

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Final Meeting Minutes
Meeting No. 72 – 02 November 2023

SUBJECT: Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting No. 72 – Meeting Minutes

- 1) Place: In Person and Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
- 2) Date/Time: Thursday, 02 November 2023; 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 (virtual attendees noted with *):

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)
Mr. Bill Friedmann	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA)
Ms. Angela Carpenter	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region II (EPA)
Ms. Kristine Iazzetta	NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Mr. Ralph Rodrigues*	NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Ms. Heidi Yeh*	Pinelands Alliance
Mr. Michael Figura	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. King Mak	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. Jim Richman	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Mr. Michael Wierman	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Ms. Jalise Wright	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Ms. Jeiwon Deputy	JB MDL, AFCEC/CZOE, Environmental Restoration Program
Ms. Cindy Zvolensky	Resident
Ms. Sarah DeFalco	Burlington County Health Department
Ms. Christine Black*	Pemberton Environmental Commission
Mr. Bob McGlade*	Weston Solutions
Mr. John Gerhard*	Weston Solutions
Ms. Samantha Saalfield*	EA Engineering
Ms. Katrina Harris	Bridge Consulting Corp./Arcadis

5) Handouts

- JB MDL Restoration Advisory Board, Meeting No. 72, 02 November 2023, Agenda
- JB MDL Restoration Advisory Board, Meeting No. 72, 02 November 2023, 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) Administrative Items and Review of Agenda Items:

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

Mr. Bill Friedmann provided one comment on the May 2023 minutes, section 12. He requested the minutes be distributed sooner and the attendees be designated as to whether they were in person or virtual. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to finalized the minutes with the incorporation of Mr. Friedmann's comment.

Mr. Richman reviewed open action items from the previous meeting (PowerPoint slides 3-6):

- **PFAS Investigation:** Mr. Tamn had asked if the area around the Lakehurst fire stations are being investigated. Mr. Richman advised there is no record of PFAS being released at the Current Fire House or the Original Fire House (near Building 5) so they are not being investigated for PFAS. Mr. Richman stated the Fire Truck Crash Site (SS092P) at the former Test Department Fire House near the Westfield Hangar is part of the PFAS investigation.
- **RAB Site Tour:** Mr. Tamn requested a tour of environmental sites. Mr. Richman stated a tour will be considered in the spring/summer of 2024 when more daylight is present.
- **Technical Assistance:** Mr. Tamn inquired about a grant given to the RAB in 2002 for technical assistance from an independent consultant to review work performed at the BOMARC site and whether a similar grant could be obtained for an updated review. Mr. Richman advised a Technical Assistance Plan enables community groups to retain the services of an independent technical advisor to help interpret and understand technical site information. He noted the Technical Assistance Plan or TAP can only be used for active sites. Mr. Richman said the plutonium contamination associated with the BOMARC missile fire has been cleaned up and the site is closed; a TAP would not be authorized. He continued explaining that the contamination remaining at BOMARC are the trichloroethylene (TCE) plumes which are in the remedial action-operation stage with the treatment system constructed and operating. He emphasized the TAP must be initiated by a community group, not the Air Force.

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

8) Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) General Update (PowerPoint slides #8-37)

Mr. Richman summarized the background on PFAS, noting there are thousands of PFAS chemicals which are resistant to natural degradation and oil and water. He noted PFOS and PFOA are the most widely studied PFAS chemicals and 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; once EPA issues Maximum Contaminant Levels, the Air Force will move forward with implementing these standards into the cleanup program. [After the meeting, Mr. Richman provided the following information. The

Air Force noted use of EPA's initial lifetime health advisory guidance of 70 parts per trillion has been rescinded and replaced by the Department of Defense's policy of 70 parts per trillion. However, at the time of the RAB meeting, the direction from the Office of Secretary of Defense was not disseminated to installations, and EPA did not have concerns at the RAB meeting itself. The reference to EPA's initial lifetime health advisory guidance of 70 parts per trillion will remain in these minutes and future reference will be made to the Department of Defense policy of 70 parts per trillion.]

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 regulated 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 stated the Air Force has sampled all on-base public drinking water systems, and all of JB MDL's primary operating drinking water sources are non-detect for PFOS/PFOA/PFNA. He noted two back-up supply wells at Lakehurst had detections and were taken offline; a short-term mitigation system was put in place in April 2019, with construction of a new back-up water system completed and under permit since April 2023.

Mr. Richman discussed off-base impacted properties, noting 195 properties had been identified since 2016 and mitigated, where applicable. He advised the immediate solution was for the Air Force to provide bottled water, with the long-term solution of being connected to municipal water; the last response actions were completed in September 2022. He stated the Manchester Municipal Supply Well #4 had a detection of PFOS exceeding the State Maximum Contaminant Level for the first time in June 2023 so the Township elected to immediately shut down the well. He stated the Air Force agreed to implement an Environmental Services Agreement with Manchester to provide mitigation for this seasonal well; samples now have all shown no detections of PFOS. Mr. Richman advised this temporary mitigation will continue until a more permanent solution planned for the future is completed.

Mr. Richman displayed a graphic of the CERCLA process and stated the JB MDL PFAS investigation is at the Remedial Investigation phase. He reviewed the initial investigations conducted 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 displayed a map showing the PFAS sites included in the Remedial Investigation.

Mr. Richman discussed the surface water flow and watersheds and the off-base evaluation for potential impacts.

Mr. Richman next discussed the McGuire/Dix sites which are part of the PFAS Remedial Investigation. He reviewed a chart showing results from the October 2023 sampling. He also showed aerial photographs of the soil, groundwater and lysimeter sampling locations at McGuire and Dix.

Mr. Richman reviewed the PFAS sites at Lakehurst. He summarized the sampling results from the October 2023 sampling. He also displayed aerial photographs of the soil, groundwater and lysimeter sampling locations at Lakehurst.

Mr. Richman displayed an aerial photograph showing the proposed off-base surface water and groundwater sampling locations. He stated JB MDL will be accessing and installing wells over the next few months. He summarized off-base sampling that began in 2018, noting 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. He said a new contract was issued in September 2022 for an expanded off-base PFAS investigation in drinking water, including expanded focus areas in Manchester Township and Pemberton Township.

Mr. Richman discussed the review of drinking water sources in Pemberton, which showed most residents are on public water with about 170 to 190 private wells identified. He stated those with private wells will be offered sampling at no cost.

Mr. Richman summarized the PFAS activities, noting CERCLA response actions/mitigations would continue as necessary, off-base drinking water evaluations and responses would continue, and the military would continue to track issuance of new EPA standards.

In response to a question about how private well owners are notified, Mr. Richman stated a mailer is developed which includes an access agreement with a sample point identified, a fact sheet, and contact information. He noted the mailer has been discussed with the townships already. He explained after two mailings with no response, a third certified mailing will be done. He stated information will not be posted on social media as in the past this has resulted in a significant volume of calls from residents not impacted. Mr. Richman said a public poster session is being planned with Pemberton Township with the regulators and other agencies invited to participate.

In response to a question as to whether New Hanover Township will be included, Mr. Richman responded affirmatively, noting many properties have been sampled in a relatively small area and all have shown non-detects for PFAS.

Mr. Richman explained that the surficial aquifer is from the surface down to a confining layer which is generally 50 feet to 60 feet below the surface in this area. He explained older homes may have a shallow well which is no longer allowed so newer wells are about 150 feet deep, below the confining layer which is generally about 70 feet thick. In response to a statement that a well about 140 feet deep would not be impacted, Mr. Richman agreed. In response to a question as to whether a homeowner could test their own well, Mr. Richman said a homeowner can test, but if there were PFAS detections and the base was suspected to be a source, the Air Force would need to conduct sampling to verify the detections.

In response to a question about how long sampling will be offered to the community, Mr. Richman stated he hoped to get everyone within the first year, recognizing there could be ownership changes.

9) Contracting Update (PowerPoint slides #38-97)

- PFAS: Mr. Richman provided a list of PFAS Contracts and Actions beginning in 2015. He advised \$41.61 million in PFAS investigations and mitigation had been completed or are ongoing.
- Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) Projects: Mr. Richman reviewed contracts recently issued for addressing munitions and explosives of concern, as well as contracts that will be issued in fiscal year 2024.
- Performance Based Remediation Contract: Mr. Richman advised this contract had begun in 2014

and will end in September 2024. He stated all final documents will be in the Air Force Administrative Record, and any draft documents will be provided by the Air Force as Government Furnished Information so it can be provided to bidding contractors.

- Optimized Remediation Contract: Mr. Richman explained this new contract will be issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and will be in place from 2024 through 2034. He listed the sites and activities that will be included. He noted it will not include PFAS site investigations/mitigations or chemical warfare munition sites. Mr. Richman reviewed the sites, site histories, key issues, and site-specific tasks that will be included in the contract, noting the slides will be posted to [www.envirorestoreJB MDL.com](http://www.envirorestoreJBMDL.com) if anyone would like more details:
 - a. McGuire National Priority List Sites: Operable Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and the BOMARC Site.
 - b. McGuire State Led Sites: Compliance Sites CF011, LF500, SS015, TU025, TU003
 - c. McGuire Military Munitions Response Sites: TX875/XU874
 - d. Dix Sites: AT024, DA022, LF010, LF017, SS007, TU026
 - e. Dix Military Munitions Response Sites: FR004
 - f. Lakehurst Sites: Areas A/B & C (TT013, LF042, LF029, AT014, AT016, TT017; Areas D, I/J, K; Area H
 - g. Lakehurst Military Munitions Response Sites: ZZ001, ZZ002, ZZ006
 - h. Basewide/Administrative: Project Management Plan, Land Use Control Implementation Plan Biennial Land Use Control Certification Report, Annual Site Management Plan, Biennial Monitoring Well Survey, Community Involvement Plan, Geographic Information System Layers

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10) Performance Based Remediation Contract Update: Response Complete and Site Closeout Update
(PowerPoint slides #98 - 105)

Mr. Richman advised 43 sites have achieved Response Complete/Site Closeout under the current Performance Based Remediation contract with another 8 sites planned to move into this category by the end of the contract in 2024. He stated a total of 130 sites in the JB MDL environmental program have achieved Response Complete or Site Closeout to date. Mr. Richman displayed a list of the sites which have achieved Response Complete/Site Closeout and noted the new sites added since the last meeting (TU013 and TU020).

Mr. Archer acknowledged the tremendous amount of work and achievements accomplished by the JB MDL environmental program staff, the regulators, the community, and the contractors. He noted he has seen more progress over the last five years than during his more than 25 years with the program. He encouraged dialogue and communication to continue between meetings. Mr. Archer mentioned the quick turnaround time with Manchester Township to mitigate the issue and cover the expense for the township. Mr. Archer stated the performance based contract seems to help to move past the study phase and get sites remediated. Mr. Archer invited comments from other Board members.

Mr. Tamn stated technology has advanced over the last 10 years, but it has been especially helpful to have one contractor working at the sites for ten years and avoid what seemed to be duplicate sampling being done. He noted there has been significant progress under the performance based contract. Ms. Brawen Ellis stated there has been great teamwork with the Air Force and the regulators, and she would echo Mr. Archer's comments. Mr. Frank Storm said there has been an amazing difference over the past 9 years compared to previous years in terms of progress and sites being remediated. Mr. Tom Besselman stated he agreed with Mr. Storm and Mr. Tamn that it made sense to continue with one contractor for an extended period of time to eliminate learning curves.

11) RAB and Public Comments:

Mr. Archer asked for additional questions from RAB members and then from members of the public observing the meeting. None were offered.

12) 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 8:14 PM.