

Kelly Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
20 July 1999 6:30 p.m.
Brentwood Middle School

Members/Alternates Present:

Public Members:

Brig. Gen. Robert M. Murdock
RAB Installation Co-Chair
Mr. Gordon Banner
TNRCC
Ms. Laura Stankosky
EPA
Mr. John A. Jacobi
TDH
Mr. Sam Sanchez
Metropolitan Health District
Mr. Adam Antwine
AFBCA

Community Members:

Dr. Gene Lené
RAB Community Co-Chair
Mr. Sam Murrell
Mrs. Dominga Adames
Mr. Paul Roberson
Greater Kelly Development Corp.
Mr. Leo Lozano
Mr. Quintanilla's alternate
Ms. Tanya Huerta
Mrs. Yolanda Johnson
Mr. Allan Hagelthorn
Mr. Juan Solis, Sr.
Mr. Paul Person

Members Absent Without Alternate:

Mr. Mark Puffer	Mr. Kent Iglesias
Mr. Carl Mixon	Mr. George Rice
Ms. Annalisa Peace	Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr.
Mr. Edward Weinstein	

Item I: Call to Order

Brig. Gen. Robert M. Murdock called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Item II: Administrative Topics

- A. RAB members introduced themselves.
- B. Gen. Murdock stated that he had received an agenda request from Mr. Quintanilla. Since Mr. Quintanilla could not attend the meeting, the information requested was provided by letter. A copy of the request and response was provided in the RAB Materials Package. The General asked Mr. Quintanilla's alternate, Mr. Lozano, to pass the information on to him.
- C. Review of Action Items
 1. Gen. Murdock commented on the action items from the last meeting. He referred members to their materials packet and addressed the following items individually.
 - a. Items 1 and 2: In response to the RAB's request to have representative present at BRAC Closure Team (BCT) meetings, Ms. Mary Kelly, Kelly AFB Legal Office, said that, consistent with Department of Defense guidance, BCT meetings would continue to be attended only by BCT members, and not open to members of the public or to RAB representatives. Minutes and any other information relating to BCT activities that would be available under the Freedom of Information Act will continue to be made available to the RAB without FOIA requests. Ms. Kelly said

that a filing has been made with DoD and other federal agencies complaining about, among other things, closed BCT meetings and because that filing is under review, it would be inappropriate for the Air Force to change its policy at this time. In response to a question from Mr. Lozano about whether the documents made available to the RAB had been "sanitized," Mrs. Kelly replied that the documents were the same as were provided to the regulators. Gen. Murdock gave further clarification by saying that any document used in making cleanup decisions at Kelly that the BCT would present to regulators would be made available for review

- b. Item 3: In response to a request for information about efforts to evaluate the San Antonio River, Gen. Murdock said that a San Antonio River Authority (SARA) representative will be making a presentation later in the meeting.
- c. Item 4: In response to the request for a list of agencies involved in the cleanup and their roles, Gen. Murdock said a chart and handout showing the agencies involved and their relationships is available for review.
- d. Item 5: In response to an inquiry about the Air Force's policy on providing access to environmental documents, Gen. Murdock said the policy has not changed. Anyone who wishes to come out to the base and examine documents is welcome to do so.

D. Review of Minutes

1. In a letter to Gen. Murdock, Mr. Quintanilla pointed out that the reply made at the previous meeting regarding the existence of a mission statement for EPA was incorrect and asked the minutes reflect that EPA does have a mission statement. Mr. Quintanilla's letter was attached to the minutes as supplemental information. Corrections to the minutes included changing the word "wells" (Section 10.B.3) to "soils" and changing Ms. Stankosky's references to "grants" to "contractor funding." The minutes were approved with the additions and changes incorporated as noted.

E. New Member vote

1. Dr. Gene Lené, community co-chair, introduced Mr. Roy Botello as an applicant for a seat on the RAB. Mr. Botello was nominated by City Council Representative Vasquez to represent the interests of citizens living in District 5. Mr. Botello spoke briefly about his desire to be on the board, saying he believes anyone should be able to express his concerns or questions to the RAB and receive an answer. RAB community members voted unanimously to approve his application.

F. ATSDR Update

1. Dr. Lené read a letter from Dr. David Fowler of ATSDR (see attached). He said the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) has been working with ATSDR putting on workshops in the area.
2. Mr. Sam Sanchez, SAMHD, said on June 4, 1999 his agency held an all-day environmental health education seminar for area nurses at Southwest General Hospital. More than 100 nurses attended. On July 22, a one-hour presentation will be given to physicians on the same topic, also at SW General Hospital. He said community education seminars will be held soon.

Item III: Community Comments

- A. Dr. Gene Lené invited statements from members of the public in attendance at the meeting. No community members made statements.

Item IV: Cleanup Systems Update

- A. Maj. Tom deVenoge, Kelly AFB, presented a zone-by- zone status report on the cleanup at Kelly. (Copies of his presentation slides are attached.) The Major emphasized that much of the work done will have a very positive effect on the plumes extending off base.
- B. Discussion
1. With regard to statements made by Maj. de Venoge about a treatment plant located on East Kelly, Ms. Tanya Huerta, community representative, asked what the discharge standards were for treated water released by the plant. She asked if the standards were different if it were discharged into Six Mile Creek or if it were discharged to San Antonio Water System for reuse. Maj. deVenoge replied that an answer would be researched and forwarded to her.
 2. Mr. Sanchez commented that the new plume map shows no contamination north of Highway 90. He asked if this was true. Major deVenoge said the map shows the Air Force has not investigated north of Highway 90.
 - a. Ms. Huerta asked why the Air Force has not looked north of Highway 90. Major deVenoge said the evidence appears to show there may be sources other than Kelly AFB contributing to the plume east of Kelly. He said the Air Force is working with the EPA and TNRCC to determine how to investigate and clean up the contamination. Gen. Murdock said that the information shows that some of the contamination is coming from sources other than Kelly AFB.
 - b. Ms. Huerta asked how the regulatory agencies determine who cleans up the contamination. That question will be answered at the next meeting.
 3. Ms. Dominga Adames, community representative, asked who is allowing houses to be built in the areas of contamination and why construction is not being stopped. Maj. deVenoge said the Air Force has no control over building permits. That responsibility belongs to the city zoning authority.
 4. Ms. Huerta said the community is concerned about human health and they want assurance human health is being protected.
 5. Mr. Juan Solis, community representative, said he is confident the Air Force is doing all it can to clean up the contamination. He asked that the briefing slides be made available to RAB members. He also stated that more technical people should talk to the public. Gen. Murdock said that every effort would be made to provide briefing slides in future materials package.
 6. With regard to comments on a plan to excavate contaminated soil on the north side of the base, Ms. Yolanda Johnson, community representative, asked if there will be air monitoring present during the excavation. She also wanted to know how and where the soil was being transported. Major deVenoge said air monitoring equipment will be on site to monitor emissions and that a suppressive foam will be used to minimize air emissions. He also said he did not have the information to respond to her question on materials transport with him, but would get it for her.
 - a. Mr. Solis said it is important for RAB members to have specific information to tell friends and neighbors.
 7. Ms. Adames stated that she wants to know why clothes dried outside in her back yard have a terrible smell. No answer was given.
 8. Gen. Murdock proposed holding a RAB workshop to help develop strategies for public communication about the off-base contamination. After some discussion, the

RAB decided to hold the workshop sometime after ATSDR releases its report (August 24).

- a. Gen. Murdock will provide a letter proposing objectives and goals and asking for volunteers to serve the workshop steering committee.
- b. Topics would be proposed by the steering committee. Once a list of topics is developed, the RAB will decide which topics will be discussed. A facilitator will be used to help keep the workshop focused. The meeting will be open to the public.

Item V: Redevelopment Update

- A. Because of the shortness of time, and with the concurrence of the RAB members present, the Co-chairs postponed until the next meeting the scheduled presentations from the Greater Kelly Development Corporation (GKDC) and Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA) on base redevelopment issues..

Item VI: Break

Members took a short break.

Item VII: San Antonio River Authority

- A. Mike Gonzales, San Antonio River Authority, presented the findings of a recent investigation done on the quality of the river. (Copies of his presentation slides are attached.)
- B. The investigation has found no evidence that contamination from Kelly AFB has impacted the San Antonio River.
 1. While some seeps near the riverbank contained small concentrations of solvents, no solvents were found to reach the river.
 2. Mr. Gonzales said the investigation did not indicate a source for the contaminants.
 3. He said in addition to Kelly, there are numerous potential industrial sources along the river.
- C. Recent testing shows the San Antonio River is doing well for an urban stream, and an analysis of long-term trends shows gradual improvement in the quality of the stream.

Item VIII: Subcommittee Reports

- A. Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS) Report
 1. Dr. Lené gave a brief report of the TRS's three meetings held since the last RAB. (Copies of the slide presentations made at the TRS meetings are attached.)
 2. The TRS identified, by priority, 25 wells for the EPA to sample using the contractor funding recently made available by EPA. EPA has hired a contractor to do the sampling.
 3. A Pre-performance meeting was held July 6 with Mr. Jeff Neathery of Neathery Environmental Services. Mr. Neathery will produce a plain-language summary and technical review of the Work Plan for IRP Zone 4, Operable Unit 2. The TRS will hear the presentation on September 14, and will report to the RAB at the October meeting,

Item IX: TAPP Contractor Presentation

- A. Patrick Lynch, Clearwater Revival Company, gave a presentation on the report he submitted to the RAB under the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

contract. His report was an analysis of Kelly's Semiannual Compliance Plan Report, originally submitted in January 1998. (A copy of Mr. Lynch's report is attached.)

B. Discussion:

1. Ms. Huerta asked where more information could be found on the synergistic effects of the chemicals to which he had referred in his presentation. Mr. Lynch said he was not necessarily concerned with synergistic effects, but rather with the effects of several chemicals considered together. He said he was concerned that risk assessments only consider the effects of chemicals individually. His assertion was that the effects of chemicals at each site should be considered as a whole, not individually.
2. Ms. Huerta asked who decides when the Semiannual Compliance Plan reports are due. Gordon Banner, TNRCC, said the dates are outlined in the compliance plan, which is part of the permit. The reports are due on a standardized schedule determined by TNRCC, which in the case of the January report, was extended.
3. Mr. Paul Roberson, GKDC, said he felt like the report was overly critical of the Air Force. He asked Mr. Lynch what he would want to see done if he were on the RAB. Mr. Lynch said he did not believe the report was overly critical. He wrote the report from the perspective of a community member. If he were on the board, he said he would make the cleanup of vinyl chloride a priority.
4. Mr. Allan Hagelthorn, community representative, said Mr. Lynch's report was based on interim action data. Final cleanup plans have not been submitted or implemented for many of the sites included in the report. He said the RAB should not be so quick to make decisions based on critiques of interim data. He said the RAB needs more information before it makes any decisions. He also stated that in the interest of fairness, the RAB should apply the same standards of skepticism and critique to this report that they apply to the Air Force reports.
5. Mr. Sanchez commented that he believed the Air Force should present a response to Mr. Lynch's report. He said TNRCC and EPA should also respond in some way to the assertions of the report, especially to the vinyl chloride issues.
6. Mr. Paul Person, Union Pacific Railroad, said this report was based on one person's opinion and the RAB should keep that in perspective. He said that Mr. Lynch is a consultant who is paid for his opinion. He said if another consultant were hired to do the same thing, it's likely the report would be completely different.
7. Ms. Adames said the Air Force has lied before. Now that someone has an opinion different from that of the Air Force's, she asked who the RAB is supposed to believe. She said the Air Force told her there was no contamination. Now someone else says there is.
8. Mr. Roberson moved that the RAB request the Air Force, TNRCC, and EPA to comment on the report and to ask the TRS to address the major issues in the report and to present a report at the RAB workshop. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Dr. Lené asked all additional questions and comments for Mr. Lynch on the report be given to him within a week.

Item X: Environmental Priorities

- A. The presentation on Environmental Priorities was postponed until the next meeting.

Item XI: Community Comment

- A. There were no additional comments from community members.

Item XII: Summary and Closing

- A. Mr. Hagelthorn announced that the meeting was his last, since he is relocating out of state. He briefly addressed the Co-chairs and other members of the board, stating that he believed the meeting was the best RAB meeting he has attended. He stressed the importance of community relations, especially community education, on environmental issues.
- B. Agenda items for the next RAB meeting
 - 1. Off-base contamination workshop
 - 2. GKDC/AFBCA update
 - 3. Response to TAPP report
 - 4. Environmental priorities
 - 5. Community Relations
- C. Gen. Murdock reminded the RAB that ATSDR’s report would be released on August 24.
- D. Action Items for the next RAB Meeting

ITEM	REQUESTOR	REQUEST
1	Ms. Huerta	Provide slides from EMR Update presentation with the minutes.
2	Ms. Huerta	Explain what standards apply to treated groundwater that goes into a re-use pipeline and who regulates it.
3	Mr. Solis	Provide copies of briefing slides in the member packet at the meeting, so that RAB members can follow along.
4	Ms. Huerta	Asked for a clear definition of the groundwater plume(s) and the concentrations found in them.
5	Ms. Johnson	Please provide health and safety precautions information on the Site S-1 soil cleanup project (air/vapor monitoring, truck routes, covers on loads, foam, etc.).
6	Various	BGen Murdock provide letter with idea on the RAB off-base cleanup workshop objectives and call for volunteers to a steering committee to develop concept.
7	Various	Include GKDC and AFBCA slides with minutes of July 20, 1999 RAB meeting.
8	Ms. Huerta	Put together a history or chronology of cleanup issues so that knowledge is not lost with staff changes and new RAB members can see what has been resolved in past years.

- E. The next RAB meeting will be held October 5, 1999, at Dwight Middle School.
- F. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Motions/Resolutions

Motions

- 1. Motion was made to approve the April 27, 1999 RAB minutes as corrected.
 - Passed unanimously
- 2. Motion was made to hold an open RAB workshop, with a facilitator.
 - Not voted on

3. Motion was made to amend the previous RAB workshop motion dropping the open meeting requirement.
 - Failed 10-4
4. First RAB workshop motion was revised to add that the Air Force would send a letter to RAB members stating the workshop's objectives and goals and asking for volunteers to develop the agenda.
 - Passed by voice vote
5. Motion was made to request the Air Force, EPA, and TNRCC comment on the TAPP report and to ask the TRS to address the major issues in the report and to report to all RAB members at the RAB workshop.
 - Passed unanimously.

Attachments (* Items were provided at the meeting to all RAB members).

1. *Kelly AFB Restoration Advisory Board Materials Package
 - July 20, 1999 RAB Meeting
2. *Letter from Dr. David Fowler of ATSDR
3. Cleanup Systems Update Briefing Slides
4. GKDC Update Briefing Slides
5. AFBCA Update Briefing Slides
6. Technical Review Subcommittee report notes
7. TAPP Presentation Slides