

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) Restoration
Advisory Board (RAB) Final Meeting Minutes
Meeting No. 70 – 22 September 2022

SUBJECT: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting No. 70 – Meeting Minutes

- 1) Place: In Person and Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
- 2) Date/Time: Thursday, 22 September 2022; 6:30 PM
- 3) Co-Chairs: Mr. Christopher Archer, Deputy Base Civil Engineer, JB MDL
Mr. Michael Tamn, Resident, Southampton Township, New Jersey

4) Attendees:

Mr. Tom Besselman	RAB Community Member
Mr. Frank Storm	RAB Community Member
Ms. Branwen Ellis	NJ Pinelands Commission, RAB Member
Mr. Gene Fowler	Pinelands Municipal Council, RAB Member
Mr. Doug Pocze	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA)
Ms. Carla Struble	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA)
Mr. Bill Friedmann	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA)
Mr. Haiyesh Shah	NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Ms. Kristine Iazzetta	NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Mr. Ralph Rodrigues	NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Mr. Curt Frye	AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. Michael Figura	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZO, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. King Mak	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZO, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. Jim Richman	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZO, Environmental Restoration Program
Ms. Jalise Wright	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZO, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. John Montgomery	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZO, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. Michael Wierman	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZO, Environmental Restoration Program
Ms. Jeff Sagnip	Congressman Christopher Smith's Office
Mr. Mike Hansen	Verina
Ms. Sarah DeFalco	Burlington County Health Department
Mr. Aaron Davis	Community Member
Ms. Susan Trussell	US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Dennis Powers	US Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Tom Crone	Arcadis
Ms. Julie Straus	Arcadis
Ms. Sahithi Rondla	Arcadis
Mr. Neils van Hoessel	FPM Remediations
Mr. Kevin Jago	Leidos
Ms. Katrina Harris	Bridge Consulting Corp./Arcadis

5) Handouts

- JB MDL Restoration Advisory Board, Meeting No. 70, 22 September 2022, Agenda
- JB MDL Restoration Advisory Board, Meeting No. 70, 22 September 2022, Presentation Slides

6) Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Christopher Archer, Deputy Base Civil Engineer, JB MDL. He welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending the in person and virtual meeting of the RAB.

7) Minutes of Previous Meeting and Review of Agenda Items:

Mr. Jim Richman noted the meeting was being recorded for purposes of preparing the minutes.

Mr. Richman reviewed one action item from the last meeting (PowerPoint slides #2-6).

Mr. Richman said Mr. Tamn had asked when the last round of surface water and sediment sampling occurred at North Run and South Run.

Mr. Richman stated that Operable Unit 1 surface water/sediment sampling had occurred at North Run in August 2022 at LF003 and is planned for October 2022 at LF004. He noted annual sampling at 10 locations would begin in 2023. Mr. Richman advised at South Run, Operable Unit 3 surface water/sediment sampling occurred in August 2022. He said annual sampling at 4 locations will begin in 2023.

Mr. Richman displayed maps showing the North Run sampling through 2016. He noted data has not been received yet on the recent sampling. He also displayed a map showing the South Run sampling.

Mr. Michael Tamn asked about South Run sampling near the sewer plant. Mr. Richman responded downgradient and upgradient sampling of the streams had been completed.

Mr. Richman reviewed the meeting agenda (PowerPoint slide #7).

Mr. Tamn, RAB Community Co-Chair, asked for any comments on the minutes from the February 2022 meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes.

8) Environmental Restoration Program: Operable Unit 4 Record of Decision Notification
(Power Point slides #8-10)

Mr. Richman announced the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 4 (ST009) had been signed and finalized. He reminded the RAB that ST009 is approximately 19 acres and is used for bulk fuel storage of heating oil and jet fuel; historical releases of jet fuel impacted the groundwater. Mr. Richman summarized the selected remedy which includes natural source zone depletion with enhanced active remediation techniques (skimming, thermal enhanced remediation, bioventing), long-term monitoring and sampling, and land use controls. Mr. Richman advised a copy of the Record of Decision is available at the Burlington County Library and online at <http://ar.afcecloud.af.mil/>. He added that a public notice will be running in the three local newspapers used for public notices. Mr. Richman reviewed an aerial photograph of the site.

9) Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) General Update (PowerPoint slides #11-32)

Mr. Richman revised the background on PFAS, noting there are more than 2,000 PFAS chemicals which are resistant to natural degradation and oil and water. He stated PFOS/PFOA have historically been used in AFFF (fire-fighting foam) and many other industrial and consumer products.

Mr. Richman noted PFOS/PFOA are known as emerging contaminants with evolving regulations. He reviewed the history of regulations, including EPA's initial lifetime health advisory guidance of 70 parts per trillion in drinking water, NJDEP's maximum contaminant level of 13 parts per trillion for PFOS and 14 parts per trillion for PFOA in drinking water, and EPA's final lifetime health advisory level of 2,000 parts per trillion for PFBS and 10 parts per trillion for GenX chemicals. Mr. Richman advised the Air Force has not moved forward with using EPA's revised levels.

Mr. Richman discussed proactive actions the Air Force is taking to address PFAS/PFOA associated with mission-related AFFF releases. He advised the current goal is to protect human health and ensure access to safe drinking water for installations and surrounding communities. He noted the Air Force is investigating PFOS/PFOA under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); however, PFAS is not a Federal hazardous substance. He stated the Air Force is taking immediate mitigation measures to impacted drinking water receptors where PFAS/PFOA is detected above the EPA's lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion.

Mr. Richman displayed a graphic of the CERCLA process and stated the JBMDL PFAS investigation is at the Remedial Investigation phase. He reviewed the investigations conducted to date and the results which identified potential source areas and pathways to receptors—11 at McGuire, 4 at Dix, and 6 at Lakehurst. He stated the Remedial Investigation began in 2020 and is ongoing with the goal of delineating the nature and extent of PFAS in soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment on-base and off-base.

Mr. Richman reviewed the past and ongoing work being done under two contracts looking at off-base impacts. He noted some data gaps were found as the existing NJDEP database is not complete and the depth of private wells is unknown by a majority of the owners. Mr. Richman displayed maps showing the off-base focus areas at McGuire, Dix and Lakehurst.

Mr. Richman next discussed mitigation measures taken by the Air Force on-base and off-base. He stated these measures have included sampling all on-base public drinking water systems; primary operating drinking water sources were non-detect for PFOS/PFOA/PFNA. He said four shallow back-up wells at Lakehurst had some detections, were taken offline, and a new back-up water system constructed. Mr. Richman stated bottled water was immediately provided at impacted properties off-base, following by short-term and long-term, permanent solutions implemented or being implemented. Mr. Richman showed several pictures of the on-post drinking water well installation and treatment system construction at Lakehurst.

Mr. Richman displayed and discussed the history and status of PFOS/PFOA investigations and other actions taken from 2015 and projected through 2024. He stated \$36.6 million has been funded for these projects to date.

Mr. Richman next reviewed the Air Force's Relative Risk Site Evaluation, explaining it is a Department of Defense methodology to evaluate the relative risks posed by chemicals present at a site in relation to other sites across the Air Force and thus the worst sites are funded first. He noted the evaluation is updated annually, and regulators are provided with the opportunity to participate in the process. He noted the first notification of the evaluation requires a 30-day public comment period and which for JBMDL is September 22 through October 21, 2022. Mr. Richman noted the evaluation is not a CERCLA risk assessment, but looks at sources, pathways, and receptors. He said the results are reported in three categories—low, medium and high.

Mr. Richman showed a map of the JBMDL PFAS Sites and charts of the evaluation scores for McGuire, Dix and Lakehurst. He noted all the sites fell into the high risk category. In response to a

question from Mr. Archer, Mr. Richman said the scoring is not the sole determinant of funding.

10) PFAS Remedial Investigation (PowerPoint slides #33-43)

Mr. Robert McGlade, Project Manager for Weston Solutions, discussed the JBMDL Phase I PFAS Remedial Investigation for 21 sites. He advised the objectives are to delineate the nature and extent of PFAS contamination and collect sufficient data to support future risk assessment. He showed a map of the location of the 21 sites. Mr. McGlade reviewed the screening values that would be used in determining the nature and extent of PFAS contamination.

Mr. McGlade reviewed the status of the work noting various project plans are close to being finalized. He advised sampling had begun with regulator concurrence. In response to a question by Mr. Archer regarding the depth of the samples, Mr. McGlade advised the depth for soil samples ranges from 7 to 15 feet and for groundwater samples the depth ranges from 55 feet to 75 feet. Mr. McGlade reviewed aerial photographs showing the sample locations.

Mr. McGlade summarized the preliminary findings, emphasizing the data was still unvalidated. He advised soil and groundwater concentrations exceeding screening criteria exist at most sites which are generally known or suspected release areas.

Mr. McGlade discussed the next steps for the investigation. He advised the contract was being modified to address DoD-revised screening levels based upon EPA's Revised Regional Screening Levels. He noted that additional groundwater, surface water, sediment and outfall sampling is planned through early 2023. Mr. McGlade said the three Remedial Investigation Reports are planned to be final in 2025. In response to a question from Mr. Shah, Mr. McGlade advised draft Reports will be submitted to the regulators in later 2024

Mr. Jeff Sagnip from Congressman Smith's office asked about the status of monitoring near the Cedar Glen homes adjacent to Lakehurst. Mr. Richman responded that the Air Force is in the process of installing wells near that facility but not on the facility. He said the data will be used to step out and do additional sampling around the facility. Mr. Richman said the contract for the work will be awarded in a few days.

11) Performance-Based Remediation Contract Updates (PowerPoint slides #44-68)

- a) Operable Unit 3 Remedial Action Update: Mr. Niels van Hoessel, Project Manager for FPM Remediations, discussed the landfills (LF020 and LF002) and sludge disposal area (WP021) which are part of Operable Unit 3. He noted the sites are currently at the Remedial Action phase which will result in land use controls and long-term monitoring for the landfills and site closure for the sludge disposal area. Mr. van Hoessel showed photographs of the site preparation, vegetation clearance, and silt fence installation. He discussed upcoming work which includes excavation of PAH/PCB impacted soil, placement of soil covers, and site restoration.
- b) Operable Unit 1 Construction Update: Ms. Julie Straus, Phase Manager for Arcadis, provided an update on Operable Unit 1 Sites which include two landfills (LF003 and LF004) and the Former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office Storage Yard (ST007). She reminded the RAB the planned remedies are the installation of enhanced cover systems over the landfills, land use controls restricting residential use at all sites, and long-term monitoring. She noted construction activities associated with this work can be expected off E. Main Street and McGuire Access Highway. Mr. Kevin Jago of Leidos discussed the installation of the soil cover at LF004 and anticipated construction activity. Ms. Straus discussed the schedule for the work at both landfills which will begin in September 2022 and is expected to be completed by December. In response

to a question from Mr. Doug Pocze, Ms. Straus stated closure reports will be submitted to the Air Force in January or early February of 2023.

- a) Boeing Michigan Aeronautical Research Center (BOMARC): Ms. Straus gave an update on the groundwater remediation system which began operating in November 2020. She noted overall the system is running well, with an average uptime of about 70%. She stated there had been some power outages and system shutdowns for needed repairs. Ms. Straus reviewed groundwater and surface water sampling results and noted overall the results look positive but data trends will take several years to show the overall influence.

Due to time constraints, presentations were not given on the Performance Based Remediation Contract General Update (Power Point slides #69-91).

12) RAB and Public Comments:

Mr. Tamn asked for additional questions from RAB members and then from members of the public observing the meeting. Ms. Tamn referenced a grant that was given to the RAB in approximately 2002 for technical assistance from an independent consultant to review all the work performed at the BOMARC site. Mr. Tamn asked whether a similar grant could be obtained for an updated review. Mr. Richman said he would look into Mr. Tamn's question. Mr. Tamn asked for any topics for the next meeting and none were offered.

13) Meeting Adjourned:

Mr. Tamn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.