

**SUMMARY OF TEAM TAKU MEETINGS AND SITE VISIT**  
**Tuesday, 20 June 2006, 0900-1800, Fort Wainwright, AK**

Attendees: LTC R. Johnson (Garrison Commander, FWA); Mike Meeks (Director, Public Works FWA); Kevin Gardner, Therese Deardorff, Joseph Malen, Rielle Markey (USAGAK DPW Environmental); Jacques Gusmano (USEPA); Sharon Richmond, John Halverson, Jason Weigel (ADEC); Robert Brock, Julie Sharp-Dahl (AK District Anc), Aran Armstrong, Bruce Miller (North Wind); Dan Skrobialowski (BSE); William Sargent (USACOE-CX); John Wentz, Phil Salmon, John Beier, Tim Sponseller (AK District FWA)

LTC Johnson, FWA GC, provided opening comments and thanked everyone for their attendance and their commitment to the common goals of ensuring site safety for workers and future residents.

Bill Sargent , USACOE-CX for UXO and Explosive Safety, stated he has seen the photos and information on the site, including the "bomb", and that Huntsville would help in any manner needed.

Bruce Miller, North Wind (NW) Inc., and Dan Skrobialowski, NW's subcontractor from BSE, gave site safety and health briefings prior to the site visit.

It was reiterated that NW are the only ones currently allowed to do any digging on the Taku Gardens site, and no excavation of any other type can begin again without approval by EPA, ADEC, and the Garrison Commander (GC).

The tour was conducted in 3 parts:

- Bldg 25 test pit demonstration (some metal debris found during tour):
  1. Some metal debris was unearthed during the tour; however, nothing extraordinary was found during this time.
  2. Excavation areas very limited in places to avoid utilities damage.
  3. Managing amount of metal debris (non hazardous) found is somewhat of a logistical problem.
  4. Aran stated some frost/ice was found in the various trench pit excavations and will be noted on the field notes.
  
- The north scrap pile where the bomb was discovered:
  1. NW/BSE were going through the debris piles and taking samples in anticipation of disposal. Once the bomb was discovered, all work was ceased and the Communication Plan adhered to. Work had

not yet been restarted. NW/BSE are waiting for the approval to complete this work. (The work has been approved by EPA/ADEC/GC and work has resumed.)

2. Strong POL odors were noted by the group when walking behind the pile (across from Bldgs 9 and 11).
3. There are 4-5 large scrap piles created by WCC; only 1 has been thoroughly investigated and completed. Piles are located on the northern site boundary.

The PCB exclusion zone:

1. Immediate problems include the number of stockpiles throughout the zone and the need for some construction work utility requirements in the zone.
2. John Wentz stated the utility work is required even though this site has been deleted from the housing project itself; these utilities tie into those site-wide. Some of the requirements include:
  - The main water line needs to be drained;
  - The ACS comm. Lines needs to have a pedestal added; and
  - Buried comm trenches need to have conduits installed.
3. All this requires minor (2'-3') excavation.

A break was taken after the site visit for lunch.

When the meeting was reconvened, Aran Armstrong from NW gave a presentation on the current status and proposed some options for an approach at this site that were developed in conjunction with the Corps. Handouts were distributed.

There was discussion on the drum cache found around Building 49. One drum was dated 1947. The containers found have still not been opened, but do have liquid inside. They were over-packed and are being stored on site awaiting a contracting action for sampling and analyses return (FTW DPW action). The soil was sampled by North Wind, and preliminary results indicate some herbicide at low levels. No PCBs have been detected to date over cleanup levels.

Sampling and test pit locations were determine by the geophysical results from the past, and the availability and access to the area.

There are 22 soil and/or debris piles currently on site.

The site will follow the CERCLA path, and the team will work toward conducting multiple actions as possible concurrently. There was some

discussion on whether stockpiles should be consolidated, and it was generally thought not to be a good idea.

Groundwater wells will be installed so more than one round of data can be gathered to ensure no migration off site.

The proposed PCB removal action was based on the <2' surface sample results; a more in depth plan will be written for the PCB (exclusion zone) sampling and potential soil removal.

EPA reiterated that ecological risk must be considered because of the potential of groundwater movement to the Chena. Human health risk must be considered because of past uses of the site (garden plots). Risk criteria, not just MCLs, will be utilized at this stage.

There was also a reminder that dust control needs to be considered.

It was again reiterated that the CERCLA process will be followed, and greater information dissemination to the public, as well as public participation efforts, will take place. The FWA quarterly newsletter is readying for its next issue; the draft will be written and sent to EPA, ADEC, and the Command for review, edit and input. (Since the meeting, it was thought this newsletter should perhaps be sent post-wide to ensure all residents receive; this will be worked out.)

Discussion was held on the construction impacts. No construction work will be done that could impede the investigation, and all earthwork activities have been ceased by the construction contractor.

There was also discussion on the houses themselves, and when and whether they may be habitable. Unfortunately, until the investigation is complete, that answer cannot be given with full confidence.

Discussion was then conducted on Watterson Construction Company (WCC)'s cleanup of the glycol spill and various POL spills due to the stop of all excavation by them. EPA and ADEC felt that since the POL spills were close to homes they should be in areas previously excavated, the geophysical results are available for review prior to excavation and it appears that no excavation in questionable areas is required, and that the NW/BSE EOD experts will be on site, that WCC can complete their cleanup work. However, this cannot be done until we have received formal approval by EPA, ADEC and the GC and it is determined the best method for this work to be completed (i.e., will NW have any part in this cleanup, etc.).

Bill Sargent from USACOE-CX felt that the screening process in place was good, this was most likely a former dumping ground and that the non-fuzed

bomb find may be an anomaly, and groundwater wells will help determine if MCs exist in the groundwater.

He did remind the attendees that the scrap should be certified for disposition in the landfill, and perhaps a separate area could be set aside and noted so the metal findings are not regarded as a hazard in the future. This task is being added to the North Wind/BSE scope of work.

Bill also mentioned ERDC at Ft. Belvoir and mapping of historical information capabilities. (The Army has since been in touch with them and will continue discussions.

NW field personnel were contacted for an update on the day's site activities. They did find scrap 50 caliber casings but nothing large. The number of test pits remaining is still TBD;. It was thought to use geophysical results so we can be selective where we investigate.

Once discussions began again, the NW plan already approved by EPA, ADEC and the GC was reviewed. The next step is to work on the new plans for the PCB (exclusion zone) area, etc. The immediate plan is to work on the numerous soil piles that are present at the site. These could be characterized using the Ensys PCB test kits and segregated accordingly.

Discussion began on the exclusion zone and the remaining utility work required. WCC cannot go in until the plan for sampling is reviewed and approved, the sampling is completed, and the potential for soil removal has been removed.

John Wentz said the areas outside the exclusion zone are more critical for utilities completion than that inside. He said that the remaining excavation in the zone could be minimized and completed as done last season: in NW's presence using HAZWOPER trained personnel.

There was discussion on soil piles. We need to dispose of all the soil piles on site. Existing piles will be covered as necessary to ensure safety. The on-site piles are a higher priority than those at the DRMO yard.

The current plan is to get started on:

- Installing monitoring wells
- Conducting geophysics at a higher resolution
- Attempt to remove soil piles
- Step up community relations
- Continue to work on the historical summary report

It was decided we would research to see if any current deep downgradient wells exist that could be sampled.

LTC Johnson inquired that due to the investigation and the large amount of information needed, when the group thought the houses could potentially be inhabited. After some discussion, it was stated that if only minimal removal actions needed to take place, and nothing more severe found, perhaps no earlier than Sep 08. However, Sep 09 may be more realistic. Of course, these dates are all DERA-funding dependent. The Command will advise up the Chain, and wanted the group to know that they will help us in any way possible to keep progress moving.

The thought was for the large group to meeting again perhaps in January when more results are known. At that time, we may have a better idea as to required remedial actions and a timeframe.

There was discussion on what future residents have a right to know, but that information will be dependent on what may remain on site (most likely, at a minimum, institutional controls).

There was discussion on the geophysical work that is to be done. North Wind estimated two to three acres per day for planning purposes; for the whole site, that would be 1 month. However, since areas have already been excavated, and houses exist on a large part of the site, the total acreage will be greatly reduced. The geophysical work plan has not yet been written, but it is thought the new work will be on a tighter grid (1 meter intervals). This geophysical work cannot be completed until WCC removes the construction debris scattered across the sites.

Discussion was held on whether EPA and ADEC will allow debris anomalies to remain on site where people will be living. Jack said it is acceptable to build on construction debris, which most of this appears to be, and that it appears to be fairly isolated. Of course, there would have to be institutional controls in place and made know to the residents.

Once sampling begins, the three-day turnaround will no longer be in place to save some money. However, NW was going to examine whether a 14 day turnaround would be feasible. Of course, if something is highly suspect, a quicker turnaround will be requested.

The teleconferenced, Tuesday Team Taku meetings will resume 27 June 2006, at 1:00 AST. An agenda will be forthcoming.

