



RAB MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Thursday, September 12, 2024, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Community Co-Chairs: Laurie Nehring and Alix Turner
RAB Community Members: Julie Corenzwit, Amy McCoy, Dave McCoy, Christopher Mitchell
Thomas Lineer, Steve Cardon, Samantha Velluti-Fry (U.S. Army [Army])
Dan Groher, Pete Phillips, Whitney Sauve (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE])
Anni Loughlin, ZaNetta Purnell (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, Beth Suedmeyer (Devens Enterprise Commission)
Joe Cronin, Hagai Nassau, Brian Younkin (Skeo Solutions, Inc.)
Dan Van Schalkwyk (Ayer Department of Public Works)
Anne Gagnon (Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game)
Chris Turner (Haley & Aldrich)
Andy Vitolins, Steven Perry, Mark Pasquarello, Amy Henschke, (SERES-Arcadis Joint Venture [S-A JV])
Libby Levison (Harvard Board of Health)
Rebecca Jones, Joan Eliyesil (Harvard Press), Pat Lynch, Anna Mayor, and other attendees participating by phone or are otherwise not able to be identified (community and guests)

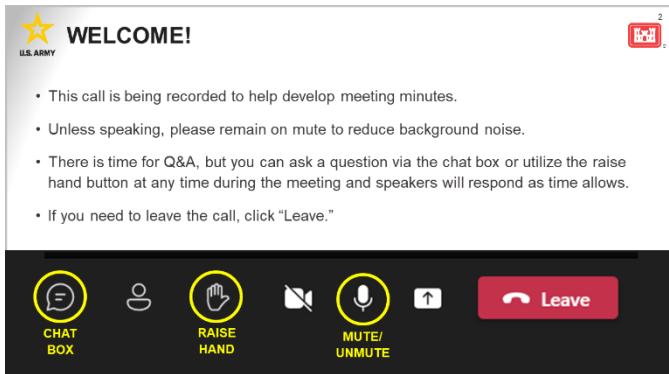
Slides: RAB meeting slides are available on the project website at:
<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>.

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.



WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us tonight.

U.S. Army and Support: Thomas Lineer U.S. Army HQDA/ODCS G-9 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator (BEC) Dan Groher, Peter Phillips, and Whitney Sauve U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Andy Vitolins, Steve Perry, Mark Pasquarello, and Amy Henschke SERES-Arcadis JV Team	Regulatory and Other Board Members: Michael Daly Shawn Lowry U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 1 ZaNetta Purnell USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator Joanne Dearden Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Community Board Members: Julie Corenzwit Amy McCoy Dave McCoy Chris Mitchell Laurie Nehring: Co-Chair Alix Turner: Co-Chair
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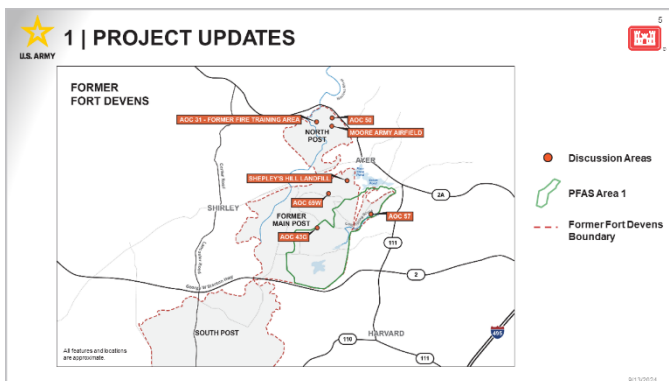
Steven Perry led introductions for attendees. Leaders and contributors for the call included Tom Lineer (Army); Dan Groher (USACE); Pete Phillips (USACE); Whitney Sauve (USACE); Steven Perry (S-A JV); Andy Vitolins (S-A JV); Mark Pasquarello (S-A JV); Amy Henschke (S-A JV); Anni Loughlin (USEPA); ZaNetta Purnell (USEPA); Joanne Dearden (MassDEP); and RAB members Julie Corenzwit, Amy McCoy, Dave McCoy, Chris Mitchell, Laurie Nehring, and Alix Turner.

WELCOME!

Tonight's topics

- 1 Project Updates & Upcoming Work
- 2 Area 1 PFAS Phase 2 RI Fieldwork Update
- 3 Community Involvement & RAB Update
- 4 Questions & Answers

Steven Perry announced the topics for the call: ongoing project work, Area 1 Phase 2 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) remedial investigation (RI) fieldwork, and community engagement activities.



Andy Vitolins (S-A JV Project Manager) pointed out the locations of the current investigations on the map. The main area to be discussed will be PFAS Area 1, with updates to include Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL) and other sites on the North Post as well.

Laurie Nehring commented that this map could be improved by adding labels for the major roadways through Area 1. Andy agreed that more information could be added in the future and pointed out the major features on the map such as Route 2, Route 111, Mirror Lake, Patton Road, Cold Spring Brook, Barnum Road, and the CSX railroad tracks.

1 | PROJECT UPDATES

Supplemental Post-Record of Decision (ROD) Remedial Investigations (RIs) for Areas of Contamination (AOCs) 69W, 57, and 43G

- One year of quarterly groundwater monitoring completed.
- Draft Supplemental RI Reports to be submitted to EPA and MassDEP in fall 2024

Moore Army Airfield (MAAF) Former Fire Training Area (FFTA) PFAS Pre-RI Data Collection Treatability Study

- Field data collection is complete.
- Laboratory testing complete.
- Soil treatability testing report in fall 2024.

Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL)

- Groundwater extraction system operation and maintenance:
 - Third extraction well operation and evaluation ongoing
 - Four additional monitoring wells installed in July 2024 to evaluate groundwater flow
- Barrier wall evaluation:
 - Draft report to Agencies in late fall 2024

Andy Vitolins began the project updates by talking about the historic petroleum sites (69W—Parker Charter School, 57—along Cold Spring Brook and Barnum Road, and 43G—Devens Reserve site, behind the Hilton Garden Inn). The Army has been evaluating the performance of the remedies there by doing quarterly groundwater monitoring and groundwater monitoring well installation. This work has been completed, and reports are being written to discuss the findings.

Laurie Nehring asked if there were any unusual results. Andy replied that there was nothing unusual and that they could discuss the results in more detail during the upcoming open house planned for November.

Dave McCoy asked about the land use goal for Moore Army Airfield (MAAF) and what the land could be used for if the runways were removed. Tom Lineer (Army) noted that MassDevelopment is responsible for the reuse of the land. Anne Marie Dowd (MassDevelopment) replied that the runways are currently leased by the state police and the Hanscom Air Force Base, and there are no plans to sell MAAF. Dave asked if there is any talk of creating a permanent facility for the police driving program. Meg Delorier (MassDevelopment) commented that as the lease for the state police comes due, they will decide with the police whether to extend the lease. Dan Groher (USACE) added that the PFAS investigation is still ongoing at MAAF and the extent of PFAS contamination is not well understood. It could be of concern for future uses, so more work needs to be done before it can be redeveloped. Dave commented on an incident in Maine at Brunswick Airport where firefighting foam was recently released inadvertently inside one of the hangars. He expressed concern that contamination like that may have happened in the buildings at MAAF. Dan replied that they are

pretty confident there are no hidden reservoirs of PFAS at MAAF. Meg added that they are not marketing MAAF at all. They have, however, discussed with MassDEP and USEPA the potential to market the lower basin parcel, which is zoned as commercial and not on MAAF.

Laurie asked if private homes or daycare facilities could be built at MAAF. Meg replied that the zoning is not residential so it could not happen without a zoning change. If the zoning were changed, the area would then have to be cleaned up to residential standards.


Dave asked if removing the runways from MAAF would interfere with the contamination issues. Andy replied that if the runways were removed it would not interfere with the contaminants or the ability to investigate them.

Andy continued with the project updates by explaining that a soil treatability test has been completed at MAAF that involved stabilizing soil to see if PFAS would leach out over time. A report on the study is being created. He noted field-scale pilot studies are also planned.

At SHL, the Army has been operating the groundwater extraction and treatment plant. They installed a third extraction well to help capture groundwater on the downgradient end of the landfill. The well has been tested at various pumping rates to see how the groundwater flow reacts. The Army also installed additional monitoring wells in July to clarify how the groundwater was behaving. Monitoring of those wells will continue through the fall. For the barrier wall, which is a wall installed between the landfill and Plow Shop Pond (former Red Cove), they did an evaluation last year of sediment and porewater in Plow Shop Pond and long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water interactions. The draft report for that evaluation is under Army review and will go to the agencies late this fall.

Laurie asked for a summary of the results and a time frame for when the RAB members would get the draft final report for the barrier wall. Andy replied that the draft final version would probably be ready in winter of 2025 for the RAB to review. Laurie asked what the results were for the third extraction well. Andy replied that the results were as expected. He noted that the pumping rate of that well in relation to the other two wells does make a difference, so a balance needs to be reached with the pumping rates among the three wells. Laurie asked if the third well is changing the amount of recharge that is going into the wetlands north of the landfill. Andy clarified that they are not changing the total extraction rate (between 50 and 60 gallons per minute); it is just split among three wells now instead of two. He noted there have not been changes in the downgradient water levels. Dan added that after the third well was installed, they had to install more monitoring wells to evaluate its performance. Therefore, the investigation was on hold for a time and was restarted about 1 month ago.

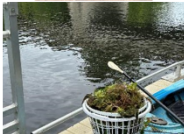

Alix Turner asked how the team will integrate the RAB members' concerns on the reports if they cannot review them until after the reports are final. Andy clarified the review process. He stated that the draft version of the report is submitted to the agencies. Then, the agencies comment, and a draft final version of the report is issued to address those comments. It is at that time that the members of the RAB get to review the document, which is before the document becomes final. He added that this process only applies to documents that follow the three-stage review process (draft, draft final, and final). For documents that do not go through the three-stage process, a notification is sent to the email list when the document is posted to the website, but there is no review period for the RAB because there is no draft final stage. He noted that if there are comments on those documents at that point, the Army will still receive and consider them.



1 | PROJECT UPDATES

Nashua River Military Munitions Update

- Underwater analog dive survey was completed May 2024, in accordance with the Munitions Response-Quality Assurance Project Plan (MR-QAPP) Addendum; data validation is in progress.
- During this geophysical survey, the following munitions related items were found and turned over to the Massachusetts State Police
 - Rubber M22 training rifle (located within the Bill Ash Trail Area of Potential Interest (AOPI))
 - Four rounds of small arms ammunition (located within State Rt. 2 AOPI)
 - Ammunition container with 178 rounds small arms ammunition (located within the Bill Ash Trail AOPI)
- Next Steps: Intrusive investigation of individual targets selected from the analog survey are tentatively scheduled for April 2025 (pending Agency approval of Target Dig List)
- NRWA volunteer event held on 12 July 2024 along Nashua River for water chestnut scouting/removal with support from a USACE Ordnance and Explosives Safety Specialist



Peter Phillips (USACE Baltimore District) gave an update on the Nashua River military munitions investigation. The underwater analog dive survey, which is a geophysical investigation, was completed in May. The data obtained from the survey is currently being evaluated.

Before the geophysical survey was completed, debris was cleared from the survey areas to allow for safe diving operations. The survey was then performed on five areas of potential interest (AOPIs) as well as 10 mini grids throughout the study area in the Nashua River. The AOPIs included the West Main Street bridge, Hospital Road bridge, area parallel to the Bill Ash Trail, Jackson Road bridge, and State Route 2 bridge.

The survey involved using a handheld metal detector underwater to identify anomalies. During the survey, some munitions-related items were identified and were turned over to the state police for disposal. These included a rubber M22 training rifle (made of rubber and not capable of functioning as a weapon that would fire projectiles) in the AOPI near the Bill Ash Trail and small arms ammunition near the AOPIs around State Route 2 and the Bill Ash Trail. These are consistent with the discarded military munitions findings from the investigation's conceptual site model. The small arms ammunition is categorized as 50 caliber or smaller. It does not contain projectiles that have explosives; therefore, it is not considered munitions of explosive concern.

Laurie Nehring asked if the Bill Ash trail AOPI refers to the water along the trail or the actual land trail. Peter clarified that all the activities were done within the river, not on the land.

Peter went on to explain that the next step will be to perform an intrusive investigation of the anomalies that have been targeted for digging to determine what they are. That investigation is tentatively scheduled for spring 2025, and approval of the target dig list is currently pending. Early approval of the list may allow for the intrusive investigation to occur this fall before temperatures drop.



Joan Eliyesil (Harvard Press) asked how many anomalies are on the list. Peter replied that of the anomalies identified during the analog survey, there is a subset that is chosen for the target list. Right now, there are 500 targets. Joan asked how long the investigation will take. Peter stated that it would occur over several weeks. Joan asked what the rounds of small arms ammunition consisted of. Peter replied that they are bullets, which do not contain projectiles that have explosives, and are not considered munitions of explosive concern.

Anna Mayor asked what kind of metal the munitions were made of. Peter answered that there is a full metal jacket that would likely be brass, like a copper–nickel alloy. They would need to fully evaluate anything else that was identified in the investigation.

Steven Perry noted that, although they were no explosives or explosive devices, people should still be aware of the ban on magnet fishing.

Laurie asked what a rubber M22 training rifle is. Peter replied that it looks like an AK-47, but it is not a real rifle. It was designed to train soldiers with the handling and holding of the weapon, but it does not function as a weapon that would fire projectiles from it.

Anni Loughlin (USEPA) asked Peter to clarify for the attendees that the recovered items mentioned are not all of what was found in the survey. Tom noted that they are following the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, meaning that they have to delineate what is there first and then do the remediation work of removing the discarded military munitions in a future stage. Anni added that the presentation only describes what was taken out of the river to date. Tom replied that the future work would involve further delineation of what is there, which may or may not be discarded military munitions.



Laurie asked if they had found 500 hits when doing the analog survey. Tom clarified that there were more than 500 hits, but they do not know what those hits are and if they are actual munitions. Investigating 500 of the hits allows them to further delineate what is there.

Laurie asked if the area where the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) performed water chestnut pulling activities had been cleared of munitions. Peter stated that the NRWA volunteer event was on July 12 and was done with support from a USACE Ordinance and Explosive Safety Specialist from the Baltimore District. During that event, NRWA and Fish and Wildlife Service staff members and a handful of volunteers pulled the water chestnuts out the river from their kayaks and canoes. The Ordinance and Explosive Safety Specialist provided a safety briefing before activities began and monitored their activities on the water to make sure they were performed safely. The risk was low because no one got out of the boats. Tom commented that they would do the same next year.

Anni stated that it is her understanding is that they found a fair number of items in deeper water that were not anomalies. She stated that she does not want people to get the impression that there are not any issues in the river. Tom replied that the Army reviewed the dig list with MassDEP and USEPA. The divers, who are former Navy SEAL explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) divers, did not see anything that was fused. If they had seen something that was of concern, they would have acted on it. He noted that they did find an inert part of a weapon system, and although it is categorized as a potential concern, it never had a charge in it. Additionally, everything that they found is at depth and has a low probability of interaction with people. Peter noted there is a lot of metal debris in the river; therefore, they need to determine through the intrusive investigation what is there before they can fully evaluate it. Tom added that the divers' EOD qualification is significant, and there is a difference in their capabilities and expertise as compared to the bomb squad, for example, which took care of the first two magnetic finds in the river.

Laurie stated that a volunteer group could do water chestnut pulling activities in the future when safety is not so high on everyone's mind. She reminded everyone that they need to be careful about people's safety on the water. Tom added that there cannot be 100% assurance, even after the project is completed, that someone will not find something in the river or on land. He reminded everyone of the three Rs—recognize, retreat, and report—and noted that people should abide by these rules whether at Devens or any other former military site.

Steven asked Peter to explain to the attendees what “dig” means in the context of the investigation and whether the divers would use hand tools or other equipment. Peter replied that the divers would use a hand tool, depending on the depth of the items, to clear and remove the debris around the items so that they could be identified.

**1 | PROJECT UPDATES**

Draft Documents Submitted to USEPA and MassDEP Since Last RAB Meeting

- None

Response to Comments/Revised Documents Submitted to USEPA and MassDEP Since Last RAB Meeting

- Draft DCL Contributor Sites Land Use Control Implementation Plan Sites AOC 9 40 and SA 13
- Draft 2023 Annual Monitoring Reports

Draft Final Documents Sent to RAB for Review Since Last RAB Meeting

- None

Documents Posted to Website Since Last RAB Meeting

- Final DCL Contributor Sites Land Use Control Implementation Plan Sites AOC 9 40 and SA 13
- Final 2023 Annual Report Area of Contamination 50
- Final 2023 Annual Report Main Post
- Final 2023 Annual Report Shepley's Hill Landfill

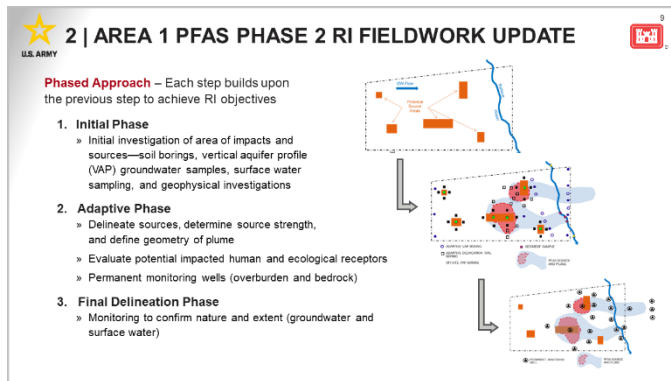
9/13/2024

Andy Vitols presented the list of documents that had been produced since the last RAB meeting. He noted that a land use control implementation plan (LUCIP) was finalized for the sites with debris sent to the Devens Consolidated Landfill (DCL)—Areas of Contamination (AOCs) 9 and 40, and Study Area (SA) 13—to memorialize and finalize the land use controls for those sites. He noted that the 2023 annual monitoring reports were posted for AOC 50 (MAAF), the Main Post, and SHL.

Laurie Nehring stated that she had trouble finding the documents online and that when she did find the documents, she could not find the appendices with the comments from USEPA and MassDEP. Andy replied

that the appendices are in the same file as the document and that they could have a demonstration of the use of the website at the end of the meeting.

Laurie noted that for the final documents that were released, the RAB did not have an opportunity to review the documents. Andy explained that the RAB gets to review primary documents, which are the documents that go through the three-step process (draft, draft final, and final). Secondary documents do not go through a draft final stage and are not reviewed by the RAB. The agencies review secondary documents at the draft stage, and then they go directly to the final stage. These secondary documents are not documents from which decisions are made—they report on outcomes of decisions.



Andy Vitols gave an update on the Area 1 PFAS Phase 2 RI field work. He began by reminding everyone of the three phases of the RI process: initial phase, adaptive phase, and final phase. Each of these phases builds on the previous. Much of the initial phase was conducted under the Phase 1 RI process in 2018 and 2019 to identify if and where there are impacts. The adaptive phase is the current phase. It involves determining the sources and the extent of the impacts both horizontally and vertically. It also involves looking at potential risk to human receptors and ecological receptors on a screening-level basis with follow-up monitoring of some permanent monitoring wells. The adaptive phase started in late April and will continue through Thanksgiving. Using the results of this work, they will see if they have

met the objectives of the adaptive phase, and if not, they will do more work to complete the phase. At the final delineation phase, the nature and extent of PFAS in groundwater, surface water, and soil will have been delineated, and they will have an idea of the magnitude.

Anna Mayor asked about the mobility of PFAS and what forms move more easily in groundwater. Andy replied that, in general, PFAS move very well in groundwater. Once they dissolve, not much slows them down, unlike other contaminants like petroleum. There are thousands of forms of PFAS, and approximately 40 that can be sampled for right now. Of those, only six have regulations either at the federal level or the state level in Massachusetts. The way they move and how fast they move depends on their construction, which varies a lot. They have carbon, hydrogen, and fluorine atoms in various configurations, and some of them are very long chains of compounds.

Anna asked about the USEPA's draft aquatic life criteria for PFAS and if those will be compared to the predicted surface water levels. Andy replied that the human health risk assessment for PFAS is using existing screening levels. For ecological receptors, there are draft screening levels available from the USEPA and screening levels promulgated by Argonne National Laboratory. He noted those are at a screening level, which is a high-level assessment. He also noted that as they learn more about PFAS, those benchmarks may also change.

Anna noted that the levels that USEPA issued for aquatic life are draft criteria, not benchmarks. Andy added that the ecological risk assessment is a screening-level assessment, but that it could change in the future as the draft criteria become final.

Chris Mitchell asked where the Harvard town line is on the images on the slide. Andy replied that the images on the slide are schematic and are not meant to be representative of specific locations in the area.



Chris mentioned that, when he was out at the drill site with the USACE, another member of the Harvard Board of Health, and the new town manager, the team mentioned that a couple of planned wells in Harvard could not be installed because they did not have permission from the residents. He noted he would like to work with the team to find locations they can access. Andy replied that other properties are being discussed as options, and that the conversation will continue. Chris stated that he had suggested a couple of locations that might be in favorable places and is happy to help with that discussion.

Chris asked whether the two locations that were drilled are at the center or the edge of the plume. Dan Groher reiterated for clarity that the images on the slide are not meant to be representative of the area. They are not necessarily accurate pictures because, for most of New England, the plume would not extend under a stream. He noted that the location where Chris met the team is uphill of Devens, and there is no groundwater plume migrating from Devens under the stream and up the hill. Andy added that, in any investigation, they have to prove is whether the groundwater is stopping at the stream or not. He noted that the point of the images on the slide is to show that it is an iterative process. Chris clarified that he wanted to make sure that they are getting the access they need based on the conceptual site model. Dan added that the bedrock wells being drilled are on the other side of Cold Spring Brook from where the plume is. These will allow them to evaluate whether the plume goes under the brook. Chris added that he is concerned about people getting their drinking water from that area. Laurie Nehring added that she is concerned about Cold Spring Brook because that is near the Ayer water supply.

Joan Eliyesil asked how long the plume is and if the Army has to follow the plume past the boundaries of Devens and Harvard. Andy replied that the Army has to delineate the nature and extent of the six PFAS compounds that have USEPA and MassDEP maximum contaminant levels. These are delineated based on the maximum contaminant levels, not by municipal boundaries, property boundaries, or former site

boundaries. However, for properties that the Army does not have access to, the investigation is limited based on access to private properties. He mentioned that they are trying to find out the length of the plume by doing work beyond former Fort Devens.

Laurie Nehring asked if the length of the PFAS plume could be determined based on other chemicals that are more well known, like petroleum. Andy replied that sometimes PFAS is associated with other contaminants, like chlorinated solvents coming from former dry cleaners, automobile lubricants, or windshield washer fluid, but that does not mean they can estimate whether PFAS is there and how far it goes from that information. He added that one of the issues with PFAS is that there are thousands of potential sources, not just firefighting foam. Dan added that the PFAS concentrations are three orders of magnitude smaller than (in other words, one thousandth of) the concentrations of other compounds. The right analytical techniques are needed to even detect that PFAS are present. Anna added that teams have to be careful about the equipment they use so they do not contaminate the samples. Dan agreed and stated that PFAS could be present in clothing or soaps and detergents. Anna added that they need to have good field blanks and laboratory blanks.

**2 | AREA 1 PFAS PHASE 2 RI FIELDWORK UPDATE**

Completed Fieldwork

- Seismic survey (completed May 2024)
- Soil borings and vertical aquifer profiling (VAP) (completed June 2024)
- Prescriptive phase overburden monitoring well installation (completed August 2024)
- Fish tissue sampling (completed August 2024)

Current Fieldwork

- Bedrock well drilling (anticipate completion early September 2024)
- Adaptive phase monitoring well installation (anticipate completion September 2024)
- Bedrock well borehole geophysics (anticipate completion September 2024)
- Bedrock well packer testing (anticipate completion October 2024)

Upcoming Fieldwork (Fall 2024)

- Bedrock monitoring well construction
- Groundwater sampling Event 1 of 2
- Surface water and sediment sampling


9/13/2024

Andy Vitolins gave an update on the field work activities over the past 4 months, which included a seismic survey, soil borings, vertical aquifer profiling (VAP), overburden monitoring well installation, and fish tissue sampling. During September, there will be four field teams on the site doing (1) bedrock well drilling, (2) additional monitoring well installation based on the VAP results from June, (3) characterization of the bedrock wells to see where water is entering the boreholes, and (4) packer testing in the bedrock wells to see what the water contains. Most of the work will be completed in September or early October. Future field work will include construction of wells inside the bedrock boreholes, a groundwater sampling event, and surface water and sediment sampling.

Laurie Nehring asked what adaptive phase monitoring means. Andy replied that they are using information from the initial temporary wells to determine permanent sampling locations. For example, using the VAP information, they decided where to install permanent monitoring wells.

Anna Mayor asked if they are including macro-invertebrates in the sampling or just the sediment. Andy replied that the only biological sampling they are doing is the fish tissue sampling of edible portions because they are looking at only human health exposure. For the sediment sampling, they are looking at a recreational contact exposure by humans to sediment. If, in the future, they need to consider other exposure criteria, they will do that then. Anna mentioned that she works at the Watershed Planning Program for MassDEP, and they have done PFAS sampling for the potential aquatic life criteria, which uses the whole fish body. She recommended doing whole body fish sampling, to compare to aquatic life criteria later, and water column sampling. Andy commented that PFAS like to be near the surface of the water or the water table because of the way the molecules are structured. He noted that the Army's work is based on where they can allocate funding according to agreed-upon risk levels, etc. He added this does not rule out whole fish sampling requirements in the future.

Laurie asked how much sampling would occur around Grove Pond and Cold Spring Brook. Andy replied that fish sampling was conducted in several locations within Cold Spring Brook, Mirror Lake, Grove Pond, Plow Shop Pond, and the Nashua River. Surface water sampling of the Nashua River and Robbins Pond will also be conducted. Whiney Plasket (USACE) added via the chat box that there is 1 surface water and sediment sampling location in Balch Pond, 1 in Bowers Brook, 5 around Cold Spring Brook Pond, 16 along Cold Spring Brook, 5 in Grove Pond, 4 in Mirror Lake, 1 in the Nashua River, 6 in Plow Shop Pond, 3 in Robbins Pond, and 4 in unnamed tributaries.

**2 | AREA 1 PFAS PHASE 2 RI FIELDWORK UPDATE**



VAP Sampling (Direct Push Drilling)Seismic Surveying

9/13/2024

Andy Vitolins continued the discussion on the field work activities with several slides showing photos from the site.

VAP was done using a direct-push drilling rig, shown in the first photo on the left. The rig vibrates a sample down through the overburden, to the top of bedrock or until the overburden is too hard to go through. This equipment took samples every 10 feet.

Seismic surveying involves laying out geophones and generating a seismic wave. Then measurements are taken to see how those waves propagate through the subsurface, indicating where the top of bedrock is. That information helps to target how deep the VAP need to go.

2 | AREA 1 PFAS PHASE 2 RI FIELDWORK UPDATE



Monitoring Well Installation (Sonic Drilling)

9/13/2024

Andy Vitolins continued to discuss the field work photos. The drilling type shown in these photos is sonic drilling, which was used for the monitoring well installation. It uses vibrations and rotation to drill down. The photo on the left shows a work location by the cart path at the golf course. The photo on the right side shows the location of two borings in Harvard at the intersection of Blanchard Road and Old Mill Road.

2 | AREA 1 PFAS PHASE 2 RI FIELDWORK UPDATE




Bedrock Well Drilling

9/13/2024

Andy Vitolins continued to discuss the field work photos. The photos on this slide show bedrock well drilling. On the left, the photo shows a rig drilling a bedrock well next to Robbins Pond near Devens Center. The photo on the right shows the well along Blanchard Road in Harvard.

2 | AREA 1 PFAS PHASE 2 RI FIELDWORK UPDATE



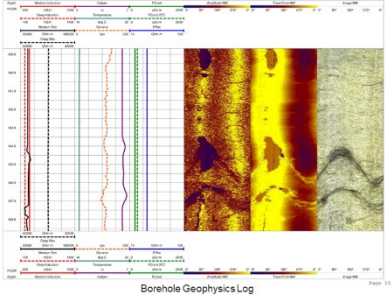
Fish Tissue Sampling

9/13/2024

Andy Vitolins continued to discuss the field work photos. The picture on the left is from Robbins Pond. The photo on the right shows examples of samples that were collected.

The field team pulled bass, pickerel, and other whitefish out of the water bodies they sampled. After the samples were collected, the fish were frozen and sent to the laboratory to be processed there. There were approximately 13 or 14 locations that were sampled, with multiple types of fish collected.

2 | AREA 1 PFAS PHASE 2 RI FIELDWORK UPDATE



Borehole Geophysics Log

9/13/2024

Andy Vitolins mentioned that they are using borehole geophysics to look at areas of bedrock where groundwater may be entering. The image on the slide is from a camera inside a bedrock borehole at the AOC 43G site. The feature shown is a fracture where water could be entering the borehole. Andy noted that, unlike wells that are in overburden, wells in bedrock will only have groundwater flowing in specific locations because groundwater cannot flow out of solid rock. They are looking for these areas where water could flow in every bedrock borehole that they drill. This is an example of the different techniques being used to determine the nature and extent of PFAS.

3 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & RAB UPDATE

Increased RAB public outreach efforts to raise awareness of meetings and activities

Community update fact sheet distributed this month

Digital AR continues to be populated with project documents; website updates are in progress

The next quarterly RAB meeting will be an Open House Event November 14, 2024 (in-person only)

The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) and other information is available on the Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>

Digital Administrative Record (AR) link is now live, and documents are being uploaded. Initial documents are available at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/Administrative-Record/>

Steven Perry gave an update on the community involvement activities. He invited everyone in attendance to help increase awareness about the RAB meetings and about the environmental work at Devens overall so that as many people can participate as possible. He explained that a fact sheet will be coming out soon to give a PFAS update and highlight the work being done at the three petroleum sites, and he noted that documents continue to be posted to the website. He reminded everyone that the next RAB meeting will be an in-person open house on November 14.

3 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & RAB UPDATE

Restoration Advisory Board Recruitment – We want YOU!

RAB Role Handbook

RABs provide a collaborative forum for the community, government agencies, tribes, and installation decision makers to discuss and identify the most efficient and productive means to restore the environment.

Current Community Board Members

- Julie Corenzwil
- Amy McCoy
- Dave McCoy
- Chris Mitchell
- Laurie Nehring*
- Alix Turner*

*Co-Chairs

Steven Perry recognized the RAB members that have been volunteering and participating each quarter, not only in the RAB meetings but also in additional planning and discussion meetings and site tours. He noted a desire to continue to expand the board and keep it healthy. To do so, the team will be sharing some information in advertising and at the upcoming open house about the RAB and inviting people in the community to get involved.

3 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & RAB UPDATE

Restoration Advisory Board Typical Responsibilities

Board Members

- Attend and actively participate in RAB meetings and activities related to the environmental cleanup at Former Fort Devens
- Provide comment on restoration issues to the decision makers
- Represent and communicate interests and concerns to the RAB
- Act as a conduit and advisory body for the exchange of information between the community, DoD installation, and environmental oversight agencies regarding the installation's restoration and reuse programs

Community Co-Chairs

- Coordinate with the DoD installation co-chair, RAB Members, and the community to prepare an agenda prior to each RAB meeting
- Ensure that community members participate in an open and constructive manner
- Ensure that community issues and concerns related to restoration are raised
- Assist with the dissemination of information to the general public
- Report back to the community, as needed

Steven Perry noted the lists of responsibilities for RAB board members and co-chairs for anyone who is interested. He invited everyone to reach out to friends, elected officials, leaders of organizations, and community members to get people involved.

Laurie asked how attendees found out about the meeting. Several people noted they heard about the meeting through the emails sent out to the contact list. Libby Levison (Harvard Board of Health) thanked the group for running an ad in the Harvard Press. Rebecca Jones noted she heard about the meeting through the Ayer Community page on social media and the notice board outside of the Ayer town hall. Mark Pasquarello (S-A JV Community Involvement Specialist) added via the chat box the places where notifications are published in print or online.

3 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & RAB UPDATE

November Open House

Join us for our Open House event!

- Date: November 14, 2024
- Time: 6:30 – 8:30 (tentative)
- Location: Ayer Town Hall (tentative)

- Visit information stations
- Talk to representatives from Army, MassDEP, USEPA, and more
- Learn more about becoming a RAB member



Steven Perry announced the upcoming open house, which will be an in-person event with booths and posters so people can have conversations with project representatives on topics they are interested in. The date is Thursday, November 14, 2024, and the location is tentatively planned to be the Ayer Town Hall. The high school in Ayer is also a possible location. The details will be refined over time and through discussions with the RAB members. Steven encouraged people to reach out through email if they have input about location or topics.

Laurie Nehring noted a concern about the town hall's acoustics. She mentioned that she visited the hall and took pictures. She noted that things that could be done to help with the acoustics; however, people with soft voices might be hard to hear if there are lots of conversations

going on near each other, which can be distracting and difficult for people with hearing issues. She also noted that the location is nice and there would be an opportunity for people to go to Billiards Cafe on Main Street after the meeting is over. Steven noted that the open house will not have a formal presentation although there may be an introduction to highlight the people from the Army, USACE, USEPA, MassDEP, MassDevelopment, and others. The main idea is to allow for conversations that are more in depth than a presentation.

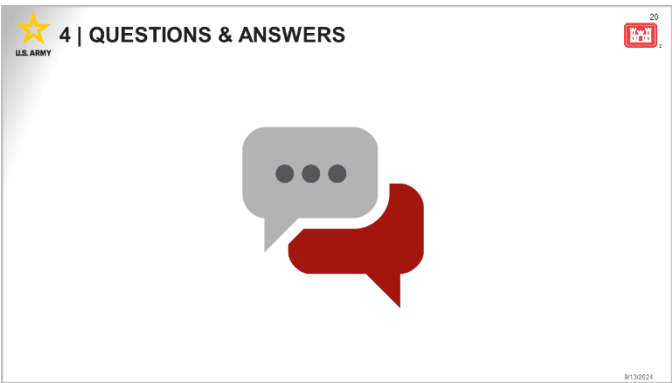


Laurie noted that she is planning to retire from People of Ayer Concerned about the Environmental (PACE) and the RAB in November, after 27 years of doing this work in the community. Julie Corenzwit noted that she will be retiring from PACE but not from the RAB.

Alix Turner asked if the RAB members would be provided with a poster or social media post to share regarding the open house. Mark replied that they will send out a save-the-date email to the contact list and will develop a flyer to send out via email and hard copy. Laurie added that lawn signs work well, and she can offer the metal posts, if the team produce the signs.

Steven mentioned that although they have been focusing on Ayer, they do not want to diminish other communities, so input on the location is welcome. He noted another open house could be arranged somewhere else in the future if there is an interest. He also noted that Laurie had mentioned a festival coming up in October where flyers on the open house could be distributed. Rebecca Jones added that the Devens committee from Ayer will be having a table at that festival, and they could help get the word out to people.

Steven mentioned that the topics for the open house could include things like high-interest areas, RAB recruitment, munitions, etc. Amy McCoy suggested via the chat box that they could also set up a workstation to share the website and how to find documents.



Laurie Nehring asked for a demonstration of how to search for documents on the website. Mark Pasquarello explained that the documents in the administrative record (AR) have a naming convention that needs to be followed, which does not match the actual document title. He noted that there is an index online that has both the AR document file name and the actual document title. The index can be searched for key words using Ctrl + F on the keyboard. Andy noted that they could add directions to the website on how to use the index.

Laurie asked if the index has links to the documents. Mark replied that it does not have links but does indicate which section of the AR to look in. He noted that they could look for alternative search methods, but they have to work within the constraints of the USACE website.

Laurie stated she was not able to see the appendices at the end of the reports. Mark demonstrated with the SHL 2023 Annual Report and the DCL LUCIP document that the appendices are in the files, but that the documents need time to load because the files are large.

Dan Groher asked if the index was sorted by date. Mark replied that it is not. Laurie stated that it would be helpful if the index were an Excel spreadsheet that could be sorted. She also asked if the index covered all the documents. Andy noted that the AR does not include all the documents that have been created, only the ones that are required to be in the AR. Laurie asked if they could be more consistent with the use of abbreviations in the titles. Mark replied that a searchable index would be the best option because they have a specific naming convention that they have to use for the file names in the AR. Dan agreed that the index should be easier to search.

Laurie asked if the section headings on the AR page expand. Mark explained that if you click on the plus sign (or on the heading itself), the list of documents under that heading will be expanded. Laurie commented that she does not know which documents are in the AR and which are in the Documents page on the website. Amy McCoy added that most people would probably go directly to the documents page and not look at the AR. She added that the AR page should have a description of what it is. Laurie requested that there be a master search bar to direct people to documents. Mark replied that they will continue to work to remove duplicate documents and make things clearer.



Steven Perry thanked the attendees for their participation. The next RAB meeting will be the open house on Thursday, November 14.

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, September 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
(previously scheduled for August 8, 2024)**

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:

473 892 551#

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

Area 1 PFAS Phase 2 RI Fieldwork 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/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>

If you have any questions, please send an email to:

FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com