

Restoration Advisory Board



Presentation to Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Advisory Board

September 15, 2011

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Restoration Advisory Board



What is it?

- Stakeholder group that meets regularly to discuss environmental restoration on property where DoD oversees environmental restoration
- Serves as forum for discussion/exchange of restoration program information between the Army, regulatory agencies and the community
- Authorized/established/led by Garrison Commander or designee
- Funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)

Restoration Advisory Board



Purpose

- Facilitates information exchange between installation and community
- Provides input to the Garrison Commander or Site Manager
- Provides stakeholder opportunities to:
 - Become involved in the restoration process
 - Monitor restoration progress
 - Make community views/concerns known to the decision-makers
 - Establish and promote dialogue between installation decision makers and those affected by their decisions
- Focused on environmental restoration on a particular installation or collection of sites

Restoration Advisory Board



Limitations

- RABs may only address issues associated with environmental restoration activities
- RABS provide valuable input to the installation and environmental agencies on environmental restoration decisions, but RABs are not decision-making bodies
- Installation leadership is not required to follow RAB recommendations
- RAB meetings must be open to the public
- DoD may continue to operate the RAB as long as DoD maintains ownership of the property and continues managing cleanup activities



Restoration Advisory Board



RAB Establishment

- Based on community interest survey/community request
- Reflects the diverse makeup of the community
- No more than 30 members including representatives from:
 - DOD [Army]
 - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - State environmental regulatory agencies
 - Local government agencies
 - Tribal governments
 - Members of the local community
- Leadership responsibilities shared by installation appointed/community elected co-chairs
- Develops ground rules and operating procedures which define responsibilities within the RAB

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Installation Role

- Educates/informs community members about the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)/Army environmental decision-making process
- Facilitates productive community participation
- Helps members understand and participate in the relative-risk site evaluation and/or munitions response site prioritization protocol processes
- Helps members understand the Army budgeting process; develops budget requests and advise RAB of funds provided
- Provides the RAB cleanup alternatives, including implications of choices
- Provides technical support as required

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Installation Leader

- Selects installation representatives/participants
- Contacts EPA, tribal, state and local government and/or regulatory agencies to request appointment of respective RAB members
- Identifies diverse community interests (with stakeholders)
- Organizes a selection panel to nominate RAB members
- Ensures community members live or work in affected area
- Ensures priority given to those community members directly affected/impacted



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Installation Leader (cont'd)

- Establish a RAB when appropriate and periodically reevaluate community interest
- Approve RAB operating procedures, based on recommendation of co-chairs
- Periodically monitor RAB meetings
- Arbitrate disputes, if necessary
- Determine when and if the RAB should be adjourned, dissolved or reestablished



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Installation Co-Chair

- Coordinate with the community co-chair to prepare and distribute agendas for meetings
- Ensure that DOD participates in an open, honest and constructive manner
- Discuss environmental matters in a manner that will ensure that lay members of the RAB can understand
- Attend all RAB meetings
- Ensure RAB members have the opportunity to provide input
- Ensure community issues and concerns related to restoration are addresses when raised



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Installation Co-Chair (cont'd)

- Ensure documents distributed to RAB are written in layman's terms when possible
- Ensure documents distributed to the RAB are made available to the general public
- Ensure an accurate list of interested parties is developed and maintained
- Provide relevant policies and guidance documents
- Ensure that adequate admin support is provided
- Refer issues not related to restoration to appropriate officials
- Ensure RAB members receive necessary training



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Community Co-Chair

- Coordinate with installation co-chair and community members to prepare agendas
- Ensure that all RAB community members have the opportunity to participate in an open, honest and constructive manner
- Ensure that community issues and concerns related to restoration are raised
- Coordinate with installation co-chair to ensure that periodic training assessments are conducted and training needs met
- Assist with dissemination of information to the general public



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Community Co-Chair (cont'd)

- Report back to the community, and coordinate with other RAB members to ensure that they are adequately representing segments of the community at RAB meetings
- Serve without compensation on the RAB

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Community Members

- Attend meetings
- Provide individual input in an open, honest, and constructive manner
- Represent and communicate community concerns to the RAB
- Act as a conduit for exchange of information
- Review, evaluate and comment on documents and other materials related to restoration
- Represent and communicate RAB issues to the community
- Serve without compensation on the RAB

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Local and State Government Members

- Attend meetings
- Serve as a referral and resource on restoration
- Review documents and other materials related to restoration
- Ensure that state and local environmental standards and regulations are identified and addressed by the installation
- Facilitate flexible and innovative resolutions of environmental issues and concerns
- Assist in education and training for RAB members

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EPA Member

- Attend meetings
- Serve as a referral and resource on restoration
- Review documents and other materials related to restoration
- Facilitate flexible and innovative resolutions of environmental issues and concerns
- Ensure that federal environmental standards and regulations are identified and addressed by the installation
- Assist in education and training for RAB members

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Public

- Participate in community RAB meetings
- Observe rules and operating procedures when participating at RAB meetings or interacting with RAB members
- Ask questions to ensure understanding of RAB activities and impact on the community



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Examples of Community Interests

- Affected community
- Business community
- Homeowners associations
- Local environmental groups
- Environmental justice groups
- Local officials
- Health officials
- Senior citizen associations
- Civic groups
- Installation workers
- Installation residents
- Local Redevelopment Authority for BRAC installations



Restoration Advisory Board



Questions?



US Army Environmental Command



END OF PRESENTATION



"Sustain the environment; Secure the future."