

**Kelly Air Force Base  
Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)  
April 16, 2002 Meeting Minutes  
Kennedy High School**

**Members/Alternates Present**

Mr. Adam Antwine	Government Co-Chair	Air Force Base Conversion Agency
Mr. Paul Person	Community Member	
Mr. Mike DeNuccio	Community Member	
Mr. Rodrigo Garcia	Community Member	
Mr. Nazarite Perez	Community Member	
Dr. Gene Lené	Community Co-Chair	
Mr. Robert Silvas	Community Member	
Mr. Sam Murrah	Community Member	
Ms. Tanya Huerta	Community Member	
Mr. Larry Bowman	Community Member	
Mr. Mark Puffer	Community Member	
Mr. George Rice	Community Member	
Mr. Armando Quintanilla	Community Member	
Ms. Esmeralda Galvan	Community Member	
Ms. Irma Smith	Community Member/Alternate	
Mr. Gary Miller	Government/EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Mark Weegar	Government/TNRCC	Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Mr. Bob Rasmussen	Community Members/GKDA	Greater Kelly Development Authority
Mr. Curtis Pearson	Government/SAMHD	San Antonio Metropolitan Health Alternate
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez	Government/Bexar Met	Bexar Metropolitan Water District
Mr. William Ryan	Government/AFBCA	Air Force Base Conversion Agency
Dr. David Smith	Contractor	Booz Allen Hamilton

**Members/Alternates Absent**

Mr. Roy Botello	Community Member	
Ms. Peggy Grybos	Community Member	
Ms. Dominga Adames	Community Member	
Mr. John Villanacci	Government/TDH	Texas Department of Health
Mr. Ed Weinstein	Government/SAWS	San Antonio Water System
Mr. Scott Lampright	Government/BCFM	Bexar County Fire Marshall

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Gene Lené began by introducing himself and stating that the goals for the meeting were to advise and comment on the cleanup and to help to inform the community. He asked that the

RAB members take a moment and review the meeting minutes from the February RAB. Ms. Tanya Huerta asked if the RAB had decided to include alternates as well or just the members present. Mr. Armando Quintanilla replied that members who are not attending should be recognized in order to allow someone from the community to become a RAB member. He added that the RAB charter should be reviewed to determine how many meetings RAB members can miss so that those who are truly interested can become a RAB member. Dr. Lené then stated that if there was no objection to the minutes from the February RAB meeting they were accepted. Dr. David Smith then asked the RAB to review their supplemental packages. The supplemental materials included the final agenda and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) and Zone 4 presentations. He also reminded the RAB members that during their review of the supplemental materials, they should keep track of any questions they might have and then use the question and answer portion of the meeting to present those issues. Ms. Huerta asked if an article had been placed in the local press featuring the upcoming plugging of abandoned wells. Mr. Doug Karas replied that it would be featured in the newsletter that is distributed throughout the community.

Dr. Smith then stated that according to the RAB charter, the April RAB meeting is the time to elect a Community Co-Chair. Mr. Quintanilla stated that he wished to nominate Dr. Lené for the position. His motion was seconded and a vote was taken during which there was unanimous support for Dr. Lené to continue to hold this position.

Dr. Lené indicated that the community comment period of the RAB would now begin. Mr. Robert Silvas opened the discussion saying that he believed the Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS) meeting minutes were inaccurate. He said that the minutes recording process was not right and unreal. He proposed using a digital recording system instead of note takers, and he also recommended that the minutes be passed out to people at Kelly. Mr. Larry Bowman then addressed the audience by saying that the RAB was there for the community and to please ask questions. He said the RAB is happy to answer any and all questions the community might have. Mr. George Rice then stated that it was important to look more closely and discuss the contents of the binder. Ms. Esmeralda Galvan then stated that there were grammatical errors and misquotes reflected in the (TRS) meeting minutes and that the meetings needed to be taped.

Dr. Lené then stated that the TRS and Base Cleanup Team (BCT) had been very active. He added that the presentations made by Mr. David Fleming with Thermal Remediation Services, Inc. at the February TRS on cleanup techniques of soil vapors were meant to provide progress updates. Dr. Lené also stated that when the report came out, the TRS had decided that it not get released to the press. However, it was given to the press and therefore the RAB owed Dr. Katherine Squibb an apology.

Mr. William Ryan addressed the RAB stating that the ultimate goal is to find a way to transfer property to the GKDA with as few problems as possible. He added officials from the AFBCA have been out in the community discussing the shallow groundwater well plugging issue with affected residents. Mr. Ryan also stated that about 30 community members have been sent letters to allow the Air Force to come out to their property and plug wells. Mr. Quintanilla then asked Mr. Ryan about the BCT meeting, specifically for an answer to a question asked about Johnson Ettinger. Mr. Ryan responded saying that the answer was yes, and that soil vapor

sampling is going to be done during the summer and the reports will be given to the city. Mr. Quintanilla proceeded to recommend providing the ATSDR with a copy of sampling reports due this summer. Ms. Galvan stated the location site maps had been lost when the sample modeling was performed. She asked if the RAB would be getting copies of this report as well. Mr. Mark Weegar then interjected saying that the locations had not been lost and that the construction around the area made things difficult to pinpoint. Ms. Galvan said that when she asked Dr. Squibb if sampling would be performed in the most contaminated areas, she agreed that it would be. She asked if that was still going to be done. Mr. Weegar said that discussions on the issue of further sampling with a toxicologist will happen soon and that the process will go forward from there.

Mr. Genaro Rendon, sitting in the audience, asked if there was a handout that listed the acronyms and their meanings. He asked as an example, if the public knew what “BCT” or “TRS” meant and if the AFBCA could issue a handout to everyone. Mr. Ryan responded saying yes and that the cleanup team consisted of the TNRCC, EPA, and AFBCA.

#### **Zone 4 and 5 Corrective Measures Study (CMS)**

Dr. Smith then introduced Mr. Doug Karas and asked him to begin his presentation. Mr. Karas thanked Dr. Smith for the introduction and stated that he would be presenting an overview of the Zone 4 and 5 Corrective Measures Studies (CMS). Mr. Rice asked what were the black squares on the conceptual cleanup layout. Mr. Ryan said they are existing monitoring wells. Mr. Quintanilla asked how long the contamination has existed in the neighborhoods. Mr. Karas said since 1988. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the community had to wait another 15 years and what had been done since. Mr. Silvas asked if the permeable reactive barrier (PRB) would breakdown when left alone after completing the cleanup. Mr. Karas said that the engineers working on the project have taken the design of the PRB into account. Ms. Galvan asked if the PRB filters out contaminants, what happens to the wall. Mr. Karas stated that the PRB was made of iron filings. Mr. Ryan stated that the contaminants do not adhere to the wall; they are broken down to less harmful substances.

Mr. Quintanilla asked how many walls were being planned. Mr. Ryan said the AFBCA is proposing to construct two walls. He added that the PRBs would be as deep as they need to be to reach the groundwater contamination and would be about 1,000 feet long and filled with iron filings. Mr. Quintanilla asked if in 15 years would the community be able to drink this water. Mr. Ryan said the water would have to be tested. Mr. Silvas asked if the PRBs posed any risk of to the water. Mr. Ryan said no. Mr. Silvas asked when the testing of the off-base contamination began. Mr. Ryan said since 1982, but that contamination was first detected in 1988. Ms. Galvan asked what year the PRB was last used. Mr. Weegar stated that PRBs were relatively new technologies but they have been in use for the last several years and that PRBs do work. Ms. Galvan asked where PRBs were being used. Mr. Weegar said a PRB was recently installed at Carswell Air Force Base in Texas. Mr. Silvas asked if it was common practice to leave PRBs underground. Mr. Weegar said there was no reason to remove the PRBs because they do not retain contamination. Mr. Silvas asked if there was no further contamination being put out into the groundwater. Mr. Weegar said no. Mr. Silvas stated that his question had still not been answered regarding whether or not the technology has worked in the past. Mr. Weegar stated

that PRBs are still a relatively new technology, but thus far have been working well. Mr. Rodrigo Garcia said that since PRBs were a relatively new technology, they should be monitored every 5 years. He also asked if the iron filings ever wear out and if it was known what shape they will be in 20 years from now. Mr. Weegar said the effectiveness of PRBs would be monitored. He said it was a new technology and was therefore still in the process of being worked on and evaluated. Mr. Rice asked if the model assumed 100 percent efficiency on the plume map. Mr. Ryan replied yes. Mr. Rice asked if the data would be available to the RAB on compact disc or Adobe format. Mr. Ryan said yes and that it will be made available on the website in Adobe format. Ms. Huerta asked if the wall does not act as a filter, then what should it be referred to as? Mr. Ryan said it should be thought of as an area of contaminant removal, permeable reactive walls or permeable reactive barriers. Mr. Weegar added that if the RAB or anyone in the community wanted to, they could go to the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) website and get more information on PRBs. Ms. Galvan asked if there was a school located by the reactive barrier and if so was there a safety plan in place in case of an accident. Mr. Ryan said the AFBCA did have a health and safety plan for every project and that there will be one available for this reactive barrier. Ms. Huerta asked if Mr. Ryan could please tell the RAB what Zone 5 is again. Mr. Karas answered saying south of highway 90 at General McMullen. Mr. Quintanilla spoke in reference to the PRB. He asked whether the PRB in Zone 5 would be located within the community or on the base. Mr. Karas stated that the PRB would be installed on base. Mr. Silvas asked which was of greater concern, (TCE) or (PCE). Mr. Karas said they are of equal concern because they have the same maximum concentration limits (MCLs). Mr. Rice asked if the barrier that was described in the presentation was in fact going to be built. Mr. Karas answered that the AFBCA was awaiting state guidance. Mr. Weegar said the TNRCC provided the EPA contractor with the documents for review; however, in this case the incorrect documents were reviewed. He said TNRCC decided then to have EPA review all the documents regarding the plume and that they are just waiting on that process to be completed. He concluded saying that Dr. Lené gets a copy of all TNRCC correspondence in relation to RAB findings. Mr. Silvas asked if the 1999 and 2000 year data were available to the RAB. Mr. Karas said there is one available, but that there was not sufficient time to put it together for the RAB.

Mr. Garcia asked if Zone 5 included North Kelly Gardens. He also asked if other contaminants would be discussed, such as aircraft junkyards. Ms. Huerta stated that when one looks at the PCE map, it shows much of the plume above Interstate 90. She asked if there were plans to install any sort of walls in these areas. Mr. Weegar responded saying that walls have already been installed and that a wall was installed in the sidewalk in front of the dry cleaning business.

Ms. Huerta stated there looked to be different levels of PCE along Interstate 90. Mr. Rice asked whether given the documents the Air Force has now, any new documents would be produced showing exactly what is going to be done. Mr. Karas replied that would be the CMS work plan. Mr. Silvas asked if there were any foreseen delays regarding the 2004 deadline. Mr. Karas responded saying that as an optimist, he is inclined to head toward the 2004 deadline and added that he envisioned no delays in sight.

## **Announcements**

Dr. Smith led the announcements saying that the next RAB Charter Subcommittee was scheduled to meet on May 7, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Smith also announced that the Air Force was scheduling a series of focus groups to discuss the Kelly environmental cleanup and that signup sheets were in the rear of the auditorium. He added that one focus group would be devoted to the Spanish-speaking members of the community. He encouraged members of the audience to attend. Dr. Smith then announced that Dr. Katherine Squibb from Johns Hopkins University was here and would be making a presentation of her report later in the meeting. He characterized her presentation as a summary of comments on the ATSDR-petitioned public health assessment at Kelly AFB.

### **Dr. Squibb's Report**

Dr. Squibb introduced her presentation by describing East Kelly. East Kelly is a very small area primarily used for storage. She added that her report would be a brief overview of ATSDR, and she encouraged the audience to follow along with the presentation. She stated that the first report looked at Phase I. In this report, the focus was on exposure pathways. When ATSDR looks at exposure pathways, they look only at the health hazards. She added that they look at amounts and dose and whether it is a harmful amount. Mr. Silvas asked if the numbers referred to in her report were applied nationwide. Dr. Squibb replied yes, and added that they were set by ATSDR. Dr. Squibb stated that it was important to remember that the ATSDR does not collect its own data. She said the ATSDR uses data provided to it by other agencies. Mr. Silvas stated that the ATSDR then could only go back to 1993. Dr. Squibb answered yes, and added that they can look only at the records they have on file and that they are given by other agencies. Mr. Silvas asked if going back to past information would be at all relevant to the current study. Dr. Squibb replied that you can go back to the study and continue to look at information from past years, but it does take a while to put reports together. She added that the ATSDR measures data that are already available. Mr. Silvas asked if these numbers were of concern to the people off base. Dr. Squibb replied that the numbers used were standard numbers. Dr. Smith stated that given the incidents of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) and lupus the entire community had to be considered in terms of determining contamination levels. If the Air Force is responsible for gathering the data, why has it not considered the older contamination data, she asked. The information that this report is based upon therefore is inaccurate. She stated that one has to consider past contamination levels. Dr. Squibb replied saying that the data captured in her report were designed to catch current exposure levels. She concluded saying that contamination differs from the kinds of contaminants used as well as external factors at the time of contamination. Mr. Silvas asked if the risk portion of the report from inhaled soil contamination was for off-base purposes. Dr. Squibb said yes. Ms. Galvan stated that for some undisclosed reason it was not investigated by the ATSDR. She asked why that was and if people could still be affected. Mr. Quintanilla added that the RAB needed to draft a letter to the ATSDR regarding the status of their soil testing report. Mr. Quintanilla also asked what the contamination levels were prior to the cleanup. Ms. Huerta asked if pre-cleanup values existed. Mr. Quintanilla then asked why they were not available. Mr. Adam Antwine said the items were stored at a location open to the public. Mr. Weegar stated that a background value for metals that naturally exist in all environments has been given to the RAB. He said the RAB has been briefed on soil samples that had been taken as part of EPA's community outreach effort. He said one or two locations are associated with areas that we expect to have higher levels, for example along highways due to past use of leaded gasoline. Ms. Smith asked if Dr. Squibb could speak to the toxicity levels of

arsenic given that a baseline figure was unavailable since records were kept. Dr. Squibb said that the cleanup involved disposal of soil at the site. Mr. Weegar said there was an adaptive model and it was used for determining the use of VOCs. He asked Dr. Squibb what besides VOCs volatilizes at that rate. Dr. Squibb replied that the model was designed specifically for VOCs in the groundwater. Things like benzene are included as well as chlorinated compounds. Mr. Silvas asked why there were no data. Dr. Squibb replied that the EPA simply does not have a lot of data. Mr. Silvas asked if there was an agency that might have the data. Dr. Squibb said that the EPA is the agency with primary responsibility.. Dr. Squibb added that the EPA gets a committee together to analyze certain data and that in this particular case, the data was specific to these chemicals. Ms. Smith stated that you mean your study would not inform you of the toxicity of a certain substance. Dr. Squibb asked if she was referring to a specific substance. Ms. Smith asked if Dr. Squibb used experience or what has been learned. Dr. Squibb replied a little of both. Ms. Smith replied that she got cancer. Mr. Weegar asked if any of the measured concentrations in the 1980s exceed indoor air concentrations. Dr. Squibb said that she would have to go back and look and that she had to review past data to make an informed determination. Mr. Weegar added that the model makes predictions from collecting soil gas samples. He said he was curious as to what was actually collected. Dr. Squibb said she would have to check on that question to be sure. Mr. Paul Roberson asked in regard to the second point of the presentation, if Dr. Squibb had reviewed other ATSDR data. Dr. Squibb said that her report focuses on inhalation effects. She added that the models and the information are new and something ATSDR does not do very often. Ms. Galvan stated that at the last meeting Dr. Squibb said that children and the elderly are at greater risk. Dr. Squibb replied yes. The elderly have decreased immune systems and children are just developing, she added. Mr. Weegar asked if groundwater-monitoring wells were co-located with soil gas monitoring and long-term monitoring wells. Dr. Squibb stated that she was not sure. She added that the soil gas was there but she looked at soil gas that was more recent. Ms. Smith asked if Dr. Squibb had said groundwater meaning shallow groundwater. Dr. Squibb said yes. Mr. Silvas asked that while he was no expert, given the recent proposal by the city to put fluoride in the water, were these chemicals similar. Dr. Squibb replied that fluoride was very different from vinyl chloride. She said they are not the same compounds. Mr. Weegar asked whether, speaking on the issue of validating additional soil gas elements (such as indoor air monitoring) would that give one an accurate measure. Dr. Squibb said that it would not give an accurate gauge of soil gas. She added that if one is going to use a model, it is important to make certain it is helping achieve the right answers. Mr. Rice stated that it was important to get it right. He added that some assumptions have been incorporated into the model, and some gross errors have been incorporated into the model. Ms. Huerta asked if the information could be used in terms of indoor air modeling in order to determine what past exposure has existed. Dr. Squibb stated that she has never seen that done before and that she did not know how accurate it would be. Ms. Huerta asked what sort of information could be gleaned from this type of investigation. Dr. Squibb answered that in this process one gets a ballpark figure. She added that it is possible to get those calculations and sometimes there are those who are more aware of natural attenuation figures who would be better equipped to answer that question. She concluded saying that many unknowns exist. Ms. Huerta stated that many cancers exist in the community. Dr. Squibb said the best that can be done is continued monitoring and sampling. Ms. Huerta stated that screening the population could be done as a preventative measure. Dr. Squibb replied that no one can stop past exposures and that groundwater modeling is a new science. Going back in time is going to

be difficult, she said. Ms. Huerta asked how unusual this is. Dr. Squibb remarked that it is a very large contamination plume. Mr. Garcia stated that he felt the priority should be further investigation and not more information gathering. Ms. Smith stated that all these chemicals by themselves cause certain things. She asked if they are found in water. Dr. Squibb said yes. Ms. Smith asked that if they cause illness alone, aren't they more toxic when combined. Dr. Squibb replied that toxicity does increase.

#### **Jeff Neathery/TAPP Report Presentation/Zone 4**

Mr. Jeff Neathery began his presentation, which was a review of the Volume III report prepared by CH2MHILL discussing the work that had been performed, and a technical review of the document. His presentation identified potential sources, which included Site SS051 (part of the IWCS on East Kelly), AOC MW-125 (off-site refineries), AOC MW-160 (oil-water separators), Yard 68 (vehicle storage area), and MP (Metal Plating). Mr. Neathery concluded saying that the report was well written and that there existed enough data that the design phases could proceed without any further data considerations. His recommendations were for continued monitoring of the plume as well as updating the models.

#### **Community Comment Period**

Dr. Smith stated that he wanted to remind the RAB about the survey in front of the binders regarding the last two presentations. He asked that comments regarding these presentations be directed to those forms. Ms. Lisa Sorg addressed the RAB and said she would like to make it clear about a comment that was made regarding leaking to the press and if that comment was being directed toward the San Antonio Current. She added that she had attended the last TRS meeting and that all she reported on was the meeting and that she did not have a copy of the report that was the subject of the press leak issue. Ms. Galvan then stated that the public comment time was cut halfway through the meeting and should be earlier. Mr. Arthur Galindo stated that he wanted to put in a good word for Kelly AFB even though they are already gone. Are we talking about the environment, or are we talking about our health he asked. He continued saying that all he has heard is what Kelly is doing about the environment. He added that what is currently underway at Kelly is being done for millions of dollars and could have been done with half that amount if the Air Force were still at Kelly. Dr. Smith stated that RAB members should not speak during public comment periods. Dr. Lené added that the public comment periods are for the general public, not the RAB members. Mr. Curtis Pearson said he shared the community's concerns regarding health issues and would make a proposal and get it approved internally as well as by the AFBCA. He added that once a proposal has been agreed upon, a contractor could begin working on the project. Mr. Pearson said that the fruit and nut study was received in March and contracted with Dr. Donnelly, a toxicologist, to review that report. Another point Mr. Pearson made was that he had contacted the Veterans Administration to send a report on the connection between ALS and pesticides. Once they have completed this report, he said, they would send us a copy. The Air Force, along with the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Risk Analysis (AFIERA) need to conduct their own study of people at Kelly. The website to get more information is [www.alsa.org](http://www.alsa.org). The Air Force has helped to establish an operational clinic available to give information to the public. That facility is located at 911 Castroville Road. Ms. Huerta asked if there was information

available to review death certificates of persons that died from contamination within the plume area. Mr. Antwine said he wanted to make two points. First he said the AFBCA has identified 30 shallow groundwater wells and that the community will hear more about the AFBCA going onto properties to remove these wells. Mr. Antwine also said that there have been suggestions to relocate the repository to the Las Palmas Library to make the information more accessible. Ms. Huerta said that she has the final copy of her brochure and that it is ready for distribution. Ms. Huerta said the brochure needs to be printed and sent out. Ms. Huerta added that once the budget is finalized, the brochure will be sent out. Mr. Garcia said he would like to see a staff report on ALS. He added that at the last RAB meeting there was a discussion on Six Mile Creek and Leon Creek and that he and Mr. Quintanilla had requested information on these points, and that both of them would like to see action taken. Mr. Garcia concluded saying that the RAB and community at large needed to have property values studied. Mr. Weegar said the Air Force is performing an assessment on Leon Creek to determine all contaminants. He added that Dr. Lené was provided a copy of these comments and that Six Mile Creek is addressed in the Zone 4 comments.

### **Quintanilla Presentation**

Mr. Quintanilla began his presentation by remarking on the cold temperature in the auditorium. He continued by describing to the RAB the recent developments of the RAB Charter Review Subcommittee. He announced that the next meeting would be held on April 23, 2002. He continued saying that the committee has put forth great efforts to come up with a mission statement that will describe the objectives of the RAB Charter Committee. Mr. Quintanilla said one of the hang-ups is Department of Defense (DOD) guidance. On February 19, the Southwest Worker's Union (SWU) read another letter to the RAB. The letter commented that the community did not receive any reports stating the cleanup process at Kelly AFB.

### **Administrative**

Dr. Smith restated Mr. Quintanilla's question regarding what the RAB would like to have done at future RAB meetings. Dr. Lené asked to what extent are these comments addressed to the Air Force. He recommended that the RAB more clearly differentiate to whom the questions are addressed. Ms. Huerta said she thought that if people care enough to come and speak with us, they deserve a response. She asked Mr. Antwine if they still respond to all letters they receive. Mr. Antwine stated that the AFBCA tries to respond to everything in a timely matter. He added that the AFBCA needed to find a process to distribute those questions to the appropriate agencies so that they can give proper responses. Ms. Huerta asked if we talk about a consolidated response, are we referring to the questions brought up here. Dr. Smith stated that he noted that the RAB wants a process to get the questions to the right agencies. Mr. Garcia said the RAB needed to establish an organized process on how to handle the questions and create a specific procedure for questions. Mr. Bowman agreed with Mr. Garcia up to a point. He said some questions could be answered directly right then and there. He added that the RAB needed to take action in order to make things happen. Ms. Huerta said that some people do not have all the history of what is being discussed so we need to take that into consideration. She said she agreed that some things could be answered immediately. Mr. Bowman said that a woman wanted to know why there was not a RAB member in the BCT, and her question was never answered; there was a lengthy discussion on the subject. Ms. Huerta said that the RAB needed to keep in mind

that it is an advisory board; and people lose sight of that sometimes. Mr. Paul Person suggested that a logbook to keep track of issues being discussed would be helpful. Mr. Mike DeNuccio asked if there was already a process in place that could handle these issues. Mr. Silvas asked if there was any litigation going on regarding land use of the property on Kelly. Mr. Weegar stated that it is important to examine the established processes for answering questions being addressed to RAB members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.