



RAB MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: RAB community members Julie Corenzwit, Amy McCoy, Dave McCoy, Christopher Mitchell, Alix Turner

Thomas Lineer, Samantha Velluti-Fry (U.S. Army [Army])

Penny Reddy, Amy Rosenstein, Whitney Sauve (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE])

Daniel Jones, Zygmunt Osiecki (Devens Reserve Forces Training Area [RFTA])
ZaNetta Purnell, Shawn Lowry (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA])

Joanne Dearden (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection [MassDEP])

Meg Delorier, Anne-Marie Dowd (Massachusetts Development Finance Agency [MassDevelopment])

Neil Angus (Devens Enterprise Commission)
Hagai Nassau, Brian Younkin (Skeo Solutions, Inc.)

Dan Van Schalkwyk (Ayer Department of Public Works)

Anne Gagnon (Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game)

Steven Perry, Mark Pasquarello, Amy Henschke (SERES-Arcadis Joint Venture [S-A JV])

Jessica Veysey Powell (Nashua River Watershed Association)

Jacob Solon (People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment [PACE])

Sheandra Sterling, Ralph G, Rebecca Jones, Stuart Hughes, Justin Smith, and other attendees participating by phone or are otherwise not able to be identified (community and guests)

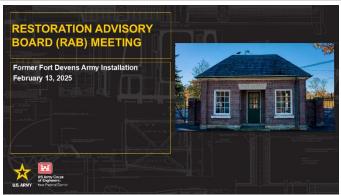
Slides: RAB meeting slides are available on the project website at:

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/.

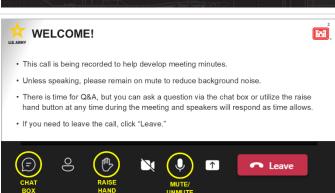
Please Note: Discussions described in these minutes have been paraphrased as needed for clarity. The invitation for

this meeting is provided for reference at the end of these meeting minutes.

WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS



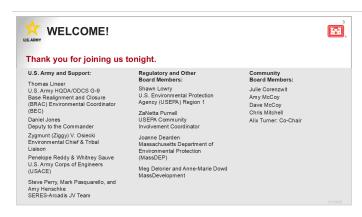
Steven Perry (S-A JV Community Involvement Specialist) opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.



Steven Perry informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded to generate minutes. He reminded everyone online that microphones will be muted to avoid background noise. He noted that attendees can use the mute/unmute button at the bottom of their screen to talk or they can enter questions in the chat box.

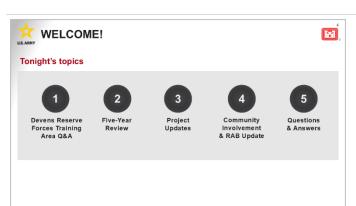






Steven Perry led introductions for attendees. Leaders and contributors for the call included Tom Lineer (Army); Daniel Jones (RFTA); Zygmunt Osiecki (RFTA); Penny Reddy (USACE); Whitney Sauve (USACE); Steven Perry (S-A JV); Mark Pasquarello (S-A JV); Amy Henschke (S-A JV); Shawn Lowry (USEPA); ZaNetta Purnell (USEPA); Joanne Dearden (MassDEP); Meg Delorier (MassDevelopment); Anne-Marie Dowd (MassDevelopment), and RAB members Julie Corenzwit, Amy McCoy, Dave McCoy, Chris Mitchell, and Alix Turner.

Steven mentioned that Jacob Solon, a community member, had expressed interest in potentially joining the RAB as a board member. Jacob introduced himself as a resident of Ayer, a member of the 71 Sandy Pond Development Committee, and the new president of PACE.



Steven Perry announced the topics for the call: the RFTA, the five-year review process, overall project updates, and community involvement updates.



Daniel Jones (RFTA Deputy to the Garrison Commander) introduced himself and mentioned that he has been on station since August 2024. He noted that they had had the regional director for Senator Warren's office on post that day for a tour of the installation.

He explained the areas of former Fort Devens that the RFTA controls:

- **3400 area**: the location of an intelligence center, where they are supporting operations in Europe, and the ECS, which is a storage area for trucks, trailers, generators, etc. for soldiers to use for their training.
- **South Post**: the large area towards the southern end of the image.
- Main cantonment area (North Post): location of administrative buildings, Marine Regiment headquarters, primary station units, a

seaborne unit, and 84th Med. Its main use is for barracks for soldiers staying temporarily at RFTA for training. There are about 450 computer spaces for soldiers to use for online training, as well as space for the soldiers to do maneuver-type training. There is also a dining facility, gym, and combat fitness training facility for combat readiness and training.

- Moore Army Airfield (MAAF): primarily used by the state police and also the location of hangars, a building, and a tower.
- Range complex: 5,000 acres of land with about 27 ranges where soldiers can practice essential tasks. There's a Myers pit where
 soldiers practice rolling over vehicles and recovering them, a drop zone that has recently been recertified, demolition locations, a
 land navigation course, and assault courses, among other things. Updates to the multi-purpose machine gun range are ongoing.

Steven Perry noted some of the major landmarks on the image for context: Ayer in the far upper right corner where MAAF is, Harvard toward the center-right, and Lancaster south of that. He asked how many people are on the base, permanent or transient, on a typical day. Daniel replied that, in fiscal year 2024, there were about 240,000 contacts with soldiers coming to the training area at the South Post range complex (either different soldiers or multiple visits by repeat soldiers). That number is trending upward because the General Officer for the Reserve Forces has mandated that reserve soldiers train at range complexes, not just at their home stations. There are 1,300 beds at the RFTA. In the winter, throughput is low; however, the numbers are higher from March through October. The RFTA not only supports the Reserve Forces, but it also supports the New England National Guard, the police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other agencies.

Steven commended the readiness training they are doing at the installation. Daniel replied that they put a lot of work into readiness, but they also put a lot into protection of natural resources and protected species. For example, they've established a conservation law enforcement program, in which game wardens make sure that soldiers are mindful of the environment.





Zygmunt (Ziggy) Osiecki (Environmental Chief and Tribal Liaison at RFTA) introduced himself. He mentioned that they try to protect the environment while also meeting the mission and requirements of the Army and all the forces that train on the installation. The site is a CERCLA site, but the RFTA is separate from the Devens community and MassDevelopment because it is an active base. They are not in the process of active cleanup; instead, they do ongoing environmental monitoring. He noted that there are monitoring wells surrounding the impact zone where most of the contamination is centralized. There are also wells for monitoring per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on the main cantonment and wells at MAAF. The wells are actively monitored. They do sampling quarterly and submit annual reports to USEPA and MassDEP. He noted they are protecting state-listed endangered species at the site (like whorled pogonia, northern long-eared bat, and Blanding's turtle) and are making sure that other species such as the tri-colored bat are also protected, for example, by enforcing time-of-year restrictions on cutting trees. There is active turtle nesting habitat, so they work with the state fish and wildlife department to do night surveys of the turtles, and Boston University will also be sending a PhD student out this year to help. They also support a community hunting program, a paraplegic hunting program, and a program that encourages women to experience the outdoors.



Daniel Jones and Ziggy Osiecki took questions about their presentation.

Alix Turner commented that she grew up in Bolton and came back later and has seen a lot of changes at the base. She mentioned that Lancaster was able to work more closely with the base in the past. She hopes for more collaboration in the future and hopes to work with Ziggy on that. She expressed concerns about the expansion of the shooting range, the heavier use of munitions at the base, and the impact of activities at the perimeter of the base and how those will affect water resources and the environment. She mentioned that there is more residential development in that area that also threatens the environment. She asked if there are plans for anything that may impact the environment and how the community can assess the progress and interact Ziggy.

Ziggy commented that he is happy to collaborate with Alix. He provided his email (zygmunt.v.osiecki.civ@army.mil) so that anyone on the call could reach out with additional questions or concerns. He mentioned a few things that he has been doing to protect the environment since he came to the installation 4 years ago. For example, he noted that there was a delay with the multi-purpose machine gun range project because of wetland permits. So, he wrote a second environmental assessment to address the concerns of the conservation district and was able to obtain the permits. Part of that process involved the development of a mitigation and monitoring plan that would require a two-to-one mitigation for any wetland disturbed, adding turtle nesting habitat, and replacing trees or other plants with native plant species. Those items will be monitored to make sure that the desired effects take place and that there is no repercussive damage. Additionally, he mentioned that they put in another monitoring well on the range to make sure that nothing is leaching towards the stream. They also put in an additional well at the recommendation of USEPA, and he conveyed that they are open to these types of recommendations to prevent contamination from extending beyond the boundaries of the training lands. He noted they are also open to public comments, and he referenced a perimeter road project that was initiated last year as an example of their willingness to listen to the public's concerns. That project proposed to put a perimeter road around the northern fence line of South Post so that the police forces could drive the perimeter to make sure there were no breaches. He sent out letters to the public and notified locals within 2 miles of the project area. Based on the comments he received, which noted concern about flooding and additional runoff, they decided to put the project on hold. He also mentioned that, next year, they will create a new installation compatible use zone plan, which is a noise plan to ensure they do not exceed noise levels outside of the perimeter and would be conducted by the Army Public Health Center.

Alix replied that it would be difficult to completely meet community's needs regarding noise but that any mitigation would be appreciated. She requested that Ziggy share notifications with either the RAB or with Lancaster, and she asked if they publish an annual report that the public could look at. Ziggy replied that the monitoring report is publicly available and that anyone interested can reach out to him via email. Alix also mentioned that people have concerns about PFAS and some of the private wells that are close to the perimeter.

Steven Perry asked if Ziggy could provide the website link to the reports. Ziggy replied that he would try to send out the link to the RAB members and noted that they can reach out to him by email as well. Steven noted that Amy and Dave McCoy commented in the chat that they were happy to hear about the future noise study. Steven asked if the study would be done in the range area or if it would include MAAF as well. Ziggy replied that it would include the entire installation. However, he noted that they only own two hangars and a classroom building at MAAF. State police use the airfield for training, but it is not the RFTA property.

Meg Delorier (MassDevelopment) commented that she attended the meeting with Senator Warren's staff and commended the RFTA staff that participated. She believes the senator's staff left with an understanding of the RFTA and how they work with the community.

Alix mentioned that, because of the recent changes in budgeting and the political climate, people are concerned about whether Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) programs will be affected by funding cuts. Tom Lineer (Army) replied that their funding is an appropriation

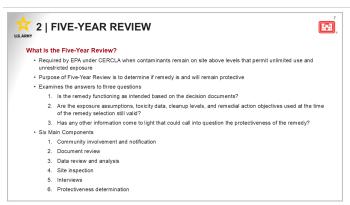




from Congress, and he doesn't have concerns about the funding at this time. The tasks that they've planned and are currently doing are funded. Alix replied that she is concerned about whether they will be able to continue to be implemented. Steven Perry added that Tom could update them at future meetings if anything changes. He noted that the work Penny would be discussing has already been funded.

Julie Corenzwit asked if USEPA could also answer the question about funding and personnel since there is USEPA funding involved with some of the grants and contracts. Shawn Lowry (USEPA) replied that he didn't think those things would be interrupted. He did mention that PACE would need to decide which grant they will move ahead with. He offered to facilitate that process with the new PACE leadership. Shawn provided his email (Lowry.Shawn@epa.gov) so that Jacob Solon, the new PACE president, could reach out.

Steven asked Daniel and Ziggy if they could follow up with the RAB in the future. Daniel agreed and offered that the RAB or anyone can also reach out the public affairs specialist, John Quinn. He provided the Facebook page link (https://www.facebook.com/USAGDevensRFTA/) and public website link (https://home.army.mil/devens/) where people can go to get alerts. He noted that these resources are a good way for the public to receive information because commanders and deputies can transition over time, but the website will remain available. He emphasized that if anyone has questions, they should feel free to reach out.



Penny Reddy (USACE) gave an update on the five-year review process. She noted that five-year reviews are prepared for sites that have contaminant levels that do not allow for unlimited use of the site. The purpose of the reviews is to determine if the remedy that is in place is still effective and protective. The reviews answer three questions:

- Is the remedy functioning as it was intended (for example, capturing all the groundwater it is supposed to be treating)?
- Has anything changed with any of the toxicity levels or is there a new maximum contaminant level (MCL) that affects the remedy (for example, a new lead MCL)?
- Has any other new information that's come to light (for example, emerging contaminants like PFAS)?

Penny discussed the main components of the five-year review report.

- Community involvement and notification: announcement of the five-year review;
- **Report and data review**: evaluation of 5 years of data to see if the concentrations have decreased over time and if the remedy has been effective (for example, evaluation of solvent plume data to see if the solvent has decreased and if injections were effective);
- Site inspections: review of measures in place at the site (for example, the fence around the impact area that prevents people from coming into the area or digging restrictions that ensure people have a soil management plan before they dig);
- Interviews: interviews to get impressions on the cleanup from the RAB, regulators, and local officials; and
- Summary of protectiveness: recommendations or things needed to improve the remedy (for example, creating site-specific land use control plans so people on individual properties can be more certain about what applies to their property).



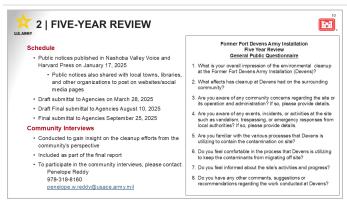
Penny Reddy discussed the current five-year review at former Fort Devens, which is the sixth five-year review for the site. The five-year reviews, starting from the first one in 2000, are available on the Army website (https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Former-Fort-Devens-Environmental-Cleanup/Administrative-Record/) or the USEPA website. The sites that will be evaluated are listed on the slide. All these sites have clean-up decisions and restrictions that the Army needs to comply with, except the PFAS sites, which are still in the remedial investigation (RI) phase. The report will provide a summary of activities at the PFAS sites instead.







Penny Reddy indicated that the sites that will be reviewed are shown on the map and that she could answer any specific questions that people had on them if needed.



Penny Reddy noted that the Army would like to get the community's input on a questionnaire for the five-year review report. She added that they announced the five-year review at the open house in November 2024 and in the local newspapers and through the other regular communication methods. USEPA also sent out a press release. The purpose of the questionnaire is to get the public's impression of the cleanup using the eight questions on the slide. Participants can fill out their answer on a form or be interviewed.

Shawn Lowry asked for the deadline for participation in the interviews. Penny replied that they'd like to have responses by March 1, but would accept additional responses beyond that, keeping in mind that the draft is due to the agencies at the end of March. She noted that people who

are interested in participating can email her (penelope.w.reddy@usace.army.mil).

Stuart Hughes asked via the chat box why South Post is not included as a PFAS area. Penny responded that South Post is evaluated in the five-year review because of the monitoring of perchlorate and RDX in an area there but that it does not have a large PFAS issue. Ziggy Osiecki added that they haven't had any PFAS detections on South Post and the only location they're monitoring is the main cantonment.

Anne Gagnon (Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game) asked if the draft five-year review report would be posted for the public. Penny replied that the five-year review will be posted. Steven Perry added that the findings may be the subject of a future RAB meeting.

Stuart commented that PFAS have been detected in Spectacle Pond. Penny replied that they sampled the ponds during the Area 1 PFAS RI in former Fort Devens and found PFAS. However, the PFAS in Spectacle Pond are coming from another source, not the Army.

Amy McCoy asked how long it will take for the five-year review to be posted. Penny replied that there is a statutory deadline of September 28. Alix asked if the South Post deadline is different. Penny replied that it's the same and will be included in this five-year review.

Alix asked for monitoring information for South Post. Ziggy replied that the information is in the annual reports, and he can send the link.

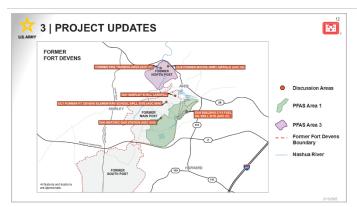
Steven Perry reiterated the invitation to RAB members or anyone on the call to get involved in the community interviews, either with the paper version of the questionnaire or through a verbal interview. He noted that this is a great public participation opportunity.



Steven Perry gave an update on the November open house. He noted that since the November RAB meetings are held both in person and online, they used the meeting as an opportunity to host an open house with a different format. There were ten different stations with posters and representatives to talk through everything. They wanted it to be a community event, so it also included Nashua River Watershed Association, PACE, and other folks that don't necessarily join the RAB meetings. In addition, USEPA, MassDEP, and the Army recognized the RAB members and gave a special tribute to Julie Corenzwit and Laurie Nehring who have both been involved in the RAB for nearly 30 years. He noted that the Army may host similar types of events in the future to create opportunities for people to engage.

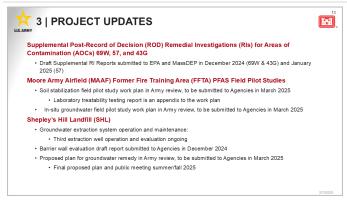






Penny Reddy stated that she would be discussing the project updates, reports that are coming out for the RAB members to review, and field work for PFAS.

Steven Perry called attention to the map to highlight that it now includes PFAS Study Area 3 in addition to Area 1.



Penny Reddy discussed the latest project updates:

- Supplemental RI report: This report will be available for RAB review in April or May. The Army is looking at natural attenuation or additional work they can do at these sites, and the reports will summarize all the data that has been collected over the past 20 years. Most of the petroleum at the sites is gone, and what remains are metals (like arsenic, manganese, and iron) at concentrations above the clean-up decision goals. These metals remain because of low oxygen, leading the metals to dissolve in the groundwater.
- MAAF pilot studies: The Army will be doing a soil pilot test and a groundwater pilot test in the summer. The soil pilot test will involve using a cement-like material at the firefighter training area to prevent

PFAS from leaching into the soil. The groundwater pilot test will involve injecting a carbon material that can absorb PFAS into the groundwater, with the goal of reducing the amount of PFAS going to the Nashua River. One of the challenges with that test will be making sure they can get the carbon into the ground. These studies will test the technologies to see if they will work for cleanup.

• Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL): The extraction system continues to operate, and the Army put in a third extraction well that is capturing the groundwater. They submitted a report to the agencies in December about the Plow Shop Pond barrier wall (an underground silty clay layer that helps divert groundwater containing arsenic away from the pond), which discusses the samples that were collected in the pond. They are also working on the Proposed Plan for the SHL remedy. The Army has evaluated additional remedy options at SHL because, although the pump-and-treat system is operating as intended, the downstream arsenic concentrations are not decreasing sufficiently to meet the clean-up goals. There will be a public meeting to present the alternatives and Proposed Plan, and there will be a public comment period for the document.

Julie Corenzwit asked if they could explain the concept of background levels to the community so they can understand the SHL arsenic background study and report. Penny replied that they developed a background number, discussed it with USEPA, and received some suggestions on refining the number. Julie commented that the community needs the information to be presented in a way that can be understood. Whitney Sauve (USACE) mentioned that, in the five-year review, the MCL is still being used rather than the background number they developed, and it is also not mentioned in the Proposed Plan. She added that currently there are no plans to further utilize the background study. Julie replied that if the study is not going to be used for anything, then it's less important to fully understand it.

Hagai Nassau (Skeo Solutions, Inc.) asked if the public meeting would happen before the Proposed Plan is finalized so the public could comment. Penny replied that there will be a comment period and then the public's comments will get wrapped into the responsiveness summary in the resulting Record of Decision (ROD). Shawn Lowry asked if this would be a formal public hearing with a stenographer to take formal oral comments and with an open comment period afterwards. Penny replied that was correct. Shawn added that it might be helpful to give an overview of what to expect at the hearing since not everyone has been through that process before. Steven Perry agreed that the RAB meetings would be a great forum to explain the process and how to submit verbal and written comments for consideration. He noted that the responsiveness summary is like a road map for how received comments were considered and integrated. Depending on the date of the public meeting, a discussion could happen at the May or August RAB meeting.

Amy McCoy asked when the last time was that Ayer went through the public meeting process. Shawn replied that it would have been the last time a ROD or ROD amendment was issued. Penny replied that the last ROD would have been the one for Plow Shop Pond. Amy commented that it'll feel like something new to a lot of people. Steven clarified that the Proposed Plan is the proposal of what the remedy will be for SHL, and it's based on the SHL Focused Feasibility Study (FFS). After public comment is considered, a decision is made and documented in the ROD. He noted that ZaNetta Purnell, the USEPA community involvement coordinator, would be involved in the community engagement process as well. He noted that additional community outreach (like sending out notices) would occur regarding





the Proposed Plan, public meeting, and public comment period. Amy asked if this would be an action requiring someone to go door to door in the surrounding area. Steven replied that it wouldn't require that but noted that this is one of the primary points in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process where the public has a direct role to play. He explained there are nine criteria that have to be evaluated, and one of them is community acceptance. Penny commented that, typically, the hard copy of the Proposed Plan is mailed to those people in the surrounding area. Steven replied that it might be a discretionary action to mail hard copies instead of just a notice about how to participate, but the Army does want people to know what's going on because it's a significant decision. Whitney added that the purpose of the Proposed Plan is to solicit public feedback, so it is a document written specifically for the public. Steven agreed and noted that proposed plans are written in a straightforward way to be accessible to nontechnical readers.

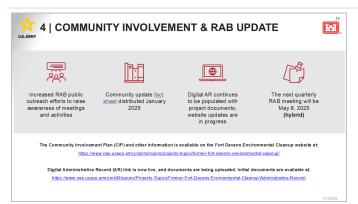


Penny Reddy continued discussing the project updates:

- Nashua River geophysical investigation report: This document will be ready for RAB review soon, and more work will be completed along the Nashua River in the spring.
- Area 1 Phase 2 PFAS work: Field work is wrapping up (finishing the bedrock wells and the borehole geophysics, and installing well screens). Groundwater sampling will occur in March and June.
- Area 3 Phase 2 PFAS work: The PFAS investigation will start later this year in this area in addition to the pilot tests. The Army will be collecting soil and groundwater samples and installing wells.

Steven Perry stated that even though the field work in Area 1 is wrapping up, it takes time for the RI document to be prepared because a lot of data has to get analyzed and summarized. He asked if there was a projection on the timeframe for that report. Penny replied that it would probably be ready in 2026 and will include a risk assessment. She noted that the challenge with PFAS is that it is evolving, and new criteria are being developed as they are going through the process.

Chris Mitchell asked if the community could see the data before the RI is finished so they can get a sense of the order of magnitude at the boundary or off site. Penny replied that they would need to analyze it first before they share it. Chris stated that if there is a significant concentration at the boundary or off site, it would be good for the communities to find out as soon as possible.



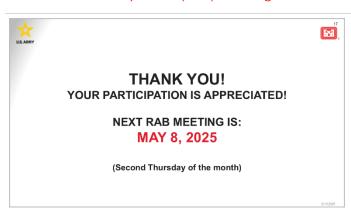
Steven Perry reiterated that community engagement is important to the Army and that many things will be coming up in the new year regarding the work at SHL. He noted that a new fact sheet was distributed in January to the contact list and gives more information on the five-year review process. He noted fact sheets such as this are created several times a year to give additional information on a relevant topic. He added that the online administrative record, which is a repository for many kinds of documents, continues to be updated. If anyone has trouble finding anything, they can reach out for help. He mentioned that the next RAB meeting will be on May 8 and will be a hybrid in-person and online event, with the in-person meeting being held at MassDevelopment's main conference room in Devens.



All questions were addressed during the presentation.







Steven Perry reminded everyone that the next RAB meeting will be on May $8. \,$

Question	Answer	
N/A	N/A	_





RAB MEETING INVITE

Former Fort Devens Army Installation Notification





Please join us for the next Former Fort Devens RAB Meeting, Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Our next RAB meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams. Please join by clicking this link:

Click here to join the meeting

Or you can call in to hear the audio only: +1 213-379-9608 Phone Conference ID: 512 105 539#

We hope you will join us to actively discuss the following topics and share your ideas:

Welcome to Existing Members and New Participants!

Project Updates & Upcoming Work

Five-Year Review

South Post Update

Community Involvement & RAB Board Updates

Questions & Answers

Next Steps & Meeting

Bring your thoughts about the RAB and questions about the project. This meeting will be recorded and a meeting summary will be posted on the project website at:

https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/formerfort-devens-environmental-cleanup/

> If you have any questions, please send an email to: FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com