

**Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**  
**June 18, 1996 6 p.m.**  
**St. John Berchmans School**

**Members/Alternates present:**

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Juan Solis, Sr., RAB Community Co-Chair | Mr. Larry Bailey, RAB Base Co-Chair |
| Mr. Allan Hagelthorn                        | Mr. Tom Culbertson                  |
| Dr. Gene Lene                               | Mr. Sam Sanchez                     |
| Mr. Nicholas Rodriguez, Jr.                 | Mr. Armando Quintanilla             |
| Mr. Edward Weinstein                        | Mr. George Rice                     |
| Mr. Paul Roberson                           | Mr. Gary Beyer                      |
| Ms. Annalisa Peace                          | Mrs. Yolanda Johnson                |
| Mr. Paul Person                             |                                     |

**Members absent without Alternate:**

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Richard Ehrhart (future member) | Mr. Sam Murrah   |
| Mr. Carl Mixon                      | Mr. Thomas Moore |

**Kelly Air Force Base Staff present:**

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. Michael Estrada | Mr. Dick Walters      |
| Mr. Mike Patterson  | Mr. Stan Pehl         |
| Capt. Ed Von Dran   | Ms. Adrienne Williams |
| Mr. Glenn Whiton    | Ms. Sonia Gallegos    |

**Item I: Call to Order**

The meeting began at 6:10 p.m. with Mr. Juan Solis, Community Co-chair conducting.

A. RAB Member Introductions

RAB members introduced themselves to the public attendees. Mr. Paul Person, representing Union Pacific Railroad, was introduced as a new RAB member replacing Mr. Tom Smith's alternate and nominee to assume his place on the Board.

B. Conflict of Interest—Disclosure/Reminder

Mr. Armando Quintanilla, Mr. George Rice, and Ms. Yolanda Johnson, identified themselves as having a conflict of interest at the present time.

**Item II: Discussion/Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the 8 May RAB meeting were approved without change.

### **Item III: Zone 5 Update**

#### **A. Update on Zone 5**

Mr. Mike Patterson, Kelly AFB, gave a presentation on the status of the Zone 5 cleanup (see attached slides). He reviewed site S-1 and spill sites in the 1100 and 1500 areas. The main focus was on site S-1 because it affects groundwater off base. His presentation outlined the current areas of contamination and current measures in place to clean up these sites. He said that, to the Air Force's knowledge, no one is being exposed to any contamination from site S-1. He concluded by saying the Air Force will be required to clean up the contaminated soil and groundwater to regulatory standards.

#### **B. Questions and Comments**

Mr. Rice asked how the contaminants at S-1 got there. Mr. Patterson explained that storage tanks were once located at the site. They stored used fuels and solvents that were being taken off base for recycling. Over the years, spills occurred during filling and emptying operations. Mr. Rice asked if the high concentrations of metals came from the solvents. Mr. Patterson said that was probably the case.

Mr. Sam Sanchez, asked Mr. Gary Beyer, about the nature of the permit the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is granting for basewide cleanup. Mr. Beyer said it is a Post-closure Care Permit and ensures the base meets the cleanup requirements set by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Mr. Quintanilla asked how many acres have been contaminated in Zone 5. Mr. Patterson said he did not know how many total acres, but about 32 acres off base have contaminated groundwater that requires cleanup.

Mrs. Johnson said rain would often flood the S-1 area and run into the North Kelly Gardens neighborhood. She asked if that water was contaminated? Mr. Patterson said the on base area of contamination is in a depression, making off-base impact unlikely.

Ms. Annalisa Peace, asked how much water is in the shallow aquifer. Mr. Patterson responded that it was difficult to estimate, but over the last couple of years, the treatment system at S-1 has pumped between 400 and 2,500 gallons of water per day from the shallow aquifer.

Ms. Peace asked if the pipeline in the 1500 area is still being used. Mr. Patterson said it is, and that the base has replaced the leaking valve responsible for the spill.

Ms. Peace asked to what standards the base Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant treats water. Mr. Patterson replied the water is treated to surface water standards. Mr. Larry Bailey, added that the plant discharges about 1.2 million gallons per day. The base is working on a plan to reuse that water, reducing its draw from the Edwards Aquifer.

Mr. Ruben Solis, asked if the public was notified when the spill in the 1500 area took place. Mr. Bailey responded that since it happened before he came to Kelly, he didn't know. But he does know TNRCC was notified of the spill. Mr. R. Solis also asked why the public was not included on the agenda. He was told the public is invited to speak after the presentations are completed.

Mr. Quintanilla asked if any soil contamination could reach the neighborhoods. Mr. Patterson said only in the event of a major flood. The water would have to cross Growden Drive, which is several feet above the contaminated soil.

Mr. Tom Culbertson, said it would be a good idea for the public and the RAB members to see the sites in person. Mr. Bailey replied there is a standing invitation for anyone who wishes a tour.

Mr. Sanchez asked if S-1 will be one of the sites looked at by Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Mr. Bailey said he does not know. The RAB had only asked for ATSDR to look at the areas south of the base, but they may choose to look at the north area.

Mr. Rice said he collected soil samples in the area and discovered elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and barium. He did not know the source of the contaminants. He suggested cooperating with Kelly AFB to determine the source of the contamination.

Several members of the RAB suggested the City of San Antonio host a separate public meeting to discuss the issues in more detail. Members of the public indicated they wanted a chance to tell their side of the story. Mr. Bailey agreed this meeting was a good idea. Mr. Paul Roberson, said he supported the meeting, but the city should have a lesser role, such as that of a facilitator. The RAB requested the Air Force and community representatives meet together to determine a meeting agenda, location, and time.

#### **Item IV: BRAC Update**

##### **A. Greater Kelly Development Corporation (GKDC)**

Mr. Roberson gave a brief update on property reuse at Kelly. He said the GKDC was formed to help move Kelly AFB towards privatization and commercialization. He said GKDC will submit a draft reuse plan. An Environmental Impact Study will be performed based on the proposed reuse. Once the EIS is complete, a final plan will be presented. Public comment will be taken on the draft and final reuse plans. Mr. Roberson said the reuse plan will determine the types of industries best suited to use the facilities at Kelly. Contractors doing work for the Air Force will be selected by the Air Force. The city will select the remaining contractors.

He added that all contamination which Kelly created will remain the Air Force's responsibility to clean up, and that no companies coming to Kelly have been offered any

type of environmental exclusions. He said he believed the Air Force was doing its best to clean up the contamination and that the Air Force and the community are working for the same thing. He said the two sides must seek common ground and come to a solution.

## B. Questions and Comments

Mr. R. Solis expressed a concern that the fuel storage tanks will be converted to gasoline storage tanks and the whole operation expanded. He also claimed that hazardous waste was going to be brought to Kelly from the outside. He was against any such actions. Mr. Roberson commented that a company is proposing a hazardous waste treatment facility, but that the GKDC plan had not yet progressed far enough to even consider it. Any decisions were a long way off and would not be made till after the public had a chance to comment.

## Item V: Installation Restoration Program Update

### A. Previous Action Items

Mr. Bailey gave a brief update on items from the previous RAB meeting.

**Aquifer Pump Tests:** The timing of the tests is still being negotiated.

**ATSDR Visit:** ATSDR personnel are coming in July. Kelly is trying to get them here as soon as possible.

**Cleanup Strategies:** A meeting with interested RAB members will be set in the next couple weeks to discuss new cleanup strategies and alternate methods of cleaning up the groundwater south of the base. As promised, RAB members will be brought in to participate in the discussions.

Mr. Rice said that, according to his discussions with Mr. Bailey and General Childress, the existing plan will be scrapped in favor of a new solution. Mr. Bailey added that parts of the existing plan may be retained, if they are found to be the best solution. If the plan changes significantly, it will be presented for public review and comment.

A short break was taken.

## Item VI: Subcommittee Reports

### Newsletter Subcommittee

Mr. Sanchez reported no new business. He said he would like to see more people join his committee.

### Charter Subcommittee

Mr. Allan Hagelthorn asked for inputs on charter changes by July 25. He said there is new guidance on RABs that needs to be incorporated into the existing charter. Mr. Quintanilla asked for clarification on whether or not the RAB is a decision-making body. Mr. Hagelthorn said according to federal law, the RAB is not.

Mr. Quintanilla said the issue of conflict of interest needs to be addressed. He said since TNRCC is partially funded by the Air Force, they have a conflict of interest.

## **Item VII: New Business**

### **A. Upcoming Documents**

Mr. Bailey indicated two documents will be released soon—the Basewide Remedial Assessment and the Zone 5 Focused Feasibility Study for cleaning up groundwater in the off-base area.

No other new business was reported.

## **Item VIII: Summary and Closing**

The next meeting date was set for August 26. Topics of discussion will be the Basewide Remedial Assessment and the Focused Feasibility Study for Zone 5. The RAB suggested the meeting be held in the same location.

Mr. Quintanilla asked that a copy of the letter sent by TNRCC to the County Judge regarding groundwater contamination be sent to all RAB members. Mr. J. Solis said it would be done.

Mr. Quintanilla suggested the Air Force/Community meeting be scheduled for the week of July 22.

## **Item IX: Community Concerns**

Many members of the public in attendance expressed concerns to the RAB on the following topics:

**Information:** Some felt that not enough information was being provided, and that what information is provided is not given in a way people understand.

**Health concerns:** Several residents reported health problems in their families which they believed are related to the contamination and the fuel storage tanks. They asked for help in determining the source of the problems and in taking away what they believe is the cause.

**Fuel Storage tanks:** Several residents said they want the storage tanks to be removed. They complained of the odor and the potential health risk.

**Information Repository:** One person said the information in the public library is impossible to find. He would like to see that improved.

Compensation: Several people expressed concern that their property values have been irrevocably damaged by the contamination. The RAB voted to direct the Air Force to consider buying the contaminated property.

Community involvement: Some people expressed concern that the public is not given a chance to present its side of the story, and that the Air Force does not listen to what they have to say. They want more involvement in the process.

Changes in environmental regulations: One person expressed concern that changes in environmental laws may allow the Air Force to escape responsibility for cleanup. It was clarified by Mr. Pat McCullough, of the Air Force Base Conversion Agency, that the proposed changes would only give state governors the authority to waive the requirement to complete cleanup before a transfer of property can be made. This does not absolve the Air Force of its responsibility to clean up, it only allows the faster conversion of closing bases.

Mr. Quintanilla asked for the base to provide a person from the Judge Advocate's office to explain to the RAB the proposed changes in Superfund law. He also asked for Mr. R. Solis and Mr. Chavez Lopez to join the board. They declined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

#### Attachments

1. Agenda
2. Presentation slides of Zone 5 Update by Mike Patterson