly closed under State regulations, and any remedy will need to follow State rules for closing out a dump site. Mr. Crone said the Feasibility Study evaluated three alternatives: no action as required by CERCLA; maintenance of the two to eight feet existing soil cover, land use controls and long-term monitoring; installation of an impermeable cover building to State standards, land-use controls, and long-term monitoring.

n. Mr. Crone said the second alternative is the current preferred remedy in the draft Proposed Plan. He stated the State appears to be in agreement with granting a variance from the landfill closure regulations. Ms. Kerry Topovski asked if the variance is for an impermeable cover not to be installed, and Mr. Crone confirmed that is the purpose of the variance. He explained State regulations allow for a variance if it can be demonstrated that an alternative is as protective as an engineered remedy. He stated the existing soil cover has performed well, and there is a lack of risk for current users.

o. Mr. Butler added that the initial discovery of sub-surface soil gas, methane and volatile organic compounds, raised a concern about the indoor air at the school and children using the playground. He said this led to the indoor air sampling, sub-slab sampling, and air samples above the playground soil. He continued explaining all the air sampling results were put into the risk assessment which led to the conclusion summarized by Mr. Crone that there is no unacceptable risk to users or the playground. He stated Maryland typically requires an impermeable cover on landfills so water does not percolate through a landfill and contaminate the groundwater. He continued explaining the thought process is the school was built in the 1970s, there have been decades of rain percolating through the waste, groundwater has been characterized and results show minimal impact, so what would be the benefit of capping the site after all these decades. Mr. Butler said the most important factor is that there is no unacceptable risk to students; however, there is still waste in place. He stated if the Army were to install a liner there would be considerable operational impact on the school with limited net benefit. He said the Army did ask the hard questions and evaluate whether it is acceptable to have construction rubble below a playground. Mr. Butler encouraged the Board members to take all the information into consideration as they evaluated the proposed alternatives.

p. Mr. Crone reviewed the project schedule noting the risk assessment is being finalized based on EPA comments and will be followed by the finalization of the Feasibility Study. He said the variance has been prepared by the Army. He advised the draft proposed plan is being reviewed by EPA and MDE with a target date of August for a public meeting and 30-day public comment period.

q. Mr. Crone gave an update on the ongoing Manor View methane monitoring. He advised it is now being performed on a quarterly basis with two points monitored on a monthly basis. He stated the two points are monitoring points 30 and 31 where the highest levels of methane have been detected. He said since the last meeting the detections at these two locations were 2,000 parts per million (ppm) and 6,000 ppm compared to the 50,000 ppm lower explosive limit. Mr. Tibbetts asked if it is known why these two locations have the higher readings. Mr. Fluck said some theories have been investigated, including a problem with a BG&E gas line, but no exact cause has been determined.

r. Mr. Kurt Riegel asked for how long the monitoring will continue. Mr. Crone responded that the Remedial Design document which is prepared after the Record of Decision is signed will spell out in detail the monitoring program and land-use controls. Mr. Riegel asked if Mr. Crone could speculate what might be in the Remedial Design. Mr. Crone speculated the groundwater monitoring would probably be done on a quarterly basis initially and then depending on the results eventually scaled back to semi-annually. Mr. Crone stated there are also five year reviews of remedies, and the Army is required to look at the remedy put in place and sampling results and see if they are still protective of human health. Mr. Fluck added that the data does show declining trends for the methane but most likely will not reach zero as waste remains in place and will produce naturally occurring methane. He said the Army is envisioning a long-term monitoring program.

s. Mr. Butler addressed the question of when the military housing might be re-occupied and whether there would be any restrictions. He stated if the concentrations of methane are below the lower explosive limit, there is still a possibility the gas in the sub-surface could find a crack in the home and accumulate and concentrate in the home to the lower explosive limit or above. He said it may not be feasible but if it is possible, it needs to be addressed. He said the homes still have methane monitors which are not quantitative but an alarm system; he advised there have not been any detections inside the homes. Mr. Butler said a plan needs to be presented to Army Command and the Army's partner who handles military housing. Mr. Butler said the decision is centered on ensuring conditions are acceptable so residents would never have to be removed from the homes in the future. He said an initial condition is at least one year of monitoring after the completion of the removal action through all four seasons. Mr. Butler said more work needs to be completed on this issue before a final plan is developed and the Board will be kept informed. In response to a question from Mr. Martin Madera, Mr. Butler said 20 homes were evacuated and remain unoccupied.

9. Update on the Nevada Avenue Investigation:

a. Mr. Fluck introduced Ms. Nicole Walworth of Fort Meade (Osage of Virginia, Inc.).

b. Ms. Walworth reminded the Board there are three homes on Nevada Avenue whose wells are being monitored. She displayed 12 months of sampling data through June 2013 for the three houses. She also displayed the data on a graph. Ms. Walworth stated there were no detections in May, and in June Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was detected ranging from 1.5 to 2.4 parts per billion. She noted the levels have been decreasing since 2009 and are below the maximum contaminant level set by EPA which is 5 parts per billion.

c. Ms. Walworth stated additional monitoring wells have been installed: two on-post and three off-post. Ms. Walworth displayed a map showing the location of the new wells. She noted in addition to completing the installation of the wells since the last Board meeting, the wells have been sampled and the results will be presented at the next Board meeting. She stated a second round of sampling will be completed in September 2013. Ms. Walworth advised a draft report on the sampling program will be completed in late November or early December 2013.

d. Mr. Butler said it may be premature, but he would like the regulators to think about how to communicate to the residents if the data shows the contamination is not coming from Fort Meade.

11. Open Discussion/New Business:

a. Mr. Fluck stated he was talking with the Reserve Center about use of their facilities for future meetings and would keep the Board advised.

b. Mr. Fluck said he had heard from a potential new member from Gambrills as a result of the media release sent out the week prior to the meeting. Mr. Tibbetts said it might be a good time to purge the rolls of members who have not attended meetings. Mr. Fluck agreed and said the charter provides for this type of action. Mr. Butler suggested a letter be sent to members who have not attended in some time and clarify if they are interested in continuing on the Board. Mr. Fluck said he would include this topic for discussion at the next meeting. He said he would send an email in advance of the meeting with more information.

c. Mr. Fluck invited Board members to contact him with potential topics for the next meeting.

d. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.



for

MICHAEL P. BUTLER  
Chief, Environmental Division

CF:  
RAB MEMBERS  
FGGM GARRISON COMMANDER  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE