



**Final
HTW BCT
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2021**
BRAC Conference Room
Former Fort Ord, California
And Teleconference Meeting



Agenda

Reference the handout titled “HTW BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Agenda, Friday, September 17, 2021, at 1:30 PM, Former Fort Ord, California.”

1. Attendance and Announcements

| Last Name | First Name | Organization | By Phone |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| Anderson | Thor | Burleson Consulting | X |
| Bayliff | Kyle | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | X |
| Bleichner | Randall | California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) | X |
| Broadston | Melissa | Chenega for BRAC | |
| Chain-Britton | Cindy | DTSC | X |
| Clancy | Maeve | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) | X |
| Collins | Bill | U.S. Army BRAC, Fort Ord Office | |
| Dillon | Holly | Ahtna Global, LLC (Ahtna) | X |
| Floyd | Bridget | USACE | X |
| Gentry | Dana | USACE | X |
| Gettmann | Kimberly | DTSC | X |
| Hession | Shaelyn | Ahtna | X |
| Higgins | Jolie | USACE | |
| Kochman | Aaron | Chenega for BRAC | X |
| Kosowski | Sylvester | Ahtna | X |
| Kowalski | Bart | Chenega for BRAC | X |
| Lieberman | Derek | Ahtna | |
| Lindh | Margaret | Ahtna | X |
| Schmidt | Eric | Ahtna | X |
| Sellinger | Amber | California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (CCRWQCB) | X |
| Soderberg | Sheila | CCRWQCB | X |
| Whipple | Jonathan | USACE | X |

A couple announcements were made:

- Bridget Floyd announced that Fort Ord Cleanup project won the inaugural USACE Best Environmental Cleanup award. All project personnel are appreciated for their contributions. The Colonel will be presenting a trophy and a picture will be shared.

2. BCT Minutes Status

HTW BCT meeting minutes are final through the last meeting in July.

3. Community Outreach Update

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

- A Nature Walk community event is scheduled for tomorrow Saturday, September 18. The event is sold out with 115 people planning to participate and a wait list of 40 people for next year.
- Bill Collins was interviewed for a second time by the Associated Press (AP) on August 24.
- A munitions safety information booth was staffed at the Monterey County Fair on September 3 for approximately 150 participants.
- National Public Lands Day will be spread out over several days, and a booth will not be staffed at this event.
- The 2021 Annual Report is in progress.
- The Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (FOCAG) submitted comments on a couple reports and responses to comments are in progress.

4. 5th Five-Year Review

There was no handout for the 5th Five-Year Review. Discussion included:

- The draft document is being reviewed by USACE, BRAC, Ahtna, and Chenega.

5. Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring –

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

- Table 1 shows that the OU2 groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) was online 100 percent (%) of the time in August.
- Table 2 has analytical results for the OU2 GWTP injection point of compliance sample collected in August. Concentrations of chemicals of concern (COCs) were not detected due to a recent granular activated carbon (GAC) change-out on July 29.
- Key events were discussed for August and upcoming events.
 - EW-OU2-04-A high pressure issues were investigated and it was found that the settings were for the old OU2 GWTP, which is why it was having pressure issues while operating for the new OU2 GWTP.
 - An e-mail was sent to the regulatory agencies regarding the leak in the isolation valve shutting down the western network and EW-OU2-09-A on August 20. Repairs are expected the week of September 20.
 - Monitoring well adjustments and surveys are expected to be completed sometime in October.
- The annual groundwater monitoring event was complete August 30-September 3. Some of the results were received.
 - Select extraction and monitoring wells are presented in the data tables with a few chemicals of concern (COCs) in the A-Aquifer.
 - Similar results between the Second and Third Quarter 2021 events.

- MW-OU2-40-A in the western network had an increase in trichloroethene (TCE) concentration.
- Only TCE is presented in the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer because it is the only COC with concentrations above the aquifer cleanup level (ACL).
- MW-OU2-62-180 TCE concentrations have been declining. This well is located on OU2 Landfill Area F upgradient of the discontinuity in the Intermediate 180-Foot Aquifer.

b. Treated Water Reuse – The handout titled “Operable Unit 2 Treated Water Reuse” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- There was no treated water used in July.
- Approximately 1,000 gallons of treated water used in August during the annual groundwater monitoring event for road dust control.
- The total treated water reused since October 2016 is 4,341,500 gallons.

c. Groundwater Treatment Plan Relocation – There was no handout and no updates on this topic which is complete and will be removed from future BCT agendas.

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:

- Quarterly landfill gas probe monitoring was completed September 9 and there were no unusual data.
- The quarterly County inspection was conducted September 8 and it went well.
- Annual mowing on the north part of Area F will be conducted next week.
- Annual owl nest box cleaning will be conducted in October.
- Thermal treatment unit (TTU) operations are continuing, September 9 was the last operational period. Influent methane is at 36.5%. Area E extraction source methane is declining slightly. Overall influent TTU methane has increased recently, but not related to any trend.

6. Sites 2 and 12 (Sites 2/12)

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

- Table 1 shows that the Sites 2/12 GWTP was online 100% of the time in August with an average flow rate of 140 gallons per minute (gpm) removing 0.19 pound of COCs.
- Table 2 shows the Site 2 injection point of compliance analytical results; no sample was required to be collected in August.
- The Soil Vapor Treatment Unit (SVTU) remains offline.
- Key events were discussed for August and upcoming events.
- The Third Quarter 2021 groundwater monitoring preliminary data was discussed:
 - EW-12-08-180U tetrachloroethene (PCE) concentrations were below the ACL in the Second Quarter event but increased to 5.4 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$), which is just above the ACL.
 - This result delays the plan to turn off the GWTP after two consecutive quarters with concentrations of all COCs below ACLs at all monitored wells.
 - The declining trend was consistent at EW-12-08-180U since mid-2020, but the recent Third Quarter 2021 data was the first increase in PCE concentrations since then.
 - EW-12-05-180M COCs have been below ACLs for a while but it is operated to help expand the capture area of EW-12-08-180U.
- The Third Quarter 2021 soil gas monitoring validated data was discussed:
 - PCE results are fairly consistent with previous results with a modest increase in the Third Quarter 2021 event.

- TCE concentrations increased in the Second and Third Quarter 2021 events at the SG-12-04 probe cluster. There is still no evidence that it is having an adverse effect on groundwater in this area.
- SG-12-01 PCE concentrations decreased with SVTU operations and there has been only a modest increase since the SVTU has been offline, but concentrations remain below the soil gas cleanup level (SGCL).
- SG-12-02 is outside the SVTU area of influence so it is a good test for natural attenuation and there are continuing declining PCE concentration trends.
- SG-12-04 PCE concentrations decreased with SVTU operations and there has been a modest increase since the SVTU has been offline, but concentrations remain below the SGCL.
- SG-12-06 PCE concentrations have stayed low after SVTU operations.

7. Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume (OUCTP)

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

- The Third Quarter 2021 groundwater monitoring preliminary data was discussed:
 - Hydraulic Zone 1 is the suspected source area and most upgradient area. No Hydraulic Zone 1 data is available yet.
 - Hydraulic Zones 2 and 3 had similar carbon tetrachloride (CT) results over the past year.
 - Hydraulic Zone 4 is the mid-area of the plume, not much data received yet for Hydraulic Zone 4.
 - Hydraulic Zone 5 is the most downgradient area including the Pilot Study and City of Marina areas, and not much data was received yet.
 - Hydraulic Zone 6 is in the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer. MP-BW-46-170 CT data were similar to previous events and represents the upgradient extent of the plume. This well has seasonal CT trends but has been relatively stable the past couple years. MW-OU2-64-180 is the downgradient extent and had a decline in CT concentrations.
 - Hydraulic Zones 7, 8, and 9 are in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer with TCE and CT data being presented. MW-OU2-82-180 was below the TCE maximum contaminant level (MCL) for a while but increased above the MCL in the Third Quarter event. Supply wells had similar results to previous events.
- Amber Sellinger with the CCRWQCB had a question about EW-OU2-09-180 that the OU2 report noted increasing concentrations of cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cis-1,2-DCE) and PCE with no corresponding increase in CT concentrations. Amber wondered if other wells are in the area with cis-1,2-DCE and PCE concentrations being evaluated and can be presented at the next BCT meeting.
 - Derek noted that at EW-OU2-09-180 the COCs have been detected for some time now and not above ACLs. This well is analyzed for OU2 COCs only because it is connected to the OU2 GWTP. All other OUCTP Upper 180-Foot Aquifer wells are only analyzed for CT and data is not available for other OU2 COCs. Through the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility (RI/FS) process the OUCTP Upper 180-Foot Aquifer was investigated for these chemicals and they were not added to the COC list for this site and aquifer based on the results. Therefore, it is unlikely that there are any significant mass of these chemicals in the area.

- Amber wondered if the EW-OU2-09-180 could be capturing part of the OU2 plume. Derek thinks there is something different going on. The OU2 Annual Report also shows the capture analysis of the extraction wells. The capture of EW-OU2-09-180 goes to the north and northwest and not into the OU2 area. Amber and Derek agree that the path forward is to continue to monitor for any potential continued increases in other COCs at EW-OU2-09-180.
- Amber had another question about increasing CT concentrations in Hydraulic Zone 5 wells MW-BW-75-A, MW-BW-80-A, and MW-BW-82-A. Amber wanted to know if vapor intrusion was investigated and if this the first time this area was above ACLs.
 - Derek noted there has been variation in CT concentrations over time. The RI/FS did look into vapor intrusion pathway.

b. TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer – will be addressed in the 5th Five-Year Review Report.

8. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The handout titled “Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI)” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The Preliminary Assessment (PA) Narrative Report was issued as preliminary draft for internal review with the USAKE Sacramento District (SPK), the USACE Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EMCX), and the USACE Environmental Law Division (ELD). Comments were received and responses to comments were submitted for back check review. The USACE EMCX completed back check review and still waiting to hear from USACE SPK and USACE ELD. Then the Draft version will be issued for BCT review.
- The PFAS public fact sheet has been on the Fort Ord Cleanup website since December 2020.
- The Site Inspection (SI) Work Plan/Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) preliminary draft is in progress.
- A second project planning meeting will be conducted with the BCT prior to finalizing the SI Work Plan/QAPP to make sure everyone is in agreement on the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) in December.
- Maeve Clancy with the USEPA requested information on how many sites are moving onto the SI phase. Derek noted the July BCT meeting had the sites listed on the PFAS handout with 6 total sites. Three sites are at the Marina Municipal Airport including the Fire Drill Area at the former OU1, helicopter defueling area, and fire and rescue station. The Main Garrison area has three sites including the fire station, former burn pit, and OU2 Landfills.

9. Basewide Range Assessment (BRA) and Lead Evaluation Status

There was no handout for the BRA and Lead Evaluation Status. Discussion included:

a. BRA –

The Comprehensive BRA Report is in review and is scheduled to be final by the end of the month.

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

HA-18D/23D risk assessments were completed using both blood lead levels recommended by USEPA and DTSC. The results and recommended approach by USACE Toxicologist was sent to BRAC Headquarters for review. Bridget will check with the Toxicologist that the Technical Memorandum answers questions posed by BRAC-D.

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

- Plant propagation target for 2021/2022 is 3,677 plants for the eight HAs. They will begin

planting this winter. All targets are being met.

- Seed collection season is in progress with 16 species this year. Twelve species have completed collection and four species are being watched usually collected in October and November.
- Production plots for purple needlegrass and deerweed have done well.
- This is the third year of irrigation for HA 26. A total of 3,500 plants are being irrigated with four gallons of water per plant per event (total of 14,000 gallons) with five events total. The first irrigation event was conducted June 8-11. The second event occurred July 6-9 with 14,000 gallons. The third event occurred August 9-12 with 14,000 gallons. The fourth event occurred September 13-16 with 14,000 gallons. One more event will occur, scheduled for the week of October 4. Once completed, the irrigation system will be removed. Photos of the plants will be presented at the next BCT meeting.

10. 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. The upcoming Fifth Five-Year Review Report would be the next and only primary document and is listed on the document schedule, with the Draft being issued in March 2022 and signature needed by September 2022.

b. Document Schedule – The handout titled “17 September 2021 BCT Deliverable Schedule” was reviewed, and near-term documents were identified.

- The following reports have been issued since the last BCT meeting:
 - The Sites 2/12 Soil Gas QAPP Revision 6 will be issued as Final today September 17.
 - The Sites 2/12 Annual Report for 2020-3Q, and the 2021-2Q quarterly reports for Sites 2/12, OU2, and OUCTP were all issued as Final.
- The following reports are currently in BCT review:
 - The Draft Final OU2 GWTP Evaluation and Optimization Report comments are requested by October 11.
 - The Draft Final Groundwater QAPP Revision 9 comments are requested by October 15.
 - The Draft Final OU2 Annual Report for 2020-3Q comments are requested by October 4.
 - The Draft Final OUCTP Annual Report for 2020-3Q comments were requested by September 15. The USEPA deferred to the State and the CCRWQCB accepted the Draft Final as written. There was no response yet from DTSC. Derek asked Cindy Chain-Britton with DTSC if there will be comments coming. Cindy will check with the DTSC Geologist who is reviewing the document.
- The following reports are in progress and upcoming for BCT review:
 - The Sites 2/12 Soil Gas Rebound Study Technical Memorandum and Site Closure Exit Strategy.
 - The PFAS PA Narrative Report and SI QAPP.
 - The Comprehensive BRA Report.
 - The 5th Five Year Review.

11. Action Items

The handout titled “HTW BCT 2021 Action Items” was reviewed.

- Action Item #1: The Lead Technical Memorandum will be discussed internally.
- Action Item #2: The Five-Year Review will discuss TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer and is in internal review.

12. Calendar Update

The calendar was reviewed for upcoming HTW BCT meeting dates:

- The Guided Nature Walk is tomorrow, September 18.
- The next HTW BCT is scheduled for November 17 at 1:30 pm.
- The first 2022 HTW BCT is tentatively scheduled for February 11, 2022 at 1:30 pm.
- The 2022 Community Event Dates were discussed. The BCT acknowledged the dates look good.
- The Community Involvement Workshop (CIW) is tentatively scheduled for February 12, 2022 to discuss soil and groundwater cleanup. There may not be buses pending COVID-19 protocols. But there will be an open house at least.
- On April 16, 2022 is tentatively scheduled the 10th year anniversary of the Fort Ord National Monument sponsored by BLM. Other events for the monument will occur in October 2021 and April 20, 2022.
- The May 2022 HTW BCT is tentatively scheduled for May 13, 2022 at 1:30 pm.
- The next Guided Nature Walk is tentatively scheduled for May 14, 2022.
- The July 2022 HTW BCT is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 2022 at 1:30 pm.
- The July 2022 CIW is tentatively scheduled for July 16, 2022 to discuss burns and munitions programs.