

**Anniston Army Depot
Restoration Advisory Board
November 4, 2002
Anniston City Meeting Center
Anniston, Alabama 36201**

CO-CHAIR: Dr. Barry Cox; Mr. Jesse Poor (sitting in for COL Gerald Bates)

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-chairman, Dr. Barry Cox, called the meeting to order shortly after 6:00 P.M. All visitors were asked to introduce themselves and the roll was called. Since a quorum was not present, the July minutes were not approved. Dr. Cox then welcomed back Ms. Susan Abston, who had been away for several months, and requested that she give an update on the Ground Water Remediation Investigation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Abston spoke briefly on some of the fundamentals, words and acronyms that were frequently used in the briefings, so the audience would have a better understanding of the discussion and information being given. She explained what the depot had accomplished to get to the current status of the investigation. Using a simple demonstration, she discussed not only the difficulty in identifying where and what is in bedrock, but also the factors involved in determining appropriate sites to drill wells to locate the problem.

Approximately 60 private wells surrounding the depot have been sampled for Volatile Organic Compound (VOC). There has been no change since the last time they were sampled.

Ninety-one monitoring wells and springs (including Coldwater Springs) were sampled on and off the depot. Ms. Abston discussed the drinking water standard and indicated that some of them had increased readings. Using maps, she pointed out the vicinity of the monitoring wells and discussed their increases and possible cause of increases. She also identified "hot spots" on the depot and discussed what the Army is doing to further detect the source. She informed the RAB of the sampling schedules for the various wells. A draft emergency response plan is currently being updated with additional safeguard measures.

Showing a photo, Ms. Abston explained the cost involved in building these wells, and the process and Alabama Department of Environmental Management's requirements involved in discharging any water into a body of water.

A new, highly technical system has been installed in both Mr. Spendlove and Mr. Cooper's properties. This complicated system, called FLUTE, is new technology and is capable of obtaining samples at discrete intervals.

She discussed the deep dye tracer process and stated that the Army is going to continue the semi-annual sampling. It is programmed to sample until 2005. There are 110 wells, both off and on site that will be tested during dry and wet seasons. The tracer is designed to determine the direction of deep groundwater flow. Dye detectors will be placed in wells and springs. She reminded the RAB that the normal process of obtaining approval from ADEM to be able to inject the groundwater will be followed. A report will be summarized by SAIC with this information and be distributed to the RAB members, EPA, ADEM, and Corps of Engineers. It will have conclusions, recommendations and will be presented to the public and become part of the public record.

Ms. Abston then discussed the trigger wells to be placed between the depot and Coldwater Springs and explained their need. She stated that while it appears their current wells define the vertical extent of groundwater, the Army stills needs to define horizontal parameters.

Responding to a brief discussion about the drilling when a hot spot was found and if it was compounding the problem with TCE, Ms. Abston explained how and what was done when a hot spot was found.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Mr. Keith Howland and Ms. Abston concerning the effectiveness of destroying TCE in the local area compared to other military installations and regions that may have the same problems, but different hydrogeology. Mr. Ted Simon, EPA, stated that he spoke with a hydro geologist who is working on this site and she stated that due to the complexity of the problems in this area, it makes it much more difficult to solve the problem. Ms. Patsy Goldberg, EPA, reminded the RAB that the primary purpose is to protect the groundwater. She further stated that Anniston is following all the rules that CERCLA, a process that must be followed, requires in making the drinking water safe.

Mr. Garrett Smith explained that the main issue is TCE and the water departments are not going to allow TCE to run through the water pipes. If TCE start toward Coldwater Springs, it will be detected at the trigger wells and the contingency plan will be placed into effect immediately.

Mr. Scott Sudweeks, Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), gave a presentation on the health effects of TCE exposure. He provided handouts to support his presentation. He explained the various uses of TCE and the diverse ways that a person can be exposed to TCE. He spoke on the body's exposure to TCE and how a person's body will vary with the exposure. He also discussed the extensive studies done on TCE and the health effects on humans.

Several audience members then discussed their concerns about the health effects on children as well as levels of exposure of TCE in Coldwater Springs. Mr. Sudweeks stated that the water was well monitored and was well below the level that would harm anyone, including sensitive individuals and children.

Mr. Ted Simon presented a slide presentation on the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), which is a federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. He explained how these standards are set to measure the MCLs. He stated that EPA has established the TCE MCLs as five parts per billion and Coldwater Springs is at three parts per billion. There were no audience questions to his report.

Ms. McKinney stated that each member had been provided a notebook with all current information in it and would be updated as new information is provided. She also provided some proposed changes to the charter and asked the members to read them over and discuss them at the next meeting. She encouraged the members to recruit new members to join the RAB.

Dr. Cox reminded the RAB Members that Mr. David Baker's application was in their notebook and asked them to review it and a vote would take place at the next meeting.

Proposed agenda items for the next board meeting are the Dye Trace Study and a presentation on the comparison of other Army TCE contamination problems.

The next RAB Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT:

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