

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

July 8, 2002

CO-CHAIR: Dr. Barry Cox, COL Gerald Bates

MEMBERS PRESENT: COL Gerald Bates; Dr. Thomas Baucom; Mr. Jack Boydston; Mr. Pete Conroy; Dr. Barry Cox; Mr. Walter Fazier; Mr. Ronald Grant; Commissioner Eli Henderson; Mr. Keith Howland; Mr. Bruce Hutchinson; Ms. Dawn Landholm; Ms. Helen Leatherwood; Mr. Robert Fulton (sitting in for Mr. Wayne Livingston); Mr. Jim Miller; Mr. Roosevelt Parker; Ms. Greta Senn; Mr. Garrett Smith, Dr. David Steffy.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Echols Bryant; Mr. Tim Garrett; Dr. Mary Harrington; Dr. Christopher Randolph; Mr. Jerry Roberts (excused); Mr. Shane Thomason (excused)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Susan Abston; ANAD; Mr. Johnny Alexander; Mr. John Baehr, COE; Mr. David Baker, CAP President; Ms. Shirley Baker, CAP; Mr. Lewis Bass; Mr. J.E. Bentkowski, EPA; Mr. Carl Blair, ATSDR; Ms. Elizabeth Bluemink, Anniston Star; Mr. Douglas Bryant, CAP; Mr. Zitego Brown, CAP; Mr. Lem Burell, Dept. of Public Health; Mr. Lucius Burton; Ms. Mary Bush, CAP; Ms. Rosie Lee Carter, CAP; Mr. Paul Chastain; Mr. Walter Christian; Ms. Katie Cooper; Mr. T.A. Cooper, Cooper's Catfish Lakes; Mr. C.H. Cox, ADEM; Mr. Michael Cox, SAIC; Mr. Robert Downing, Calhoun County Commissioner; Ms. Keilina Ellington, CAP; Ms. Annie Godfrey; Mr. Clifton Fantroy, Jr.; Mr. Clifton Fantroy, Sr.; Mr. Joe Findley, COE; Mr. Gerald Fleming; Mr. Ralph Floyd; Mr. Nathan Frederick; Mr. Tommy Gaines, ANAD; Ms. Annie Godfrey, EPA; Ms. Patsy Goldberg, EPA; Mr. Shannon Golden, ADEM; Mr. Steven Guthrie, ANAD; Ms. Haley Harman; Mr. Carlos Ray Hawkins, CAP; Mr. Johnny Holder; Ms. Sherwood Howland; Mr. Don Huguley, CAP; Ms. Francine Hutchinson; Mr. Blake Jeffcoat, CH2M Hill, COE; Ms. Quo-Vodis Johnson; Mr. Delreckus Jones; Mr. Bob Keener; Mr. Robert Kidd, US Geological Survey; Ms. Angela Ledbetter; Mr. Ron Levy; Mr. Ralph Lloyd; Mr. David Lovoy, ADEM; Ms. Denise Marshall; Mr. Joe Moore, ANAD; Ms. Beth Morrow; Mr. Deuvel McClendon; Ms. Janice McClendon; Ms. Lori McMurray, CAP; Mr. Isham Olive; Mr. David Parks, ANAD; Ms. Karen Pinson; Ms. Cynthia Pittman; Rev. John Powell, CAP; Mr. Curtis Ray; Mr. Darryal Ray, Birmingham News; Mr. H. Larry Raughton, Randolph County Commissioner; Mr. Axil Rose; Ms. Cynthia Rouse, CAP; Mr. David Russell; Mr. E. Sanders; Ms. Lela Sarrell; Mr. Ted Simon, Toxicologist, EPA; Ms. Nichelle Smith; Mr. Ladrester Spigner; Mr. Mickey Starling, ANAD Legal Office; Mr. Larry Story; Mr. Edgar Stroud; Ms. Marvine Stroud; Mr. Scott Sudweeks, ATSDR; Mr. Larry Sylvester; Mr. Dave Thomas; Mr. Dan Thomas, HGS Engineering; Mr. Jim Vice, WVLR; Mr. Tom Walters; Mr. Tom Weatherly, SAIC; Mr. Dan Wilkerson; Ms. Diane Wilkerson,

RAB; Mr. Auby Williams, CAP; Mr. Fred Williams; Mr. Damon Young, COE;
Mr. David Young, COE.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Cox called the meeting to order shortly after 6:00 P.M. After welcoming everyone to the quarterly meeting, he explained the procedure for attendees to be added to the ANAD RAB mailing list. He then told the audience that if anyone were interested in becoming a RAB member, the necessary forms would be provided to them. He explained that the purpose of the RAB is to only address issues concerning TCE groundwater contamination and provided some background information on the development of the RAB. The visitors were then asked to introduce themselves.

Dr. Cox introduced COL Gerald Bates, Anniston Army Depot. COL Bates assured the audience that the Army is totally committed to the clean-up process of the pollution and expressed his appreciation for their attendance. Dr. Cox then called the roll and those present are listed above.

The RAB members reviewed and approved the December 2001 and March 2002 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Jim Miller, Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board, explained that the water board has been working with the Army and the Corps of Engineers for years, monitoring for trichloroethylene (TCE) and any other contaminants that could come into the spring. He assured everyone that the drinking water is safe and will remain safe. Explaining that he and his organization has the legal responsibility for the water, he stated that COL Bates and the Army are very cooperative partners. He explained that if dangerous levels of TCEs were found in the drinking water, it could be effectively treated. He also explained that State and Federal laws require public notification within twenty-four hours if the TCEs go above five parts per billion in Coldwater Springs. He said that the Army and the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board have a plan that could be put in place immediately if there was a problem with the water.

Ms Susan Abston, ANAD, explained that she had met with officials at Army Materiel Command (AMC) about the extra funding needed to complete this program and the funding request will be met. Using slides, she discussed the Combined Groundwater Remedial Investigation (RI). The off-post testing began in 1999. The Army is currently in Phase Two. There were twelve new shallow groundwater wells installed, which were used to define the horizontal extent of contamination. Eleven of these wells were within the Southeast Industrial Area (SIA). Seven deep boreholes have been drilled. Four of them were within the SIA and three were off-post. Five of these are fully constructed. The other two will have the new flute system, so multiple flow zones can be sampled.

Identifying several wells, Ms Abston pointed out one now under construction located on Highway 202 near the narrow bridges. It has seven targeted flow zones, from which the Army hopes building sampling ports.

She pointed out several other wells and discussed them and stated that ninety-one government-installed monitoring wells have been sampled along with seven area springs. Using the map, she pointed out the monitoring wells that have been sampled in the past and the wells that were just sampled.

Ms. Abston explained that sampling is not only done for TCE, but for all volatiles and metals and the data being presented is preliminary and still in the validation process through the various agencies. Another sampling will take place in the fall.

Coldwater Springs was sampled in three places: where it is boiling up, the weir and the water that is going to the customer. All the samples were below the drinking water standard for TCE. Army will, along with the city, sample Coldwater Springs monthly, to find out how it fluctuates.

The sampling of the off-site wells is being conducted now. The annual date was moved up when this new development occurred. All individuals that use these wells as their sole source of drinking water were informed of this information and the Army requested permission to conduct the annual sampling earlier than usual. Responding to Mr. Howland's query, Ms. Abston stated that the sample that came up in question was an Army monitoring well, not a private well.

There was a brief discussion about the effects of new construction drilling, depths, amount of water, location and other factors. Ms. Abston explained the difference between groundwater and runoff water. She also asked that if anyone had a well or knew someone with a well in this area and was not on the list, to please contact her.

A discussion ensued on the funds to be spent on the extra sampling and Ms. Abston explained that in October, they would be meeting at the installation action plan workshop and will be updating the numbers and projecting out for thirty years. COL Bates stated that the Army would deal with the cost if something happens with the drinking water because protecting the drinking water is the most important thing.

Another discussion ensued on the issue of increasing the frequency of testing off-post monitoring wells. They are currently sampled twice a year (wet season and dry season). Ms. Abston explained that the sampling schedule would remain the same unless the numbers start going up and down and if this happens, increased sampling would be done. She explained the time frame for each sampling the different types of well.

Responding to Mr. Hutchinson's query, Mr. Ted Simon, toxicologist, EPA, stated that agency has no plans to change the maximum contaminant levels from five parts per billion.

Mr. Jim Miller explained that if Coldwater Springs got over five parts per billion, the public would be notified immediately and the water source would shift to Hillabee Reservoir for a short-term response. He added that this reservoir is considered one of the best surface-water sources in the state, if not the nation. If it should become a long-term response, the Army would fund a treatment plant, which could be built very quickly, working round-the-clock. If the TCEs reach a dangerous level the Army has a plan to furnish bottled water until they can get the other plans in effect. The contingency plans were then extensively discussed.

Ms. Abston provided a slide presentation and identified the various wells, both municipal and private, that are sole source for drinking water. She explained that

Coldwater Springs supplied approximately sixty-five thousand people and is also home to a threatened fish species, the pigmy sculpin. Reminding the audience that the plan was written in 1996 with the main goal of protecting human health, it was reviewed and approved by the City of Anniston, the Army, ADEM, and EPA Region IV. She then discussed some of the revisions of the new plan, the new technology since 1996, the increased costs and what would be done before the levels got to hazardous level. She discussed the trigger point, or factors, that would cause the Army to build a plant. She identified the procedures that would be taken and the review that would be provided to the emergency response plan.

Mr. Tom Walters, CH2M Hill (consultant for the Corps of Engineers) gave an overview of the Emergency Response Plan and the time frame it would take get a system in place.

Agenda items for the next board meeting include updates on samplings and a presentation from Mr. Jim Miller, Anniston Water Works.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Mr. David Baker, CAP, expressed the concerns of the public over the articles concerning drinking water issues that were in the newspaper and how it had affected the community. He stated that he was pleased to hear what is being done to ensure that the drinking water remains safe. He feels that more media support is needed for the water issues.

Mr. Harold Ray stated that his water, which is on the city line, has made him sick recently. After a brief discussion, Mr. Miller said that the Water Works would sample any water on their line if the residents would call and report it.

Ms. Kathy Jackson asked if there would be more meetings to keep the public informed on the contaminants. Ms. Abston stated that the RAB meets quarterly and it is advertised for the public to attend. She also stated that before any field investigations begin, a public meeting is held and it is also advertised to the public. She also said she would go to any public group and discuss the problems. Mr. Jim Miller reiterated that the Anniston Water Works has twenty-four hour service and you can speak to someone about a problem at any time. He also referred to the legal requirement that every citizen on Anniston water lines is to receive a Water Quality Report. He told Ms. Jackson that the information was sent to Hobson City and it was Hobson City's responsibility to get the information to the residents, but the Anniston Water Works would provide that information if it is requested.

Mr. Keith Howland stated that part of the RAB function is to get information to the public and that any member, including Ms. Abston, are available to attend any meetings to discuss the TCE issue. He called for support from community and individual groups in getting local elected officials to put pressure on the appropriate Federal agencies to bring attention to these issues and seek resolution. There was a brief discussion on how to get water sampled.

Ms. Abston explained to the audience that all information pertaining to the groundwater is on file for the public, and can be viewed at the Anniston Public Library. The Jacksonville State University Library has an information repository and the Anniston Army Depot maintains a full administrative record, as well.

Ms. Patsy Goldberg, EPA, introduced herself to Mr. David Baker, said she has worked on area contamination issues for quite some time, and she wanted to clearly state that this is the best RAB group she's seen that represents a community. She discussed the expeditious notification to individuals who have sole source drinking water wells when the high levels of TCE were discovered in monitoring wells. She then apologized for not communicating with the CAP Office about these issues, but stated that in the future, she would call and keep them aware of what is being done in the Anniston area.

Mr. Baker then briefly discussed concerns over lead and other contaminants in the water. Mr. Miller provided a telephone number and assured him that a test will be conducted when requested.

Ms. Abston addressed the question of Ms. Cynthia Pittman as to how to receive meeting notification. She told her that the ANAD RAB has a mailing list and Ms. Pittman can be added to it and will receive a postcard stating the date and location of the meeting. She also explained to her that the meeting is advertised in the newspaper, television and radio as well as the ANAD website. She also welcomed any suggestions as to how to get the word out to the public. A short discussion ensued concerning TCE tolerance levels.

Commissioner Robert Downey asked about the volume of TCE that had been released into the environment. Ms. Abston explained that the Army has tried to estimate, but the data is incomplete and at this point, it is most important to determine where the TCE is now. She reminded the RAB what actions have already been taken and described the area bedrock and that TCE goes to the lowest point. She said that current technology is not available to locate and cleanup the source TCE in the bedrock fractures. The Army's emphasis is on protecting the public and collecting the data for the feasibility study to determine the best alternative for the cleanup of off-post areas.

Ms. Shirley Baker asked several questions concerning the breakdown of TCE into bichloride. Mr. Bentkowski, EPA and Ms. Abston responded to the discussion. Ms. Abston offered to assist Ms. Baker locate all the data in the documents in the Anniston Library.

Ms. Francine Hutchinson had a short discussion on the documents in the two libraries and the data each contained.

Mr. Walter Frazier wanted to go on record as saying he thinks the drilling should be discontinued until Mr. Cooper's property is taken care of. Ms. Abston explained to him, in detail, that under law, it could not just be discontinued and defined the legal processes it must go through before the Army can do anything on Mr. Cooper's property. A short discussion ensued with various attendees concerning the current situation at Mr. Cooper's Ponds.

The RAB discussed the need for more frequent meetings based on receipt of sampling data. It was determined that if data came in prior to regularly scheduled meetings, a called meeting would be held. COL Bates reiterated that ANAD is committed to making sure all appropriate agencies involved in the TCE issue do what is right by the community.

Mr. Howland raised the possibility of testing private wells that are north of the area currently under study. He was informed that there were several factors involved, as well as funding, that had to be overcome before that could occur.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 7th, 2002, at a site to be determined. Suggestions were made to use Coldwater School or the Anniston Meeting Center. If new information is obtained before the meeting date, Ms. Abston stated that she would call for a meeting sooner.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Cox received a motion to adjourn; it was seconded and unanimously approved.