



RAB MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Thomas Lineer (U.S. Army)
Penny Reddy, Daniel Groher, Michael Kulbersh (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE])
Carol Keating, ZaNetta Purnell, Anni Loughlin (United States Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA])
David Chaffin, Marielle Stone, Andrea Briggs (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection [MassDEP])
Roy Herzig (Massachusetts Development Finance Agency [MassDevelopment])
Laurie Nehring, Julie Corenzwit, Richard Doherty (PACE)
Libby Levison (Harvard Board of Health)
Neil Angus (Devens Enterprise Commission)
Martha Morgan (Nashua River Watershed Association)
John Kastrinos (Haley & Aldrich)
Andy Vitolins, Steven Perry, Julee Jaeger, Ian Martz, Sue Tauro, Tina Summerwood (SERES-Arcadis 8(a) Joint Venture 2, LLC [S-A JV])
Irving Rockwood, Robert Ford, Zachary Gavel, Sh'Nardria, and other attendees participating by phone or otherwise unidentified (Citizens and Guests)

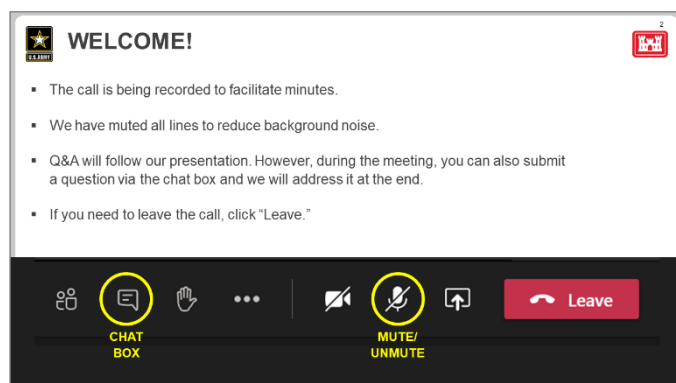
Slides: Meeting slides are available on the project website at:
<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>.

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



Steven Perry indicated that the meeting was being recorded to generate minutes, which will be available after the meeting. Attendees were notified that there would be an opportunity after the presentations for questions and discussions. Also, participants were encouraged to add comments and questions in the chat box as well.



WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us tonight.

Tom Lineer Army BRAC Program Manager	ZaNetta Purnell USEPA Region 1 Public Affairs Specialist, Community Involvement Coordinator
Penny Reddy Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District	Andy Vitolins, Julee Jaeger, Sue Tauro, and Steven Perry SERES-Arcadis JV Team
Dan Groher Environmental Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District	

Steven Perry introduced project representatives and presenters for the evening. Tom Lineer (Army BRAC Program Manager), Penny Reddy (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District), and Dan Groher (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District) attended. The other presenters for the meeting were ZaNetta Purnell (Community Involvement Coordinator with USEPA), Steven Perry (S-A JV Community Involvement Specialist/Facilitator), Andy Vitolins (S-A JV Program Manager), Sue Tauro (S-A JV Community Outreach Manager) and Julee Jaeger (S-A JV Meeting Coordinator).

WELCOME!

Tonight's topics

1 Community Involvement	2 RAB Discussion	3 Project Updates	4 Upcoming Work	5 Q&A	6 Next Steps & Meeting
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Steven Perry noted that the slides had been emailed earlier in the afternoon and could be printed. He then summarized the topics to be covered, which would include information from him and Sue Tauro (S-A JV) about community involvement, a discussion about the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) from ZaNetta Purnell (USEPA), and project updates from Andy Vitolins (S-A JV), a question and answer (Q&A) session, and then next steps / next meeting.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & RAB DISCUSSION

1 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Implementing the Community Involvement Plan (CIP): Tasks achieved!

RAB fact sheet distributed; new fact sheets on important topics will be distributed quarterly.	Information repository opened for the public at the Ayer Library on July 1!	CIP is available on the Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website at: https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/
RAB meeting posters and fact sheets distributed to town halls and libraries for posting.	Website enhancements being finalized with mechanism for continued community input.	Draft MEC outreach plan to agencies for review; certain outreach elements already complete.

Steven Perry introduced the community involvement discussion by recalling that the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) was finalized in November 2020 and that good progress had been made:

- Everyone on the contacts list received a fact sheet in June that focused on the RAB. The quarterly fact sheet is part of a series about the project; ideas for topics are welcomed.
- The information repository was opened at the Ayer Library on July 1. The repository was temporarily moved to a locked room because of remodeling to repair damage to the repository room. One of the members of the team has reached out to the library to sort out the issue. If anyone has an issue accessing any information, they should reach out to a member of the team.

- RAB meeting posters and fact sheets have been delivered to town halls and libraries to raise awareness about the RAB and the project in the community.
- Website enhancements are underway to improve navigation and accessibility of information. Some of the hard copy administrative record (A/R) is going to be digitized and made more accessible.
- Munitions and explosives of concern (MECs) were discovered in the Nashua River recently (through magnet fishing) and an outreach plan is with agencies for review as an early action to raise awareness about this issue. More will be done in the coming weeks. Steve Perry gave a reminder about the three R's regarding MEC: recognize when you see something suspicious, retreat and don't disturb it, and report it.



1 | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Implementing the Community Involvement Plan (CIP): What's planned?

- Project updates to mailing list will start in fall 2021 to keep RAB members updated in between RAB meetings.**
- Information repository at Ayer Library will continue to be updated.**
- CIP is available on the Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>**
- RAB meetings will continue to be virtual. We can change to the second Thursday of the month in 2022. We hope to start in-person meetings & open houses post-Covid.**
- Website will continue to be enhanced and updated with new documents, content, and options.**
- More elements of the draft MEC outreach plan will be implemented after agency review; final plan will be an addendum to the Devens CIP.**

Steven Perry introduced Sue Tauro to discuss planned CIP tasks:

- Project updates via email to the mailing list will start this fall from October onward so RAB members can stay updated in between the quarterly meetings.
- Work will continue with the Ayer Library on the information repository. There was a problem with the ceiling in the room that they normally would hold the repository so it is currently being housed in a different room. That room must be locked because there are valuable historical documents and artifacts in that room. It is the only place that they have available right now.

- RAB meetings will continue to be virtual and will be changing to the second Thursday of the month in 2022 to avoid conflicts with other meetings. The first RAB meeting of 2022 will be February 10. The team was not able to change the date for November 2021 meeting because there were no other dates that worked well considering that Veteran's Day is on the second Thursday and Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday. The hope is that, moving forward after the pandemic is over, meetings can be in person.
- Work will continue on the website. The document repository will be moved from the bottom right to the top left, and the documents will be re-categorized. The plan is that at the November meeting there will be a walk-through of the revised website.
- After the MEC outreach plan undergoes agency review, it will be finalized and will ultimately become an addendum to the Devens CIP. Updates will be provided in November.

2 | RAB DISCUSSION

What are the different roles in a RAB?

- RAB Co-chairs:** Help prepare agendas, facilitate meetings, listen to community input, and support the RAB members.
- Agencies, Technical Experts & Others:** Present important technical, community, regulatory, and other information at RAB meetings.
- RAB Purpose:** Encourage community involvement, represent diverse local interests, and share environmental updates for a site.
- 2-Way Exchange:** Offers a 2-way exchange of environmental program information and an opportunity to get questions answered.
- RAB Members & Participants:** Are a diverse group of people who may be affected by environmental restoration or interested in the site, like community members, community groups/leaders, local/state/federal personnel, and other interested parties.

Sue Tauro introduced ZaNetta Purnell (Community Involvement Coordinator/USEPA) to discuss the USEPA's role in RABs, overall community involvement, RAB member roles, and the interest form that will be distributed at a later date. The USEPA's objective for community involvement is to conduct frequent and meaningful engagement keep the public well informed. The USEPA encourages community members to get involved so everyone has a good grasp on why decisions are made, has an opportunity to be heard in the decision-making process, and feels included. Each RAB is developed to reflect the unique mixture of interest of the local community including local residents, reuse committees, technical assistance grants recipients, local government officials, agencies, environmental groups, public interest organizations, religious communities, regulatory agencies, tribes, etc.

ZaNetta Purnell discussed the different roles in the RAB:

- The Department of Defense (DoD) Co-Chair will coordinate with the community. They prepare agenda items to ensure the RAB has the opportunity to participate in the restoration decision process and will ensure documents are distributed to the RAB and made available to the public. The Community Chair will coordinate with the DoD Co-Chair and RAB community members. They assist with preparing agenda items that are they feel like are likely of interest to the community and sharing information to the general public.
- RAB community members are expected to attend meetings, and they provide advice and comment on restoration issues to decision makers as representatives of community interest and concerns.
- A state regulatory agency member attends the meetings and serves as an information and referral resource. They review documents and ensure that the state environmental standards and regulations are identified and addressed by the DoD.
- The USEPA's role is similar to the state regulatory agency role; however, it ensures federal standards are met instead of state standards. In addition, the BRAC cleanup team deals with the technical side of things to maintain a close working relationship with other members of the RAB while providing timely and accurate information to them.

ZaNetta Purnell emphasized the importance of filling in the interest form, which Sue Tauro would be discussing in more detail.



2 | RAB DISCUSSION

What's involved in becoming a RAB board member?

Time Commitment
Have the time available to attend regular RAB meetings, help with future special meetings/events, and serve as a conduit for exchange of information.

Conduit for Exchange of Information
Ask questions and provide input in an open and constructive manner; communicate community concerns to the RAB/communicate RAB info/issues back to the community; review/comment on publicly available materials for the project.

RAB Interest Form
Complete/submit the Devens RAB interest form (on next slide).

Sue Tauro discussed what is involved in becoming a RAB board member:

- Time commitment: Have the time available to attend regular RAB meetings, help with future special meetings and events, navigate through special committees, including a selection committee and an election committee for the Co-Chairs.
- Conduit for information exchange: Ask questions and provide input, read through the publicly available materials and comment on them, communicate community concerns back to the RAB, and communicate updates from the RAB meetings back to the community.
- Interest form: complete the new interest form (discussed on the next slide).

2 | RAB DISCUSSION

What is the RAB Interest Form?

RAB Interest Form
Access the Devens RAB interest form at: [Former Fort Devens Army Installation RAB Interest Form \(office.com\)](#) or email us and we can send you a PDF. **Forms are due Nov 1!**

More Info about RABs
EPA's RAB Guidelines: <https://www.epa.gov/fedfac/restoration-advisory-board-rab-implementation-guidelines>
RAB Handbook: [https://www.cannon.af.mil/Portals/85/documents/RAB%20Rule%20Handbook%20\(Mar07\).pdf](https://www.cannon.af.mil/Portals/85/documents/RAB%20Rule%20Handbook%20(Mar07).pdf)

Questions or Comments?
Please email: FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com
Or visit: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>

Sue Tauro discussed the new online interest form. A link to the form will be sent out to attendees and everyone on the mailing list early next week. A public notice will also be sent out in three area newspapers next weekend. A downloadable PDF will also be posted on the former Fort Devens environmental cleanup site. In addition, hard copies will be sent to the four libraries and the four town halls. Questions or requests for the form can be sent to Julee Jaeger (S-A JV) and Sue Tauro (S-A JV) at FormerFortDevensRAB@arcadis.com.

Completed forms should be returned by November 1. The form consists of 10 questions. The first five are basic contact information and the other five questions are more specific about a person's interest in the RAB and experience and background.

Steven Perry encouraged attendees to pass on the form to other people that may be interested and also to take a look at the links to the RAB Guidelines in the handbook from DoD that are shown on this slide to understand the intent that the USEPA and DoD have about how the RAB is structured and how it functions. Sue Tauro noted that social media will be added as another line in the communication plan to get the RAB interest form out.

PROJECT UPDATES & UPCOMING WORK

3 | PROJECT UPDATES

**Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL):
2015 & 2020 Five-Year Review Additional Requirements**

Protectiveness of the current remedy is being confirmed through technical evaluations requested by the USEPA.

Phase I – Evaluate Existing System Performance

- Status: Ongoing. Four of five required technical memos were submitted to USEPA/MassDEP. Memo #5 to be submitted Aug 2021.

Phase II – Evaluate Remedy Performance

- Status: Ongoing. Work plans are under development and will be submitted to USEPA/MassDEP fall 2021.

Phase III – Update/Document Remedy

- Status: FFS process will start fall 2021; will be completed after preceding phases are complete.

Steven Perry introduced Andy Vitolins (Program Manager for S-A JV) to discuss project updates. The first project update was Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL) as part of the Five-Year Reviews for Remedy Protectiveness in 2015 and 2020. Andy Vitolins summarized these three phases or work at SHL:

- Phase I: Evaluate the existing groundwater extraction system performance to demonstrate it is operating as designed. This involves five mini studies and technical memos to evaluate system performance.
- Phase II: Evaluate the remedy to see if it is meeting the goals of the Record of Decision (ROD).
- Phase III: Evaluate if the remedy is the correct remedy or if there is another remedy that is more appropriate. Also evaluate if the goals of the remedy are still appropriate.

Carol Keating (USEPA) addressed the concern that the remedy at SHL wasn't sufficiently containing the plume and might not be able to ensure protection in the long term. She stated that Phase I was used to demonstrate whether the well extraction system was sufficient. Then Phase II would be used to collect data to evaluate whether the system was sufficient to restore groundwater quality in the north impact area. If it was determined not to be sufficient to sustain containment, then Phase III would be used start the process for evaluating possible alternative remedies that would be more sustainable in the long term.



3 | PROJECT UPDATES

**Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL):
 Current Remedy Review**

Analyses conducted as part of Five-Year Review Additional Requirements indicate that continued operation of the groundwater extraction and treatment system will not result in groundwater reaching arsenic cleanup goals, as evidenced by:

- 15 years of continuous operation with capture of more than 85% overburden groundwater flow and more than 95% of arsenic mass flux.
- Arsenic concentrations in groundwater downgradient of the groundwater extraction and treatment system still orders of magnitude higher than cleanup goals.

Data from extraction wells shows that influent concentrations are not decreasing; this is indicative of an ongoing source (regardless of whether geogenic or anthropogenic).

Current remedy is energy-intensive, requires the use of hazardous chemicals in the treatment process, and results in the land disposal of arsenic waste:

- Chemicals: Chlorine gas, sodium hypochlorite, citric acid, sulfuric acid
- Landfilled Waste: Currently ~190 tons/year (~3,600 tons to date)
- Current Carbon Footprint: ~482,000 lbs. CO₂/year (~7 million lbs. CO₂ generated to date) (equivalent to more than 360,000 gallons of gasoline)

Andy Vitolins stated that the current groundwater extraction and treatment system is operating as well as it can but will probably not meet arsenic clean up goals. In terms of drinking water right now, exposure is not an issue. However, the cleanup goal that's currently listed is the maximum contaminant level (MCL), which will probably not be met despite the fact that the Army has been operating this system for about 15 years continuously. The issue is at the downgradient end of the system, where concentrations are remaining high in areas where it was thought that the system would eventually attenuate naturally. After reviewing the data, this natural attenuation does not appear to be happening, and the influent concentrations are steady instead of decreasing. These concentration levels are present likely due to both naturally occurring arsenic in the rock and the presence of the landfill.

Andy Vitolins mentioned that one of the things that is evaluated with the remedy is whether the costs outweigh the benefits. For examples, with this system, 200 tons of sludge from the chemicals and acids used in the system go to the landfill each year and 460,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year is being generated.

3 | PROJECT UPDATES

**Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL):
 Evaluation of the Current Remedy/
 Air Sparge Pilot Test**

Purpose: Support the FFS to be conducted as part of Phase III of the SHL remedy review by testing a different remedial technology.

Scope: Conduct an air sparging pilot test to evaluate the effectiveness for arsenic treatment in groundwater. Inject air into the groundwater (through wells) to change the groundwater geochemistry so that arsenic will precipitate out of the groundwater.

Status:

- Well drilling and development completed Aug 6, 2021.
- System installation and baseline sampling occur in Aug/Sept 2021.
- System operation will occur Sept-Dec 2021.

Andy Vitolins discussed testing an alternative technology for removal of arsenic from the groundwater called air sparging. This process blows air into the subsurface to add oxygen to the groundwater so that the arsenic is removed naturally without being pumped to a treatment plant. Some tests of sparging wells at different depths are currently being conducted. Monitoring wells were installed this month and baseline groundwater sampling is going to be conducted. The sparging treatment system is planned to be operating in September and will operate for three months. The test will be followed by analyses of the system.

3 | PROJECT UPDATES

**Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL): Arsenic
 Treatment Plant (ATP) Optimization**

Scope: Optimization of the existing ATP is ongoing and will continue while the remedy evaluation is performed.

Pilot testing of potential enhancements to the ATP treatment systems will be conducted.

Schedule:

- Pilot testing started Aug/Sept 2021, with optimization of the ATP to follow in winter 2021/22.

Andy Vitolins discussed that testing is underway to see if there is a different way to remove the arsenic from the groundwater that doesn't involve the use of chemicals or uses more innocuous chemicals. He referenced the pictures on the slide of the pilot testing setup, which will be started by next week to test if this new treatment method can get results as good as the current system.

3 | PROJECT UPDATES

**2020 Five-Year Review:
 Additional Requirements**

Scope: Confirm the Army Protectiveness Statement in the 2020 Five-Year Review Report by assessing the short- and long-term protectiveness of the ongoing remedial actions at select sites by performing the following tasks:

- Prepare Land Use Control Implementation Plans (LUCIPs) for AOCs 44/52, 43G, 69W, and 57.
- Performed risk screening at Devens Consolidation Landfill (DCL) Contributor Sites (SA 13, AOC 9, and AOC 40).
- Conduct supplemental investigations at AOCs 43G, 57, and 69W to evaluate current, post-remediation conditions.
- Remove debris from AOCs 57 and 50.

Status: Work plans are in development and will be submitted to USEPA/MassDEP in fall 2021. Debris removal is anticipated for Nov 2021.

Andy Vitolins mentioned there are locations with existing remedies where the protectiveness of those remedies, while not in question, needs to be confirmed. This confirmation is done either administratively, by making sure that everybody is on the same page with the land use controls, through performing some risk screening or human health risk screening, or by taking a look at what's happening in the ground or in the groundwater itself to make sure that the remedies are being protective. Work plans are in development for completing these steps. In addition, he mentioned that debris removal left over from redevelopment work will occur in November.



4 | UPCOMING WORK

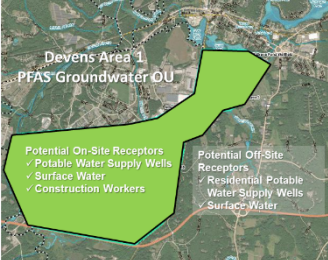
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remedial Investigations (RIs)

Approach: Supplemental (Phase 2) RIs for PFAS to evaluate migration pathways, potential receptors, and extent of contamination in groundwater. Separate work plans for Areas 1, 2, and 3.

Focus: Use groundwater Operable Unit (OU) approach to evaluate potential groundwater exposure pathways.

- Conceptual site model for migration and exposure pathways (on-site and off-site).
- Field work includes drilling and sampling of overburden and bedrock groundwater monitoring wells where needed to evaluate exposure.
- Human health risk evaluation.

Status: Draft Phase 2 Area 1 Work Plan in development and will be submitted to USEPA/MassDEP in Oct 2021. Work plans for Phase 2 Areas 2 and 3 will follow after approval of Phase 2 Area 1 Work Plan.



Andy Vitolins continued with the look ahead for technical work. He stated that the Army is going to look at migration pathways for PFAS and who could be exposed to it. This is approached by assessing both onsite receptors at former Fort Devens, where there are potable water supply wells and surface water which may be in contact with construction workers, and also offsite receptors, such as residential potable water supply wells and surface water that goes off site. The Area 1 work plan is slated to go to the USEPA and MassDEP in October.

4 | UPCOMING WORK

The Look Ahead for Anticipated Technical Work

Fall 2021

- SHL Remedy Evaluation (Data Evaluations, Pilot Studies, FFS)
- Draft Area 1 Phase 2 PFAS RI Work Plan Submission
- Debris Area Removals
- AOCs 43G/57/69W Supplemental RI Work Plans
- DCL Contributor Sites Human Health Risk Screening
- Long-Term Monitoring Program Fall Sampling & LUCs Inspection

Winter 2021-2022

- SHL Remedy Evaluation (Pilot Studies, FFS)
- Potential Upgrades to Optimize SHL ATP
- Area 1 Phase 2 PFAS RI Field Work Planning
- Draft Area 2 Phase 2 PFAS RI Work Plan Submission
- AOCs 43G/57/69W Supplemental RI Field Work Planning

Andy Vitolins continued with a discussion of the schedule for technical work.

- SHL remedy evaluation will be ongoing in fall 2021 and winter 2021-2022.
- Area 1 Phase 2 work plan will be submitted and debris removal will occur in fall 2021.
- Work plans and screenings associated with the 2020 five year review will be ongoing.
- Long-Term Monitoring Program sampling and inspection will occur in fall 2021.
- Optimization of the SHL ATP, if found to be feasible, will be implemented in winter 2021-2022.
- Field work planning for Area 1 Phase 2 and Area 2 will be initiated in winter 2021-2022.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

5 | QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Please see the list of questions and answers attached at the end of these meeting minutes.

NEXT STEPS & CLOSING

6 | NEXT STEPS & MEETING

Community Involvement & RAB

- Action Item 1** Ask for volunteers to help with next steps in RAB membership and activities – please submit form by Nov 1, 2021
- Action Item 2** Start to distribute project updates via email in fall 2021, including communication about MEC outreach
- Action Item 3** Continue to update the hard-copy repository at Ayer Library and electronic repository on the website
- Action Item 4** Continue enhancements to the website to make it easier to find information

Steven Perry revisited Slide 16 to reiterate what technical work is coming up next. He reminded everyone that they have received a copy of this presentation and they can take a closer look at this slide to see if they have questions about any of these upcoming activities.

Steven Perry returned to the Next Steps slide to remind everyone of the following action items:

- RAB member interest form is posted online, and there will be a public notice in newspapers and by email. Forms should be returned by November 1. If there are any questions, they can be addressed to the dedicated email noted on Slide 9.



- The plan is to begin additional updates this fall in between RAB meetings, provide a fact sheet every quarter, and send an email update with additional information to give an idea what's going on. Feedback on whether that is helpful would be appreciated.
- The team will continue to work with the Ayer Library to get the repository situation sorted.

Work will continue on enhancements to the website and other things to try to make it as easy as possible to get access to documents.



Steven Perry thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting.

The next RAB will be on November 18. The first meeting of 2022 will be the second Thursday of February, and that pattern will continue for the new year. Minutes will be sent out after completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question	Answer
<p>From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – Will PACE/RAB members get same documents at Ayer library?</p>	<p>Sue Tauro (S-A JV) affirmed that when a document is finalized, it goes on the public repository on the website and for PFAS documents, into the Ayer Library document repository. Notifications are also sent with links directly to the website. Accessibility to documents will be enhanced for everyone when the digital Administrative Record (AR) is up and running.</p> <p>Laurie Nehring (PACE) brought up a concern that seeing the documents only when they are in their final stage does not allow PACE to have meaningful input. Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) mentioned that the Army's position is that the agencies like MassDEP and USEPA act as the community representatives during the review process. He mentioned that the way to work in that instance is to have workshops and meetings with the RAB to go over questions during the draft process.</p> <p>Laurie Nehring (PACE) asked if community members have come in during the last stages of other projects with significant concerns which have had an impact and have caused the Army to do something differently with the project. Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) responded that he does not know of community members that have made those impacts, but that the technical experts from the agencies whose job it is to represent the community have.</p> <p>Carol Keating (USEPA) mentioned that EPA is supposed to represent the community's interest, and as it currently stands, she cannot share comments on documents with the community or discuss any aspect of that draft until it's issued as final because those comments get attached or contained in that final document. So Carol mentioned that there's really no communication that goes on between EPA and the community until that final document is issued.</p> <p>Carol Keating (USEPA) also mentioned that PACE is a tag recipient, has been closely involved in the process, and has attended BCT meetings. They've had meaningful input and submitted really good questions and comments on documents. They've been insightful and very articulate. There were a couple of final documents that were issued in the last couple of days that have been out as final since June, and it's hard for PACE to review these final documents in time to discuss those and have meaningful input into the content thereof, prior to these RAB meetings. So, Carol asked that everyone who's involved to try to think of a better way to meaningfully allow their input in the process.</p> <p>Anni Loughlin (USEPA) noted that the USEPA does not share draft documents for Superfund sites with the public for projects that they are leading.</p> <p>Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) offered to follow up on why the procedure has changed over the years with Army since they previously allowed PACE to comment during draft stages.</p> <p>Steven Perry (S-A JV) suggested that the length of time and lack of information between RAB meetings could be a topic that could be picked up by the new RAB and the new Co-Chairs. He also reiterated that information will be sent out every quarter between meetings and fact sheets will be sent out more frequently. He agreed that the meetings should not be the only touch point to talk about things.</p>

Former Fort Devens Army Installation
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes



Question	Answer
From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – If the RAB expands with new community members, how will the TAG grant evolve or change?	Steven Perry (S-A JV) noted that it shouldn't have a direct impact on the TAG and Anni Loughlin (USEPA) agreed.
From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – I'd be interested in hearing thoughts/concerns/support from others: EPA & DEP. Will RAB members be able to review the pilot results as they come out? For 5 year review; same question - comments of support/concern from EPA and DEP?	<p>Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) commented that technical subcommittee meetings could discuss what results have come from the pilot test so far. Dan Groher (USACE) added that compiling a document with results takes time and analysis and that makes it unlikely that interim documents will be produced about pilot tests.</p> <p>Laurie Nehring (PACE) clarified her question by asking if the USEPA and MassDEP have thoughts on the air sparging process to date or the Five-Year Review. David Chaffin (MassDEP) commented that he is in favor of testing the air sparging because the current operation is not working as well as it needs to be. It is reducing concentrations north of the landfill, but it's not pulling enough water out of the ground to cut the plume off entirely.</p>
From John Kastrinos (Haley & Aldrich) – Does your SHL review include an evaluation of remedial alternatives for the As plume that is beyond (downgradient of) the capture zone of the existing system?	Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) commented that the feasibility study (FS) would follow the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidance and the same process to evaluate technologies.
From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – Pls elaborate on the gw modeling re: PFAS mov't. Do we know when PFAS first reached Ayer and Devens wells?	Laurie Nehring commented that this question could be deferred to a technical meeting. Dan Groher (USACE) commented that they do not know when PFAS first reached the wells because there are many potential sources and big windows of time when things could have happened.
From Neil Angus (Devens Enterprise Commission) – Has the air sparge test been done elsewhere with success or is this the first?	Dan Groher (USACE) responded that it has been done by USEPA and Army Corps of Engineers at a Superfund site in New Jersey that is having success and also at many other sites.
From Carol Keating (USEPA) – At one time the BCT discussed possible implementation of an interim remedial or removal action at AOC 50 to mitigate continued migration of high PFAS migrating towards the Nashua River. What are Army's current plans, if any?	Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) replied that there is a CERCLA process to go through that, and the Army is moving forward according to that process. They will be able to give an update on where that stands in the next several months. Right now, it is being reviewed internally by the Army.
From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – Area 3 - MAAF - can the high concern of PFAS be contained or removed with urgent actions?? This continues to be a HUGE concern for PACE and NRWA and others as it impacts and spreads in gw to the Nashua River	Laurie Nehring (PACE) mentioned this was similar to the previous question. She emphasized that the Nashua River is a protective resource that people drink from and use for farms. If there is anything that could be done to fast track the process it would be appreciated.
From Roy Herzig (MassDevelopment) – AOC 43J is also being addressed by MassDevelopment	Roy Herzig (MassDevelopment) commented that even though 43J wasn't on the slide as one of the sites that's being evaluated pursuant to the Five-Year Review, MassDevelopment is responsible for that site and will be providing additional information. They would be happy to do so at a RAB meeting or one of the technical meetings.
From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – What is 'debris area removal' on last slide?	Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) commented that during a site inspection around 2019 in the area of AOC 57 along Cold Spring Brook and out at the airfield, some debris (pieces of cars, concrete slabs, rusty drums, metal, etc.) was found at the surface that may have been associated with some of the redevelopment that happened in that area. There is a plan right now for that to be removed to the extent that it can be.



Question	Answer
<p>From Rich Doherty (PACE) – I agree that the pilot test is a positive step, and also agree with David's comments regarding the performance of the groundwater extraction system.</p>	<p>Steven Perry (S-A JV) noted this statement.</p>
<p>From John Kastrinos (Haley & Aldrich) – If the remedy might include both pump and treat and air sparging, does the assessment look at the potential for air sparging to adversely affect the pump and treat system due to encrustation by iron hydroxides?</p>	<p>Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) responded that they are not specifically looking at this with regard to the pump and treat systems, but they are looking at it as part of the air sparging itself. They are going to do some well testing and geochemistry to see how it works.</p> <p>Dan Groher (USACE) commented that if air sparging is effective, it's unlikely to be used at the same time as pump and treat. It's likely to replace the pump and treat instead.</p> <p>Carole Keating (USEPA) commented that it's premature at this point to start discussing the alternatives because there is work to complete as part of the Phase I scope of work. She also mentioned that the BCT has yet to meet and have preliminary discussions about it as well. She mentioned that she agrees with Dan Groher and that it's going to involve looking at the existing pump and treat system with some modifications, the air sparging system on a larger scale, or other potential long-term remedial options as well.</p>
<p>From Martha Morgan (Guest) – Does the Army have the report on the joint DEP/USGS PFAS sampling of rivers across MA, including the Nashua River?</p>	<p>Andy Vitolins (S-A JV) commented that he does not have a copy. Dan Groher (USACE) and Penny Reddy (USACE) have not seen the report. Martha Morgan (Nashua River Watershed Association) commented that she could share a link to a PDF of the report with them. After the meeting, she shared this link:</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-in-massachusetts-rivers-presentation/download</p>
<p>From Roy Herzig (MassDevelopment) – MassDevelopment would also like to express our appreciation of the efforts of the new Arcadis team</p>	<p>Steven Perry (S-A JV) thanked Roy Herzig (MassDevelopment) for the comment.</p>
<p>From Laurie Nehring (PACE) – To go back to the question I asked about groundwater modeling for PFAS, I would like to have a longer conversation about this because we have been spending a great deal of effort and time and money looking through those old Devens fire reports to find references to when PFAS was used. It's vague and may or may not be all that useful. And if it's not useful, we want to stop doing this. I don't think anybody else has this information, but we do have specific references to PFAS use going back to the 80s but no quantities. So, there would need to be matching up with other historic records, and whether or not that's feasible is a whole other question, so I just wanted to put that out there because I would like to follow up in whatever way is recommended to have a longer conversation.</p>	<p>Dan Groher (USACE) replied that Penny Reddy (USACE) was responsible for the initial site investigation. Penny Reddy replied that she and Michael Kulbersh (USACE) could discuss it with Laurie.</p>



RAB MEETING INVITE

Former Fort Devens Army Installation
Notification



Please join us for the next Former Fort Devens RAB Meeting,
Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6:30 pm

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](tel:+12133799608), [803961203#](tel:+12133799608) Phone Conference ID: 803 961 203#

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

Welcome | To existing members and new participants!
Community Involvement | Updates on the latest activities, what's planned
RAB Discussion | RAB membership, roles, and interest form
Project Updates | Summary of recent project work
Upcoming Work | What to expect for upcoming technical work
Questions & Answers | Bring your questions for our Q&A session
Next Steps & Meeting | The look ahead

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 contact the Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator,
Bob Simeone, at robert.j.simeone.civ@mail.mil or 978.615.6090.
We look forward to hearing from you at this meeting.

*If you would like to stop receiving emails about this site, please reply STOP
and we will remove your email address from our list. Thank you.*