



**Final  
Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW) Base Realignment  
and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT)**



**Meeting Minutes**

**July 17, 2020**

Teleconference Meeting

**Agenda**

Reference the handout titled “HTW BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Agenda, Friday, July 17, 2020, at 1:30 PM, Former Fort Ord, California.”

**1. Attendance**

Last Name	First Name	Organization	By Phone
Anderson	Thor	Burleson Consulting	X
Balch	Duane	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	X
Bleichner	Randall	California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	X
Broadston	Melissa	Chenega for BRAC	X
Clancy	Maeve	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	X
Collins	Bill	U.S. Army BRAC, Fort Ord Office	X
Dillon	Holly	Ahtna Global, LLC (Ahtna)	X
Floyd	Bridget	USACE	X
Gettmann	Kimberly	DTSC	X
Ghigliotto	Tom	Chenega for BRAC	X
Jelenek	Zachary	USACE	X
Kowalski	Bart	Chenega for BRAC	X
Lieberman	Derek	Ahtna	X
Meakes	Charity	USACE	X
Sellinger	Amber	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (CCRWQCB)	X
Soderberg	Sheila	CCRWQCB	X
Wu	Min	DTSC	X

**2. BCT Minutes Status**

HTW BCT meeting minutes are final through May.

**3. Community Outreach Update**

The handout titled “U.S. Army Community Outreach Update” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- Due to the COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place Order, the July 18 Community Involvement Mobile Workshop (CIW) was cancelled. However, the July 21 Technical Review Committee (TRC) is still on schedule for a virtual meeting to discuss the munitions response (MR) and prescribed burn programs.

- The City Manager of Marina stated they would be attending the TRC. Some property around the OU2 Landfills was transferred to Monterey County. Monterey County may transfer the property to the City of Marina. Marina is interested in Landfill information.
- Ahtna will participate in the TRC to provide support for any potential OU2 Landfills questions.
- A pre-recorded safety message was sent to the York school for munitions safety.
- The Monterey County Fair was cancelled for 2020.
- The Annual report which is sent out to 65,000 addresses is in progress.
- Community comments on documents were received and RTCs are in progress.
- The new USEPA Community Involvement Coordinator Gavin Pauley contact information was included.

#### 4. Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

##### a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring –

The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit 2 Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The OU2 handout covers a few months of activities from April through June. The OU2 groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) was online a majority of the time, 100 percent in April and June and 98 percent in May.
- Injection sample results from April, May, and June had low level detections of chemicals of concern (COCs) below the discharge limit. It is expected that the first granular activated carbon (GAC) change-out will occur at the new OU2 GWTP in August.
- There were a couple minor GWTP shutdowns in May due to communications issues. Since there have been consistent issues with communications at the new OU2 GWTP which affects both OU2 and Sites 2/12 GWTPs, a radio survey was conducted in June. The survey results recommend changes to the wireless communications infrastructure to improve communications.
- The Third Quarter 2020 Groundwater Monitoring event will be scheduled in late August/early September.
- The Second Quarter 2020 groundwater monitoring was conducted June 1 to 5. Preliminary data was shared and compared to previous events.
  - In general, A-Aquifer and Upper 180-Foot Aquifer Second Quarter concentrations are similar to previous events.
  - In Hydraulic Zone 5, COC concentrations are increasing, showing that the plume is going around the eastern extraction well network.
    - MW-OU2-06-AR located west of the eastern extraction well network had concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE) modestly increase in the First Quarter and then decrease in the Second Quarter. The trend for COCs show a cyclical pattern.
    - MW-OU2-08-A located northeast of the eastern extraction well network was the first well north of the eastern extraction well network with observed increasing COC concentrations in 2015. The recent concentrations were similar in the First Quarter and Second Quarter events.
    - MW-OU2-75-A located east of MW-OU2-08-A had an increase in COC concentrations.
  - MW-OU2-56-180 TCE concentration increased compared to the First Quarter.
  - Downgradient MW-OU2-62-180 has had elevated TCE concentrations, and is upgradient of the suspected discontinuity in the Intermediate 180-Foot Aquitard, where COCs

migrated from the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer to the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer. In the Second Quarter event, the TCE concentration decreased below the ACL. Downgradient of this well is MW-OU2-28-180 which is screened in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer.

**b. Treated Water Reuse** – No treated water was used recently. The access point for treated water is not hooked up yet. Once the valve is installed, treated water may be used. There is not much need for treated water at this time.

**c. Groundwater Treatment Plant Relocation** – The two JV contract modifications for the western network leak detection work were awarded. The field work for was started this week, with an estimated completion of mid-August.

**d. Landfills Operations and Maintenance (O&M)** – The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit 2 Landfills Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- A photo was shared of a large number of birds on the Landfills. A total of 27 perches are installed and are now at the proper density to support a raptor population to reduce rodents on the Landfills.
- Minor erosion maintenance work will be performed before the next wet season.
- The thermal treatment unit (TTU) continues to operate regularly. The TTU influent methane concentration has had an overall declining trend at approximately 36-37 percent methane.
- Annual volatile organic compound (VOC) landfill gas sampling and TTU source testing was completed in June along with the second quarter perimeter probe monitoring.
  - Preliminary perimeter probe monitoring results were shared. Methane concentrations at the compliance probes were below the Title 27 requirement of five percent.
  - Compliance probes are the ones on the OU2 Landfills property boundary.
- The second quarter Monterey County Health Department June inspection of the Landfills was cancelled due to COVID-19. The third quarter inspection was scheduled.
- In July and August there will be continued TTU operations and rodent trapping.
- Most of the annual mowing was already completed in June around Landfills infrastructure including landfill gas probes and extraction points, perimeter roads, and fences. A mowing plan is in progress to perform intermittent mowing of the Landfills cover. The mowing approach is changing to be compatible with early succession habitat.
- Spent ammunition collected by State Parks is being contained onsite at the OU2 Landfills for staging before disposal during the final capping of Area E with a permanent engineered cover system once remediation at Site 39 is completed. Bullets have totaled 418 pounds so far.

## **5. Sites 2 and 12 (Sites 2/12)**

The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Sites 2 and 12 Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The Sites 2/12 handout covers a few months of activities from April through June. The Sites 2/12 GWTP was online a majority of the time, 100 percent in April and June and 98 percent in May.
- There were a couple minor GWTP shutdowns in May due to communications issues.
- Injection sample results from April, May, and June had low level detections of COCs below the discharge limit.
- The Soil Vapor Treatment Unit (SVTU) was offline since February 2019 to look for rebound. On April 27, 2020 the SVTU was turned back on by operating VE-12-09 due to First Quarter soil gas COC results above the soil gas cleanup level (SGCL) in probes at SG-12-04 and the rebound study was suspended. The SVTU operated approximately 100 percent of the time in May. The SVTU

was turned off on June 16, 2020 due to an issue with moisture accumulation in the vapor-phase GAC vessels creating blower back pressure.

- There was only one SVE well online (VE-12-09); therefore, operation of the SVTU required some recirculated atmospheric air that was unfiltered and likely the source of moisture in the GAC vessels. The condensate tanks and sumps upstream of the SVTU influent were checked and emptied during SVTU operation.
- An e-mail was sent out last week to the regulatory agencies stating that, based on the soil gas results, the SVTU can remain offline. Therefore, it is recommended that the SVTU remain offline and continue the rebound study in the Third Quarter event.
  - If soil gas concentrations increase above the soil gas cleanup levels (SGCLs), as stated in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) then restarting the SVTU may be discussed.
  - The May Second Quarter soil gas monitoring event shows that COC concentrations sharply declined and are no longer above the SGCL at SG-12-04 after SVTU operation for a couple months. COC concentrations at the other monitoring soil gas probes also declined in the Second Quarter event.
  - The SVTU Influent and effluent results are used to calculate values to assess compliance with local air district rules, which state the VOC discharge rate must be less than 25 pounds per day (Rule 207). With the current results the SVTU was at 0.003 pounds per day, and also well below hazard index and excess cancer risk limits (Rule 1000).
  - Concentrations of PCE and TCE at VE-12-09 were low and the same as last year and well below the SGCLs.
  - Soil gas probe SG-12-02 near Target is not influenced by the SVTU due to a stormwater infiltration basin, but still has declining COC concentrations. The shallow 10-foot probe concentrations are somewhat cyclical but are overall declining.
  - The regulatory agencies (Maeve Clancy with USEPA, Amber Sellinger with CCRWQCB, and Min Wu with DTSC) agree with the strategy to leave the SVTU offline unless concentrations of SG-12-04 increase above the SGCL again.
- The Second Quarter 2020 groundwater monitoring was conducted June 1 to 5. Preliminary results were presented.
  - Operational extraction well EW-OU2-08-180U had a modest increase in PCE concentrations. In the First Quarter event the PCE concentration decreased to the historical minimum concentration below 10 micrograms per liter (µg/L).
  - MW-12-20-180U still has PCE concentrations below the ACL for the past two quarters. The PCE concentrations have been declining overall since 2017.
- The Third Quarter groundwater monitoring event will occur in late August/early September.

## 6. Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume (OUCTP)

Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring – The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The Second Quarter groundwater monitoring event was completed June 1 to 5. Preliminary results were shared.
- A-Aquifer carbon tetrachloride (CT) data were compared for the past year’s sampling events. Results were consistent with previous events with some areas of slightly higher CT concentrations.
  - In Hydraulic Zones 1, 2, and 3 the monitoring wells were generally below the CT ACL in

- the Third and Fourth Quarter events and in general slightly increased just above the CT ACL in the First and Second Quarter 2020 events.
- Hydraulic Zone 4 in Enhanced In Situ Bioremediation (EISB) Deployment Area 2A, MW-BW-26-A CT concentration increases were concerning and additional wells in the area were added back to the groundwater monitoring program, including EW-BW-129-A and EW-BW-140-A. CT was above the ACL at EW-BW-129-A. These results will slightly change the size of the CT plume. EW-BW-129-A and EW-BW-140-A both had samples collected from all their saturated sample stations (i.e., they were profiled). The highest CT concentrations in both of the wells were at bottom of the well screen, similar to other A-Aquifer wells. There was an error in Table 2 in the handout: EW-BW-140-A had a CT concentration below the ACL, not 1.1 µg/L.
  - MW-BW-26-A at EISB Deployment Area 2A had a decrease in CT concentrations during EISB treatment, but quickly increased again. CT concentrations peaked at close to 7 µg/L in 2018 and have been declining since then.
  - Hydraulic Zone 5 downgradient area in the City of Marina has had increasing CT concentrations, which caused MW-BW-82-A to be added back into the groundwater monitoring program. MW-BW-82-A is the most downgradient well that had a CT concentration above the ACL. This well was taken out of groundwater monitoring program in 2014 due to low COCs.
  - Upper 180-Foot Aquifer CT data were compared for the past year's sampling events. Results were consistent with previous events.
    - MW-OU2-64-180 had a decrease in CT concentration but is still above ACL. MW-OU2-64-180 defines the downgradient extent of the CT plume and is an indicator of where CT may be migrating to the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer.
    - At the upgradient extent of the CT plume, MP-BW-46-170 had a modest increasing CT trend. This indicates there may be an upgradient source of CT. This well exhibits a slight seasonal CT concentration cycle since it is in the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer.
    - Due to consistent and increasing concentrations at MP-BW-46-170, upgradient wells MW-BW-21-180 and MW-BW-43-180 were added back to groundwater monitoring program. The CT concentration was below the ACL or not detected at the two wells and do not indicate a potential source.
  - Lower 180-Foot Aquifer CT and TCE data were compared for the past year's sampling events. Results were consistent with previous events.
    - MP-BW-49-316 has the highest CT concentrations in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer historically. CT concentrations cycle seasonally and have always been above the ACL.
    - MW-BW-59-180 had elevated TCE concentrations.
      - This well was installed in 2018 due to TCE in downgradient well MW-OU2-82-180 historically above the ACL and upgradient OU2 Upper 180-Foot Aquifer well MW-OU2-62-180 TCE concentrations occasionally above the ACL.
      - Hydraulic Zone 9 was added to OUCTP Lower 180-Foot Aquifer to encompass the TCE area.
      - TCE concentrations at MW-BW-59-180 have been around 10 µg/L.
  - Operation of the extraction well EW-OU2-09-180 has split the CT plume into two parts. There is a proposal for another extraction well generally to the east of the existing extraction well. The new well location is not yet determined and there is no construction date proposed or scheduled as of right now.
  - The Third Quarter groundwater monitoring event will occur in late August/early September.

## 7. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Last month the Army met with the regulatory agencies to discuss how to close out PFOA/PFOS Technical Summary Report and the strategy for scoping the PFAS Preliminary Assessment (PA).
- The USACE contract modification for the PA is in progress and on track for a 2021 fiscal year contract award.
- Ahtna prepared a list of sites to review in the PA and the list was provided as a handout. USEPA will respond to the list today July 17 or Monday July 20 to describe sites that don't need the whole PA process but need some documentation to support why they are not being evaluated so that there are no future questions about those sites.
- Melissa Broadston sent out to the regulatory agencies for review the draft responses to comments from Marcia Wright. The regulatory agencies have not completed the review yet.

## 8. Basewide Range Assessment (BRA) and Lead Evaluation Status

There was no handout for the BRA and Lead Evaluation Status. KEMRON-Gilbane are no longer contracted, and USACE took over the BRA and Lead Evaluation tasks. Discussion included:

### a. BRA –

The Comprehensive BRA report is in progress and will be finalized before the next munitions contract.

### b. Lead Evaluation at HA 18D and HA 23D –

The cleanup value is still being discussed between the DTSC and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Due to the Shelter-in-Place Order for COVID-19 and telecommuting, the lead evaluation timeline was delayed. Kim Gettmann with DTSC noted that the lead spread model evaluation was completed at the middle management level and was sent last week to the upper management for review. Kim expects to get news within the next couple weeks and will share any information at that time.

### c. Erosion Control –

Fieldwork is completed. Item not discussed.

### d. Landfills Soil Management –

Landfills soil management is completed. Item not discussed.

e. Habitat Restoration – The handout titled “Site 39 Inland Ranges Habitat Restoration Status Update” was reviewed, additional discussion included:

- The spring and summer monitoring season has started and began with HMP annual surveys completed in May, species richness surveys completed in June, vegetation cover survey completed in June, and photo points completed in May.
- Propagation of over 1,000 plants is in progress. As a part of that, the native plant nursery is continuing to grow plants for next season planting, with a goal of approximately 5,500 plants.
- Prevention program testing pears for potential *Phytophthora* was conducted, water was run through suspect unhealthy plant into a bucket and floated pear in the bucket of water. If the pear produces a bruised ring, then the plant is suspected for disease and sent to food and agriculture for testing. There were no identified issues with the pear test.
- Seed collection is in progress and going smooth. Total seed collection target is 20 pounds of pure live seed for the season from 15 different species. Six species have been completed so far. Spineflower seeds can't be processed like other plants because they are thorny. Deerweed seed production plot at S&S seeds in Santa Barbara County was shown in pictures.
- HA 26 irrigation has been going for two months now, and operated three times now. 3.5 thousand plants receive two gallons of water per plant. The irrigation events generally occur

every three weeks. The irrigation system is not even, so extra water is distributed to be sure two gallons per plant. Irrigation events #1 and #2 had 9,000 gallons of water distributed. However, irrigation event #3 had only 7,000 gallons distributed because the hose after the water pump leaked and it was hard to repair. Irrigation event #4 occurred this week and was able to distribute 10,000 gallons. The irrigation system PVC pipes were painted white to keep UV damage minimal to last longer.

- There was a gasoline spill in the Impact Area due to a vehicle crashing into the fence on South Boundary Road. The car had a small 13 gallon fuel tank. The impacted soil was excavated and disposed of at the OU2 Landfills. The bottom and sidewalls of the excavation were sampled to confirm all of the impacted soil was removed. A Technical Memorandum was sent to the Monterey County Health Department describing the incident and response. There was no fire associated with the vehicle accident. If regulators have any questions, they can contact Bill Collins.

## **9. Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Schedule**

**a. Status Update** – The FFA schedule is provided to the agencies with the upcoming primary documents with the month the Draft and Draft Final versions will be issued. Draft versions have a 60-day review period, and Draft Final versions have a 30-day review period. There are no primary documents currently.

**b. Document Schedule** – The handout titled “17 July 2020 BCT Deliverable Schedule” was reviewed, and near-term documents were identified.

- Sites 2/12 Draft Annual Report comments are due. The CCRWQCB had no comments. The USEPA stated they would defer to the State. DTSC provided comments.
- There are a few quarterly reports coming out the next couple of months.
- The PFOA/PFOS Technical Summary Report draft responses to Marcia Wright’s comments are waiting for review from the regulatory agencies.
- The OUCTP and OU2 Annual reports will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

## **10. Action Items**

The handout titled “HTW BCT 2020 Action Items” was reviewed. Action Item #1 was updated from Kim Gettmann with DTSC on the lead spread model. Action Item #2, the TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer will be reviewed during the next Five Year Review. One new minor action item is to get the Tech Memo on the gasoline spill from the vehicle accident on South Boundary Road sent out to the regulators.

## **11. Calendar Update**

The calendar was reviewed for upcoming HTW BCT meeting dates. The next HTW BCT meeting is scheduled for Thursday Oct 22, 2020 at 1:30 pm.