

Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL)

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025, 1600 HRS

Hybrid Meeting: Held In-Person at the Richmond Middle School Library and Virtually, via Microsoft Teams

Attending:

Christopher Kane (USACE-NAE)	Whitney Plasket (USACE) (virtual)
Amy Rosenstein (USACE-NAE) (virtual)	Roberto Rivera (USAEC) (virtual)
Caitlin Brown (USACE-NAE)	Scott Calkin (WSP)
Terry Harwood (CRREL)	Wolfgang Calicchio (WSP) (virtual)
Michael Gilbert (Hanover Fire Chief)	Jack Besse (WSP) (virtual)
James M. Wieck (GZA)	Bryan Connolly (WSP)
Kristine McDevitt (Community Member)	Amy Quintin (WSP)
Rene Nahlik (NHDES)	Kathryn Sarsfield (WSP) (virtual)
Richard Spiese (VTDEC) (virtual)	Ryan Ordnung (WSP) (virtual)

Presentation file: 2025_05_14 CRREL_RAB_Meeting_Final.ppt

Mr. Christopher Kane of the United States Army Corps of Engineers-New England District (USACE-NAE) called the meeting to order at 1604 hours on May 14th, 2025. He welcomed everyone to the RAB for CRREL Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) project.

Last updated January 15th, 2025. Mr. Kane Summarized the meeting agenda and noted that a new contract was awarded to WSP for the continuance of work at the CRREL Project site in Hanover, NH which will provide means to conduct the RI/FS work on site going forward. Mr. Kane requested the meeting attendees introduce themselves and their role and association with the project.

Mr. Bryan Connolly introduced those in virtual attendance.

Mr. Kane motioned to approve the January 15th, 2025, RAB meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry Harwood, and approved unanimously by the RAB members.

Mr. Scott Calkin began the presentation with a brief safety moment on the risks of driving, especially in construction zones. Mr. Calkin motioned to incorporate safety moments for future RAB meetings and was seconded by Mr. Kane and approved unanimously by the RAB members.

Mr. Calkin discussed the project administrative record which can be found in the CRREL Library, Howe Library, and CRREL SharePoint. There are four Groundwater Monitoring permit submittals finalized in 2025 to date that will be added to the administrative record sometime in the fall of 2025.

Mr. Calkin continued with the On-Site Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Investigation Status next steps. Currently the Feasibility Study is awaiting final NHDES response on ARARs.

Mr. Calkin stated the Connecticut River Remedial Investigation Report is currently in draft final stage with USACE-NAE drafting a formal response to NHDES. Once NH DES comments are resolved, the document will be finalized. Other CERCLA related documents will follow, beginning with the feasibility study, proposed plan, then record of decision over the next year.

Mr. Calkin gave a synopsis of Groundwater Management zone sampling from the January 2025 event, also stating that the annual groundwater sampling event is coming up in July. There were no exceedances of the ambient groundwater quality standards for Trichloroethylene (TCE) at the boundary wells. The most recent data from the April sampling is not final and cannot be shared now due to data validation procedures, however no exceedances of the standard for TCE boundary wells were measured.

Mr. Calkin presented on the upcoming work starting with the restart of the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) pilot pending task award and Synoptic Soil Vapor Sampling currently scheduled for summer 2025.

Ms. Kristine McDevitt (community member) asked for clarification on the rationale for implementing the SVE Pilot.

Mr. Calkin explained that restarting the SVE Pilot will decrease the TCE soil vapor plume.

Mr. Kane followed stating that a decrease in the TCE soil vapor plume will assist with decreasing concentrations in the building on the CRREL site in conjunction with the Sub-Slab Depressurization System (SSDS).

Ms. Whitney Plasket also commented that it will be beneficial to see whether turning on the SVE Pilot influences the main laboratory second floor plenum space concentrations.

Mr. Calkin stated it is not a bad thing to remove TCE mass, and more testing gives more information.

Mr. Calkin continues the topic of upcoming work, describing the roof sampling event that is tentatively scheduled for the week of 5/19/2025, and Mr. Connolly will perform analysis of the samples in the following weeks with the HAPSITE®.

Mr. Calkin discusses the Plenum study, noting the work plan is currently in draft final stage. Study will investigate the plenum space on the second floor of the main laboratory building. The objective is to understand airflow and possible pathways through tracer gas testing, as well as advise a potential remedy or mitigation system for the space.

Mr. Calkin discussed other work plans in development starting with the Vapor Intrusion (VI) pathway study, which is still in draft status. The goal of the work plan is to determine VI pathways through the building not identified during previous studies. Mr. Calkin stated that USACE-NAE could see that by next week (5/19/2025). Mr. Calkin then briefly touched on the Groundwater Extraction Pilot Test to implement wells to better understand dynamics of the upgradient aquifer.

Mr. Calkin ends the presentation stating the next RAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 17th, 2025, at 1600. Mr. Calkin then asks the RAB members if there are any questions.

Mr. Kane mentions the bi-annual sampling of all out-buildings, of which we have completed two iterations of to date. The plan going forward is to continue for more iterations until a decision is made

on whether it is pertinent to continue sampling each of the outbuildings or if changes need to be made such as frequency of the sampling events to discontinue sampling some locations.

Ms. McDevitt asks the question of the consistency of off-site sampling, specifically Richmond Middle School.

Mr. Calkin answered that the continued sampling of the school, which was initially every two years, was shifted to every five years based on the previous data in consultation with the school district. Mr. Jack Besse noted the next sampling event of the school is scheduled to be December 2026.

There were no further questions from the RAB members, the meeting was adjourned at 1635. Mr. Kane thanked the group for taking time to attend the RAB.