**Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes**

**May 17, 2023, 1600 HRS**

Held Virtually, via Microsoft Teams

**Attending:**

Chris Kane (USACE-NAE)

Scott Calkin (WSP)

Jack Besse (WSP)

Jennifer Apell (USACE-NAE)

Terry Harwood (CRREL)

Daniel Groher (USACE-NAE)

Amy Rosenstein (USACE-NAE)

Peter Sandin (NHDES)

Kristine McDevitt (Community Member)

Bree Carlson (Dartmouth)

Steven Lamb (GZA)

Andrew Hoffman (NHDES)

Martin McMillan (Hanover Fire/Rescue)

Mr. Chris Kane of the United States Army Corps of Engineers-New England District (USACE-NAE) called the meeting to order at 1603 hours on May 17th. He introduced himself as the new project manager for USACE for the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study project. He discussed his background in environmental projects in private industry and stated that he is excited to be working on this project. Mr. Kane requested all meeting participants introduce themselves and state their role on the RAB. All participants gave introductions.

Mr. Kane reviewed the meeting agenda from the PowerPoint presentation which included Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) documents status, Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) sampling, Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) design status, remedial systems updates, and upcoming work.

Mr. Kane motioned to approve the February 2023 (RAB) meeting minutes, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mr. Kane handed the presentation to WSP personnel to provide project updates. Scott Calkin reviewed the status of the on-site CERCLA documents, stating that there was no change in status since the previous RAB meeting, and that comment responses on the Feasibility Study (FS) were still under final review by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). He stated that a draft final Proposed Plan was ready to be distributed once regulatory review of the FS was complete.

Mr. Calkin stated that the GWTP design was still tabled as discussed during the previous RAB meeting, but that the extraction well design pilot study work plan was under development. He stated more details would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Calkin then stated that the Connecticut (CT) River Remedial Investigation (RI) was still under review by NHDES and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). Once comments from both agencies are received, the RI will be revised and finalized, and appropriate revisions to the CT River FS will be made before USACE-NAE review.

Mr. Calkin updated the RAB on the status of recent GMZ sampling. Sampling events during 2022 and early 2023 had seen exceedances of the NHDES ambient groundwater quality standards (AGQS) at two boundary wells, specifically at the downgradient boundary well MW-14-103B and the upgradient boundary well CECRL-07. Both wells were below the NHDES AGQS at the last sampling event. He stated that exceedances at MW-14-103B may be related to production well downtime due to equipment maintenance, but the cause of the exceedance at CECRL-07 was still unknown. Targeted sampling at CECRL-07 this spring aimed at determining if the exceedance was a result of nearby soil gas contamination that followed the site conceptual site model was inconclusive, as all results were non-detect for TCE.

Peter Sandin asked whether sampling during quarterly events was at a consistent depth. Mr. Calkin replied that it is, as samples are collected with passive diffusion bags at the end of dedicated tethers.

Jack Besse provided an update on the groundwater treatment plant design. He represented it had been tabled to keep in line with other CERCLA related documents. Mr. Besse discussed the status of the accelerated extraction well design document which is currently in draft final form and anticipated to be final in May/June 2023. Extraction well installation and pilot testing of the wells is anticipated to begin in Spring 2024.

Steven Lamb asked whether synoptic soil vapor sampling would include sampling on the Rivercrest property. Mr. Besse replied that sampling would include all installed soil vapor locations including Rivercrest, as long as property access agreements were in place at the time of sampling.

Mr. Sandin asked whether there was any seasonal variability to soil vapor concentrations. Dan Groher responded that seasonal variability had not been directly observed. Mr. Besse stated that there were limitations to seasonal evaluations as samples cannot be collected in winter months. Mr. Calkin added that any seasonal effects that may exist are outweighed by the changes observed as a result of barometric pressure changes.

Mr. Kane concluded the meeting by asking meeting attendees to confirm whether they had any further thoughts or comments before the meeting is adjourned. There were no further questions or comments from the members.

Mr. Kane adjourned the meeting at 1638 hours.