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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION LIST

11 DEC 1995

FROM: 27 CE/CEV



SUBJECT: 13 Nov 95 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Minutes



- 1. Place: 27th Fighter Wing Conference Room, Cannon AFB
- 2. Time: 1900
- 3. Chairman: Col W. P. Ard

4. **Opening Remarks:** Col Ard welcomed everyone to the RAB meeting. He then addressed the agenda for the night and some of the items that were going to be discussed. Col Ard stated that some of the first items that were going to be discussed were the Draft Charter Modifications, Deadlines for Applicants, and Meeting Ground Rules and Parliamentary Procedures.

5. **Old Business:**

Draft Charter Modifications: Col Ard made reference to page 2 of the Draft Charter. In reference to the RAB membership the following points were made: (1) membership would consist of 15-20 people, (2) there would also two standing members (Installation and Community Co-Chairs), (3) geographic representation desired, (4) an alternate representative would be required in the absence of the primary RAB member, (5) the RAB meetings will be held no less than on a quarterly basis, and (6) a RAB member is required to hold their position for two years.

6. **Deadline for Applicants:** Col Ard stated that he would like to look at a deadline to stop accepting applications for the RAB. The decision was voted to solicit for another 30 days.

7. **Ground Rule and Parliamentary Procedures:** It was decided to have nine people in a quorum for issues put to a vote; to keep the sessions open to the public; and voting would be confined to members only.

8. **Alternate RAB Members:** Col Ard asked that every RAB member have an alternate. This alternate would basically be "a set of ears" for the primary RAB member if they could not make the meetings. The alternate will not be allowed to vote.

9. **Repeated Absences:** If a RAB member is absent for two consecutive meetings without representation, the Co-Chairs may call discussion and a vote to decide if the member should be removed from the RAB and subsequently replaced. This will be incorporated into the charter.

10. **RAB Training:** The issue of providing training to the RAB through programs currently being offered to unemployed or underprivileged individuals at no charge was addressed. Many of the programs have had trouble filling slots and this was envisioned as an opportunity to provide

RAB members additional knowledge provided the programs would accept them into vacant slots. Mr. Pike of 27th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Flight (27 CE/CEV) was tasked to investigate the possible opportunities.

11. **Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Updates:** Mr. Sanford Hutsell from the 27 CE/CEV briefed the RAB members on the status of three IRP sites on Cannon AFB.

Landfill 5

This site consists of 40 acres and is located on the extreme southeast corner of Cannon AFB. Mr. Hutsell stated that in July 95, work took place at this site which included a geophysical survey and soil gas survey of 800 points. The survey failed to identify significant concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Based on the results of the geophysical investigation and soil gas investigation, it was decided to perform soil borings in 30 different locations. Mr. Hutsell stated that Cannon AFB is awaiting the analytical results for the soil borings. A report detailing this investigation is due to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by 9 Jan 97.

Landfill 1

Mr. Hutsell explained that this landfill was active during World War II. It was located on the present site of the golf course, between the 14th and 15th holes. He stated that previous attempts to locate this landfill had been unsuccessful, but during the expansion of the golf course in 1993 trash was encountered between the 14th and 15th fairways. Due to this discovery, Cannon AFB was tasked to initiate a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI). In Oct 95, a contractor completed a geophysical survey in the same area of the suspected landfill. The results were somewhat inconclusive in that no definite landfill trenches or metal concentrations were found. Mr. Hutsell stated that the contractor's work plan will need to be modified due to deviations imposed from the survey's inconclusive outcome. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region VI is requiring a supplemental work plan for determination of suitable boring locations. Based on the supplemental work plan, in Dec 95, the contractor will drill nine holes on the golf course to determine potential health risks. Sampling will concentrate on the detection of VOCs, Semi-VOCs, total metals, total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH), chlorinated herbicides, pesticides, and polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).

SD-11 (SWMUs 86-90)

SD-11 is located in the south central portion of Cannon AFB where a Hush House (jet engine test facility) was demolished. The SD-11 site consists of five solid waste management units. Mr. Hutsell stated that in the summer of 1994, an area 60 feet x 30 feet x 25 feet deep was excavated during the removal of an oil/water separator system in which contamination was encountered. Due to the apparent size of the contaminated area, the scope of the initial effort, and the contractor's ability to inadequately address the situation, excavation was discontinued and the area back-filled with clean soil. Early in 1995, the Phase III RFI was initiated. The field work was completed in Aug 95 and included nine borings to depths of 65 feet. Soil analytical results

will become available on 5 Jan 96. Based on the results of sampling at the site, a course of action will be planned. Currently, bioventing is being considered as a primary option for soil remediation.

12. Wastewater Treatment System: Mr. John Rebman (27 CE/CEV) briefed the RAB members on the future and present Wastewater Treatment Plant.

a. Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant: Mr. Rebman explained that Cannon AFB has two lagoons. These lagoons are about 16 acres in size and about four feet deep. He also stated that 98 percent of the influent entering the existing treatment facility is from domestic sources, while the remaining 2 percent comes from industrial activities. An on base Playa Lake receives treated effluent discharged from the sewage lagoons. On average, 620,000 gallons of wastewater enters the treatment plant per day.

b. Regulatory Requirements: Mr. Rebman stated that the Playa Lake is considered a "Waters of the U.S."; and therefore, the Clean Water Act requires that point source discharges (such as from treatment plant) on Cannon AFB have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Although Cannon AFB has submitted the NPDES permit application to the USEPA, Region VI for both the existing and future treatment facilities, a permit has not been issued. Mr. Rebman commented that, due to the physical limitations of the existing lagoon-type treatment process, it is unlikely that water quality standards that will be imposed by the NPDES permit will be achievable. Having recognized this, Cannon AFB has been aggressive in obtaining a treatment process which will meet anticipated water quality standards. Headquarters Air Combat Command (HQ ACC) has supported the base by declaring construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to be HQ ACC's top environmental project in fiscal year (FY) 96.

c. Treatment Facility Selection Process: Mr. John Rebman explained that a 1994 study was performed evaluating the existing system and its ability to meet anticipated criteria (e.g., water quality standards likely to be imposed by the NPDES permit). Options were identified and evaluated from both a cost and non-cost criteria. Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) technology was selected.

d. Major Components of the SBR Treatment Facility: Mr. Rebman discussed the components of the SBR and their function:

- SBR Tanks: The SBR treatment plant consist of two SBR tanks. Each tank is 55 feet square; with a liquid depth up to 18 feet. One tank treats raw wastewater, while the other receives wastewater for future treatment. Air is introduced into the SBR tanks to facilitate the aerobic (with air) digestion of waste products. Each reactor is capable of five cycles per day.

- Sludge Digester: Sludge from SBRs is pumped to the digester and is aerobically treated. Digested sludge is transferred to sludge drying beds.

- Chlorine Contact Basin: Clarified wastewater from the SBR tanks is sent to a chlorine contact basin. This basin contains liquid chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) which controls/eliminates

bacteria in the wastewater. As chlorinated water exits the chlorine contact basin, sodium bisulfate is injected in order to dechlorinate the water. Dechlorination allows the treated wastewater to be discharged to the Playa Lake or used for filling golf course lakes.

- **Sludge Drying Beds:** Dewatered sludge from the sludge digester is transferred to one of ten sludge drying beds. Sludge is dewatered into a cake-like consistency.

- **Sludge Composting Facility:** Dewatered sludge will be composted, much like lawn wastes or food products are composted. The goal of composting is to achieve class "A" sludge quality. A class "A" sludge is the most desirable from both a handling and sludge reuse standpoint. Class "A" sludges can be provided to base personnel for lawn/garden fertilization, application as a soil amendment, or a host of other options.

e. **Effluent Disposal Options:** There will be two treated effluent disposal options available to Cannon AFB when the new treatment facility becomes operational. These are: (1) discharge to the Playa Lake (as is the current practice) and (2) discharge to the golf course lakes. The golf course lakes option is desirable from a water conservation standpoint. In addition, the flexibility in using treated effluent for maintaining the golf course lakes will ensure that the Playa Lake does not overflow. Currently, water in the Playa Lake either percolates through to the water table, evaporates, or is used by a local farmer for crop irrigation. During periods in which irrigation (on base as well as farm land crop irrigation) is restricted (during the winter season), water from the Playa Lake can be sent to one of the two lagoons. This lagoon will be cleared of sludge that has accumulated over the years. The other lagoon will be closed under a Military Construction (MILCON) project in the near future.

f. **Current Status:** Mr. Rebman briefed that the MILCON project to construct the new treatment plant is in the FY96 (fiscal year) budget package awaiting presidential approval. Design funds for this project were secured with previous FY funds; therefore, the design is proceeding. The design is expected to be complete in Apr 96. Anticipated operational date of this new treatment plant is Jan 98.

13. **New Business:**

Landfarming versus Thermal Desorption of POL Contaminated Soils at Oil/Water Separator Sites:

a. Mr. John Pike of 27 CE/CEV briefed the RAB members on Landfarming versus Thermal Desorption.

b. **Thermal Treatment Process:** Mr. Pike presented a general process description of low temperature thermal desorption. The process model illustrated the controls and general components of a typical system. The benefits of the thermal process were noted to be high quality cleanup potential, rapid results, regulatory approval, and cost effective for quantities under 2000 cubic yards. Drawbacks to the method were cited as the general public apprehension to incineration processes.


c. **Typical Landfarming Process:** Mr. Pike provided a general process description for landfarming of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils. Benefits to landfarming were cited as public acceptance, regulatory acceptance, and effectiveness. Drawbacks to landfarming were cited as the slowness of the operation, the cost involved for small quantities of soil, and the possible permitting requirements.

d. **Projected Cannon AFB Applications:** Mr. Pike cited 3 possible project which could utilize the technologies in the future remedial operations at Cannon. These projects included the Oil/Water Separator removal projects for Appendix II and Appendix III SWMUs, IRP site SD-11, and future spills of petroleum products around the base.

14. **Final Matters and Questions/Comment from Public:** Mr. Steve Pullen of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) expressed the states desire to involve the RAB into Risk determination for the Cannon AFB IRP sites. Mr. Pike indicated that such involvement could be beneficial and that the base could consider the idea.

15. **Closing Remarks:** It was agreed upon to set the next RAB meeting sometime in February. Along with setting up the next meeting, Mr. John Pike will work to setup a tour up of Cannon AFB for the RAB members. Col Ard extended his appreciation to all who attended the RAB meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2115 hours.


JOHN S. PIKE, GS-11
Recorder

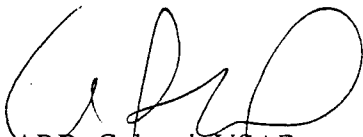
Attachment:
Distribution List

1st Ind to 27 CE/CEV letter, RAB Minutes, 13 Nov 95 Meeting

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Approved/~~Disapproved~~

21 Dec 98


W. P. ARD, Colonel, USAF
Co-Chairman, Restoration Advisor Board