



Meeting Summary

Camp Bonneville Citizen Advisory Group
Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 7–9 p.m.
Fire Station 4, 6701 NE 147th Avenue, Vancouver

Members Present

Don Chapman
Dave Hurt
Nathan Reynolds
Dave Shepard
Jan Wojciechowski

Members Absent

Bud VanCleve
Jody Benson
Pam Rigby
Rand Harris
George Brereton
Bob Pitman
Gary Boldt

Department of Ecology

Ben Forson
Ron Johnson
Barry Rogowski

Clark County

Commissioner Marc Boldt
Jerry Barnett
Greg Johnson
Jeff Mize

BergerABAM

Jim Gladson
Kate Blystone

Others

Warren Feldous
D. Bertish
Seth Hudson

Welcome and Introductions

Clark County Commissioner Marc Boldt welcomed the group. Thanked all for coming and complimented county staff on their hard to develop a new Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) with the Army. Advisory group members, staff, and audience members introduced themselves.

Review of CAG charter and operating procedures

Jim Gladson, BergerABAM facilitator, reviewed the previously adopted meeting ground rules, CAG charter, and operating procedures. He acknowledged that Barry Rogowski, Department of Ecology, will be presenting the Prospective Purchaser Consent Decree (PPCD) item on the agenda rather than Ben Forson as indicated.

Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) update

Jerry Barnett, Clark County Public Works Project Manager, provided an overview of the status and content of the ESCA and how it is different from the 2006 ESCA. He reviewed selected items from the contracts explaining that most of the funds dedicated to projects between July 2006 and

July 2010 have already been expended under the 2006 ESCA, and a substantial amount of work has been completed.

A new agreement for the first phase of Munitions of Explosive Concern (MEC) removal has been negotiated with the Army. The new agreement will fund surface removal to a depth of 14 inches on the valley floor, approximately 450 acres. Funding is also identified for “step outs” – areas where contamination is found and the Army is required to search a 100-ft by 100-ft around the contaminated area. He said money is also obligated for a pilot study of 50 acres on the western slope of Camp Bonneville for surface clearance. The County also has the option to continue work with the initial contractor for three additional cleanup phases without having to issue new RFPs.

The new ESCA allocates about \$20 million for completion of Phase One MEC cleanup plus oversight funding for Clark County and the Department of Ecology through completion of all cleanup phases. Unlike the 2006 ESCA, the new agreement does not set a fixed cost requiring completion of all work. It retains flexibility to respond to unanticipated MEC or contamination discoveries.

Dave Hurt asked who would be doing the cleanup under the western slope pilot study. Jerry said the contractor will be doing the valley floor and west slope work. Nathan Reynolds asked how the new ESCA handles invoices that went unpaid from the previous scope. Jerry said that the 2006 ESCA retains some money obligated for work performed. That will be paid once a final agreement is in place with the previous contractor.

Prospective Purchaser Consent Decree (PPCD) and Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) review

Barry Rogowski, Washington State Department of Ecology, explained the purpose and content of the PPCD. He said once the ESCA is finalized and funding is in place, the County and Ecology will enter into a consent decree to clean up the site. The decree outlines the investigation and cleanup actions, provides the legal framework and assurances that the project will be completed as planned. The scope of the decree includes cleanup of the entire site. He said that cleanup is the County’s responsibility but that the County’s obligation is contingent on receiving sufficient funds from the Army under the ESCA.

Dave Hurt commented that newly discovered areas were the problem with the previous ESCA and there has been any negotiation with the Army to get new areas cleaned up as they are discovered. Barry said there is a plan to get newly discovered contamination cleaned up and that they would be working more closely with the Army’s contractor for the project, Scott Armstrong, so funding can be added more quickly as sites are discovered. Greg Johnson added that County attorney Bronson Potter negotiated the ESCA and secured funding for MEC removal found more than 14 inches below the central valley floor surface if encountered, and 100 feet laterally from contaminated sites as they are discovered. Nathan asked for more information about Scott Armstrong. Barry explained that Scott is a contractor for the Army. He said he will be more present in day-to-day activities at Camp Bonneville throughout the cleanup. Jerry added that Armstrong will also be a member of the anomaly review board.

Barry gave status updates on the cleanup activities to date:

- RAU-1: 20 Areas with hazardous substances completed and closed
- RAU-2A: 21 small arms ranges completed, two remaining

- RAU-2B: Demolition areas 2 & 3 completed and closed
- RAU-2C: Demolition area 1/Landfill 4 - soil removal completed, groundwater is under investigation
- RAU-3: Site-wide munitions - emergency and interim actions completed.

Barry explained the work left to be done under the new PPCD:

- RAU-2A: Complete work on two remaining ranges # 16 and #21
- RAU-2C, Continue with GW investigations, finalize RI/FS, and develop and implement a Cleanup Action Plan
- RAU-3: Implement the final RAU-3 CAP

Barry discussed the four phases for cleanup at RAU-3. He said they would begin with sub-surface clearance of the central valley floor followed by surface and subsurface clearance of the Central Impact Target Area (CITA) and firing points. Phases three and four include surface clearance of demo areas 1 and 2 and surface clearance of the western slopes.

He said Ecology is planning to have public comment begin on the draft consent decree in mid-September and notice will be sent out when the document is available.

Groundwater Monitoring Report

Ben Forson provided an update of groundwater monitoring findings. He said Perchlorate and RDX concentrations exceed Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) levels near landfill 4. Monitoring wells 2a and 2b are located at the edge of the contaminated soil. Other wells are further down slope and contaminant levels measured at those wells have remained steady and low. He said the contamination plume from the landfill does not appear to be and no contamination has been detected in any of the boundary monitoring wells.

Ben discussed groundwater investigations that have been conducted so far.

- Contamination source removal at landfill 4;
- Soil sampling at firing points;
- Impact areas and pop-up pond for potential sources of GW contamination;
- Ten years of groundwater monitoring;
- Assessment of potential impact to Sole source aquifer by EPA; and
- Public health assessment by the agency for toxic substances and disease registry (ATSDR), contracted by EPA.

On-going investigations include:

- Extensive groundwater investigation by EPA
- Quarterly groundwater monitoring

He said findings of all investigations, past and present, would be used in finalizing the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) document.

Commissioner Boldt asked about surface water testing activities on the site. Ben said that Ecology has sampled on Lacamas creek with the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA. Jim asked about what is included in the RI/FS. Ben said the RI/FS is a document that compiles all investigations that Ecology has conducted on the area and, based on the results of the

investigations, proposed cleanup alternatives and ratings for each alternative. He said the RI/FS provides the basis for a CAP upon selection of an alternative. Barry added that the RI/FS and the CAP will go out for 30-day public comment.

Jerry asked about the relative depths of monitoring wells 2a and 2 b. Ben said monitoring well 2b is deeper and closer to the contamination source. Nathan asked about the contamination levels for RDX in the monitoring wells. Ben said they follow similar pattern as the perchlorate levels but that they were observed in fewer wells and in those monitoring wells closer to the source. RDX levels overall are lower than perchlorate. Dave Hurt asked why the plume is not moving. Ben said during excavation of the landfill site not all of the contaminated soil was removed. The soil at 25 to 27 feet was soft clay and excavators could no longer work. Barry encouraged reviewing the groundwater reports as they are released. The clay provides an impermeable layer under the site and groundwater is moving slowly.

Cleanup Timeline and Next Steps

Greg Johnson, Clark County Public Works, talked about the Request for Proposals (RFP) that the county is currently preparing. He said approximately 20 contractors interested in the cleanup have already contacted the County. The County would like to hire a contractor that has extensive Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) removal experience. Eighty percent of the evaluation will be based on experience and technical capability of the contractor with cost being just 20 percent of the evaluation. The contract will include the central valley floor excavation, western slope pilot study, and potentially lead removal from two firing range sites. The County will have the option to retain the contractor for additional work phases.

Jerry said that this would be a fixed price contract, but step-outs will be funded on a time and materials as needed. Dave Hurt asked if the contractor must have done lead removal work in the past. Greg said not necessarily and that lead removal activities may be optional depending on the contractor. The RFP will be issued in mid-September. Jerry said the ESCA is a public document so the cost estimates within it are going to be available to the contractors.

Nathan asked if any comment during the 30-day comment period for the PPCD would alter the Phase 1 CAP process. Greg said that the CAP has already been decided but that the PPCD would be for future phases of the project. Dave Hurt asked about time the amount of time the County is giving contractors to prepare RFP responses. Greg said that a few weeks for preparation are an adequate amount of time. Barry said that if there are any PPCD comments that change any aspect of the work, rather than changing the CAP, additional items would be added on to subsequent phases of the cleanup. Commissioner Boldt asked who was on the RFP evaluation team. Greg said it would be Jerry and himself and possibly others.

Nathan asked about the status of the title for the Camp Bonneville property. Jerry said details remained to be worked out, but that the county expects to take title possession 60 days after signing the ESCA. Jerry thanked Commissioner Boldt for his work on this process.

Other Discussion

Nathan asked about the terms for members. Jerry said he was working on the process of re-appointing the board.

Public Comment

Dvija Michael Bertish asked about soil removal at the landfill site. He said that it appears that the perchlorate counts are higher after the soil was removed and asked what caused the numbers to increase. Ben said explained that they were unable to remove all of the contaminated soil. Bertish asked how the cleanup can move forward if the problem is still there. Ben said the monitoring wells reports indicating higher levels does not necessarily mean that the problem is getting worse. Water is mobilizing the residual perchlorate and it is showing up in the wells closest to the source of contamination. The levels at wells farther away are pretty stable. Bertish asked if new soil have to be placed over the contaminated to get rid of the problem. Ben said that the next steps are determined by how the water quality is impacting human health. Barry added the Toxics Control Act covers the factors that must be considered in the remedial investigation and feasibility study when dealing with contamination. Bertish asked if Ecology is sharing the data with the EPA. Barry said yes and that the EPA is sharing data with Ecology as well.

Bertish asked how much of the \$20 million is obligated to pervious activities. Jerry said none of the new budget is dedicated to earlier activities and that about \$200,000 is left over from the previous contract. Bertish asked how a budget can be developed before the cleanup plan is in place. Jerry said the Army's liability covers all contamination found in the future. The \$20 million in the new ESCA will cover 445 acres and 14 inches subsurface. Barry added that the \$20 million is only an estimate for the Phase 1 of the cleanup and that Ecology is aware that it going to cost more than \$20 million for the entire cleanup.

Bertish asked if the landfill 4 cleanup is part of Phase 1. Barry said the remedial investigation is funded and the work at the landfill will be included in the RI/FS. Bertish asked about the site's security issues and how long term institutional controls are going to limit access. Jerry said the County will continue to make sure the fences are maintained and escort trespassers off of the property. Bertish asked what studies and cleanup will be conducted on the property right of Lacamas Creek. Barry said sampling has been done in that area and based on the results of the sampling; the cleanup plan will be amended to address those issues. Sampling will be on-going throughout the cleanup process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.