

**ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD  
AUGUST 11, 2001  
CALHOUN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
ANNISTON, ALABAMA**

Co-chairman, Dr. Barry Cox, called the meeting to order shortly after 6:00 P.M. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves and roll was called. RAB members reviewed and approved the minutes of April 9, 2001 with a correction to the spelling of citizen attendee, Leola Bright.

Ms. Abston introduced the new commander of the Anniston Army Depot, Colonel Gerald Bates, JR. who assumed command on August 9, 2001. Although it was only his first full day of work, he generously made time to be at the RAB meeting. Colonel Bates expressed his pleasure at being able to attend and assured all in attendance that he expects to be actively involved as the Depot is such a vital part of the community and clean-up of the groundwater contamination a priority.

Ms. Abston discussed the installation action plan that comes out every year. It sets a schedule and breaks down the funding through 2030. It is a good reference and will be updated in November at which time the dollar figures will be reviewed to determine any changes from the past year. Electronic and hard copies of the plan are available.

The contract for the combined groundwater investigation has been awarded. The geophysics to locate drilling locations for the deep background, a deep well just south of the Cooper Ponds, and a deep well along Dry Creek have been completed. The Work Plan is in the process of being approved at this time. The drilling will begin in September or October.

The executive summary from the phase one investigation has yet to be finalized. When it becomes available it will be sent out to everyone. This too will be available electronically. All contracts written now include a request for an electronic version so that materials can more efficiently be dispersed.

Private well sampling will begin this week (August 11, 2001). Letters were sent to those residents with sole source drinking water wells that were sampled last year. There was a good response by community members wanting the Army to come back to resample their wells. Those who did not respond were called. If that was not successful someone actually went to the home. Three attempts will be made to contact all individuals.

The new groundwater treatment plant began operation July 31, 2001. Water is being pumped from all well fields and everything is working fine. When the system began operations the water was treated, sampled, and re circulated awaiting sampling results to insure the process was working as designed before discharging. The cost for the retrofitted existing plant was around two point five million dollars. The estimated operating costs will be eight hundred thousand dollars a year. The plant is expected to be able to run for up to thirty years, if necessary, to clean up the groundwater to its beneficial use. Hopefully there will be better technology before then. At this time there is not technology available to treat the TCE down in the bedrock. A grand opening is planned and the Army would like for any interested RAB member to attend and invite concerned citizens to

accompany them for a tour of the plant. The afternoon of September 10, 2001 is set as a tentative date for the Grand Opening/Tour.

Next, Ms. Abston discussed the on post groundwater interim record of decision (ROD). After a public comment period and meeting on the proposed plan in 1999, the ROD was drafted. This document discussed the four top alternatives and describes the chosen alternative that was to build the groundwater plant discussed above and to do hot spot treatments at the high concentration areas. Since it did not contain an exit strategy and remedial action goal, it was not signed by the Army. Because of the difficulty in distinguishing between the on-post and off-post groundwater operable unit, it was determined that it would be better to have some flexibility until we had a better understanding of the groundwater flow both in the shallow and deep aquifers. The ROD was changed to an interim ROD that will still utilize the completed groundwater treatment plant and will address hot spot treatments when an appropriate technology is available. A final groundwater ROD will be issued after the off-post groundwater and deep groundwater investigations have been completed and will combined all groundwater into one operable unit. Everyone will be provided a copy of the interim ROD and an explanation of the significant difference between the onpost groundwater ROD and the interim ROD. Also, a fact sheet describing the ongoing activities at the Depot will be provided. There will be a 30-day public comment period, which will be advertised in the newspaper and the document will be in the library for anyone wanting to comment on it. All board members will have a copy and thirty days to get comments back to the Army.

As requested by the RAB, Dr. Ted Simon, toxicologist with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, returned to this meeting to go over more of the health effects of trichloroethene (TCE). He explained to the board that EPA has just completed a risk assessment on the toxicity of TCE. He discussed the possibilities of EPA lowering the Drinking Water Standard for TCE to less than 1 based on this recent assessment. Dr. Simon's presentation was once again met with considerable audience interest and Board and audience members asked questions.

Because of the lateness of the hour, administrative matters, i.e. housekeeping tasks will be addressed at the next meeting.

Audience comments and questions were addressed regarding the topics covered throughout the meeting.

Agenda items for the next board meeting will include results from the remedial investigation of the ammunition storage area. This document will be final and the contractor can be here to review the results. Patsy Goldberg with EPA will keep the RAB posted on changes, developments pertinent to the groundwater contamination project. Mr. Simon can attend meetings as questions arise, appropriate to his expertise. Mrs. Abston will report on the progress of well installation and results of the private well sampling. Members are encouraged to call Ms. Abston with any additional items they would like to have on the agenda.

The next meeting of the ANAD RAB is tentatively set for December 10, 2001 at a site to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

RAB ATTENDEES-August 11, 2001

Members Present:

Bates, Gerald, COL  
Baucom, Thomas, Dr.  
Conroy, Pete  
Cox, Barry, Dr.  
Frazier, Walter  
Grant, Ron  
Henderson, Eli  
Howland, Keith  
Hutchinson, Bruce  
Landholm, Dawn  
Leatherwood, Helen  
Randolph, Christopher, Dr.  
Steffy, David, Dr.  
Thomason, Shane

Members Absent:

Boydston, Jack, with regrets  
Bryant, Echols  
Garrett, Tim  
Harrington, Mary, Dr.  
Livingston, Wayne  
Miller, Jim  
Parker, Roosevelt  
Roberts, Jerry  
Senn, Greta  
Smith, Garrett, with regrets

Non-Members Present:

Champion, Wanda  
Goldberg, Patricia, EPA  
Grassiano, Jim, ADEM  
Harper, Paul, ANAD  
Haskett, Cynthia  
Holder, Johnny  
Howland, Shirley  
Hutchinson, Francine, Alabama Water Watch  
Lovoy, David, ADEM  
Simon, Ted, Dr., EPA Toxicologist  
Smith, Patrick, ANAD  
Starling, Mickey, ANAD  
Thompson, Sylvia  
Wilkerson, Dan  
Wilkerson, Diane