

**RAB Meeting Minutes
St. George Island, Alaska
September 12, 2007**

2:05 PM – Called to order by Alvin Merculief, Mayor of St. George

Alvin Merculief requested the following agenda addition: Transfer of Equipment to City and Tribal Government for community projects.

Attendees:

Bernie Denno, RAB Member (non-voting), NOAA (NOAA RAB Co-Chair)
Greg Gervais, NOAA
Ron Gouguet, NOAA
Karin Holser, community member
Louis Howard, RAB Member (non-voting), State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Jim Malchow, NOAA
Alvin Merculief, RAB Member, City of St. George (Acting Island Co-Chair)
Chris Merculief, RAB Member, Traditional Council of St. George Island
Mark Merculief, Sr., community member
Karolina Pream, Booz-Allen Hamiton (contractor to NOAA)

2:10 PM – Distribution of March 2006 and November 2006 Minutes

Motion and 2nd to accept minutes as distributed. Mr. Gervais clarified that NOAA was re-distributing the March 2006 minutes from that joint island meeting. At the November 2006 STG RAB meeting, Mayor Merculief requested that these minutes be tabled until the next joint meeting. Mr. Gervais said that NOAA did not know when there may be another joint meeting, and that NOAA didn't want these minutes to continue as draft too long. RAB accepted minutes as distributed.

2:15 PM – Oceanfront Sites

- Mr. Malchow gave an overview of the historic information about the sites. Mr. M. Merculief asked whether the 21 ASTs were actually 10,000-gallon capacity, not 20,000-gallon as Mr. Malchow had stated. After a brief discussion, Mr. Malchow clarified that the ASTs were only 10,000-gallon capacity.
- Mr. Malchow then gave an overview of the past site sampling, and the estimated extent of contamination at the sites of about 11,250 cubic yards of PCS. Mr. Malchow also said the small lead soil hotspot near the former gasoline station was remediated in 2004, with 6 cubic yards excavated and disposed off-island. He clarified that two small PCS hot spots at the west end of the sites were not removed due to buried utilities and the presence of an access road.

- Mr. Malchow showed the actual extent of excavation in 2006, which was fairly close to NOAA's estimates of total footprint. NOAA was able to excavate deeper than planned to chase contamination not characterized by its consultants prior to 2006. He noted that NOAA intended to leave a soil buffer between the north edge of excavation and the top of the intertidal zone to the north, to prevent fall storm surges from causing the excavation to fill with water or erode. The total removed volume was 14,280 cubic yards of PCS during 2006. The larger than expected removal volume was primarily due to NOAA excavating the site as deep as 15 feet below ground surface (bgs), while NOAA's past consultants only identified contamination as present to 11 feet. NOAA also imported 780 cubic yards of clean scoria for access road construction.
- Mr. Malchow then showed the 2007 excavation extents for the PCS removals at TPA Site 25-1 (East-West Fuel Pipeline). NOAA had estimated 900 cubic yards would be removed, but actually removed closer to 2,260 cubic yards. One reason was that the old pipeline leaked down on top of a buried asbestos pipe, then ran along the pipe spreading the contamination. The pipe was removed and disposed by burial in the City's landfill.
- Mr. Malchow showed the confirmation sample results next. Locations with contamination above cleanup level could not be excavated further due to excavation depth greater than 15 feet, refusal, groundwater (around 14 feet bgs), utilities, monitoring wells, or the intertidal zone. He indicated that NOAA attempted to avoid digging into the smear zone at the top of the water table because of restrictions on the levels of contaminated soil approved for placement at the City's landfills. Highest contamination levels were found to the west end of the main excavation. Mr. Malchow noted that NOAA's consultants found toluene at elevated levels in the soil and benzene in the groundwater.
- Mr. Gervais asked whether the location of elevated BTEX was the same area where with elevated GRO and BTEX in the groundwater. Mr. Malchow said yes. He also said David Winandy of NOAA found an old drawing of the Diesel Tank Farm with a handwritten note indicating one tank contained gasoline.
- Mr. Malchow showed the confirmation results for the two E-W Pipeline site excavations. One sample, at equipment refusal at 11 feet bgs, and another sample located in the Bering Sea buffer zone were greater than the cleanup level for DRO.
- Mr. Malchow summarized the amount of contamination placed at the landfill. PCS was stockpiled within the landfill berm and will be used as ash disposal cover material by the City. The actual data from the cleanup indicate the contaminant concentrations in the PCS were on average less than the average 3,480 mg/kg of DRO that NOAA assumed in its contaminant modeling. The actual soil stockpile maximum depth of no greater than 5 feet is less than the model assumption of 5.26 feet. This means the actual contaminated soil disposed at the landfill is less contaminated, and not stockpiled as thick as the model. Consequently, NOAA's modeling inputs were valid as they assumed "worse" conditions and the disposed soil should be even less likely to affect the groundwater.

- Mr. Malchow showed a series of photographs to document the work done on the Oceanfront Sites. He said NOAA encountered petroleum sheen at the water table, not free-phase product. He showed a picture of an abandoned 4-inch pipe, presumably used to receive fuel from the west pier; it contained no petroleum product in it.
- Mr. Malchow showed a series of photographs showing the clean scoria access roads and placement of PCS inside the berm for the day cover stockpile.
- There were no further questions or comments.

2:45 PM – Free Product Recovery

- Mr. Malchow reviewed the results of Tetra Tech's and Chadux/SLR's investigations. TTEMI estimated 30,000 gallons of product at TPA 8, (Active Power Plant) and 13,750 gallons at TPA 1 (Diesel Tank Farm). SLR took a different approach to their study than TTEMI, and estimated the actual contamination was 12,000 gallons at TPA 8 and much less at TPA 1. The observations at the water table during TPA 1 excavation in 2006 were consistent with SLR more than TTEMI. Based on TPA 1 observations, NOAA is not planning to install the extraction system at TPA 1.
- SLR designed the extraction system for TPA 8, including the installation of four 4-inch diameter extraction wells around the City Municipal Building.
- NOAA hired ChemTrack to install, operate, and maintain the TPA 8 extraction system.
- Due to the presence of hard rock across the top of water table, ChemTrack abandoned one of the wells and NOAA selected a different location for that well.
- Mr. Malchow explained the extraction wells have hydrophobic chambers that prevent water from coming in but let oil in, and the oil is pumped to the surface when the chambers fill. The system is somewhat passive, and is low-tech.
- Mr. Malchow showed a series of photos documenting the well installation.
- Mr. Malchow said installation of vaults and pipe is going on now. Vaults are heavy duty and won't be damaged by vehicle traffic.
- Mr. Gervais asked how long the SLR design assumed the system will need to be operated. Mr. Malchow said SLR assumed 3 years, but it may be more or less than that.

3:00 PM – PCS Stockpile Closure

- Mr. Malchow gave a quick background of this site. It was established in 1997. Soil was treated for several years, and PCS was stockpiled on a lined area. PCS was relocated for NOAA by the City of St. George in 2005 and 2006 to close the site. NOAA and ChemTrack sampled the site in 2007.
- Nobody currently in the NOAA Pribilof Islands cleanup office worked on the project in 1997, so NOAA didn't know for sure how and where the liner was placed in the stockpile area.

- The City removed 7,224 cubic yards of PCS in 2005, then 6,490 cubic yards in 2006. This PCS was disposed by either covering the ash disposal cell at the old landfill and re-closing this landfill, or by building up the berm at the new landfill.
- NOAA and ChemTrack removed the liner in November 2006, finding a second liner beneath the first liner. The second liner was also removed, and the site backfilled with clean scoria.
- June 2007 sampling was done with test pitting, to sample beneath the new clean fill for stockpile closure confirmation. NOAA found one diesel range hot spot area, located to the south of where NOAA believed the lined stockpile area ended. After final removal, one confirmation sample was just barely above the site DRO cleanup level (280 mg/kg vs. cleanup level of 250 mg/kg). Mr. Malchow explained the contaminated area consisted of a thin layer of gray soil, probably from PCS that didn't get dumped into the lined area and got pushed/mixed around.
- Based on soil sampling, NOAA and ChemTrack removed another 110 cubic yards in 2007, adding it to the cover material stockpile at the new landfill.
- Mr. C. Mercurief said he was involved with 1997 liner installation. He said the bedding sand atop the lowest liner layer was installed by hand using wheel barrows.
- PCS used to close the City's ash disposal cell was seeded and fertilized.
- There were no other questions or comments.

3:15 PM – Break

3:20 PM – Old Airport Building Waste Oil Disposal

- Mr. Malchow indicated that NOAA disposed of about 11,000 cubic yards of PCS more at the City Landfill than the NOAA-City 2005 land use agreement indicated. The Old Airport Hangar building contains 100+ waste oil and glycol drums, compressed gas cylinders, and the building is falling apart due to rust and wind. NOAA and the City amended the agreement to permit the added PCS, and NOAA agreed to try and award a contract with the City to characterize and dispose of the waste drums. NOAA is negotiating a contract with the City to do this, as well as dispose of NOAA waste from its laboratory analyses on island and other wastes in the Sealing Plant. NOAA is also providing two waste oil burners, drums, overpacks, and tires for the City's frontend loader. NOAA will be chartering a plane to bring these items.
- Mr. C. Mercurief said he has been talking to Northern Air Cargo about getting freight out to St. George Island on a 737. He asked whether NOAA considered partnering with island entities to share freight costs to make it less expensive and beneficial to everyone. Mr. Malchow and Mr. Gervais said Mr. Winandy was coordinating this, and that Mr. C. Mercurief should check with him. It may be possible to work together on this freight.
- Ms. Holser asked whether the derelict equipment at the Hangar will be disposed. Mr. Malchow said the contract would have the City drain fluids then dispose of equipment at the Grey Scoria Pit.

- Mr. Malchow indicated NOAA is trying to get a barge into St. George soon to move some equipment to St. Paul and demobilize several conex vans.

3:35 PM – Long Term Groundwater Monitoring Year 1 Results

- NOAA used 41 wells on island to characterize groundwater contamination, primarily around the village. Mr. Malchow explained NOAA now has 10 wells left to function as sentinel wells to monitor whether the free product or dissolved contamination is moving. Twenty-six other wells have been decommissioned. NOAA and ADEC agreed on a plan for monitoring 5 years, then they will re-evaluate the need for additional years of monitoring.
- Tanaq Services completed two rounds of sampling, comprising the first year of monitoring. Mr. Malchow is reviewing the data for the second round.
- Mr. Malchow said NOAA installed two new monitoring wells in 2007 during free product extraction well installation. These two new wells are meant to replace two old wells: one old well (TPA1-MW-3) wasn't installed to the correct depth to find free product and the other old well (VIL-MW-1) is further from the free product plume than NOAA wants to monitor product movement.
- Mr. Denno asked whether NOAA should keep or decommission the two old wells. Mr. Howard said TPA1-MW-3 can probably be decommissioned, but he would want to discuss VIL-MW-1 further with NOAA before approving its decommissioning.
- Mr. Malchow presented tables summarizing the groundwater data from August 2003 through May 2007. He indicated the DRO sample jars from the October 2006 sampling event froze and broke during transportation to the lab, and those data were rejected by ADEC. He said NOAA needs to continue to track contaminant trends for the wells near the Oceanfront Sites as NOAA just finished excavating and our work has probably upset the equilibrium condition in this groundwater.
- NOAA will continue sampling to track plume trends.
- There were no other comments or questions.

3:50 PM – Site Status and Future of RAB

- Mr. Gervais said NOAA and ADEC are tracking a total of 36 sites on St. George. NOAA and ADEC initially started off tracking closer to 20 sites.
- A figure was shared that shows sites labeled in green represent NFRAP (No Further Remedial Action Plan) status, blue sites represent RAC (Remedial Action Complete) status and orange sites represent RAP (Remedial Action Planned).
- Site 35's current status is RAP; this is the free product recovery product being finished up by ChemTrack.
- Sites 1, 36, 2 and 29 with status RAC are the Oceanfront Sites, including Oceanfront free product that was found to be limited to a visible petroleum sheen atop the groundwater table. NOAA expects to submit reports to ADEC by December 2007 for these sites and receive NFRAP status shortly after that.

- NOAA will ask ADEC to approve the TPA 8 free product removal as O&M once it concludes a start up period, allowing for a NFRAP designation.
- Mr. Howard indicated that ADEC will likely require a one year start up period, followed by O&M.
- After the end of 5 years of groundwater sentinel well monitoring, NOAA and ADEC will review the data and determine whether and what kind of further monitoring is needed in subsequent years.
- Mr. Gervais asked the RAB and community members to indicate under what conditions do they think a RAB won't serve a purpose anymore? All present indicated they believed the RAB wouldn't be necessary once all sites are either NFRAP and/or in to their O&M period (i.e., in about one year unless the free product system doesn't pass the start up period by then).

4:00 PM – New Agenda Item: Transfer of Equipment

- RAB motioned to have NOAA provide a list of equipment available for excessing on St. George Island to the City and Traditional Council, and for NOAA to excess in a timely manner the equipment requested by those two entities for the community's benefit based on the entities' collaborative relationship.
- Mr. Denno suggested PPO provide equipment list of possible equipment to the RAB.
- Mr. C. Mercurief said these two entities have a good working relationship and are partnering on other projects now.
- Mr. Gervais reviewed John Lindsay of NOAA's comments from the November 2006 RAB approved minutes, wherein the Traditional Council, City, and Tanaq committed to have a joint equipment use committee. Mr. Lindsay said NOAA has to follow the rules for excessing property. Mr. Lindsay said he would recommend excessing locally if the entities agree to work with one another to share the agreement. Mr. Gervais noted that Tanaq didn't send its RAB members to this meeting, so NOAA does not know Tanaq's position at this time.
- Mr. C. Mercurief said Tanaq was not a viable partner for this proposal anymore.
- Motion passed.

4:15 PM – Public Comments

- Mr. C. Mercurief and Alvin thanked NOAA for working hard on this project and for coming to the end of a long cleanup.
- Mr. Gervais thanked the RAB for being so knowledgeable and participating in the actual cleanup work. It is rare for RAB members to be actively involved with the cleanup work.

4:20 – Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held in about 12 months (September 2008). No preferred location was specified.

St. George Island RAB Meeting

September 12, 2007

Sign-In Sheet

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
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