



Robins Air Force Base Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)

Fact Sheet



Volume 9, Issue 4, April 2015

The Robins AFB EAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental matters, Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB) has established the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB). The mission of the EAB is to encourage participation of surrounding communities in the Base's environmental programs and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Base officials. Specifically, the EAB serves to promote community awareness and obtain constructive community review, comment, and input on current and proposed actions associated with environmental programs at Robins AFB. The EAB supports the Air Force environmental mission of sustaining readiness, being a good neighbor, protecting human health and the environment for the Base and community, and making smart business decisions.

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April 2015 EAB Meeting

The spring EAB meeting was held on Thursday, April 23, 2015. EAB members met at the Warner Robins City Hall in Warner Robins, Georgia, where they boarded a bus to the Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) to receive a briefing on the annual basewide groundwater sampling project, as well as a groundwater sampling demonstration.

This *Fact Sheet* provides a summary of the information and topics discussed during the tour.

The next meeting will be held at Centerville City Hall on Thursday, August 6, 2015.

EAB MEMBERS RECEIVE DEMONSTRATION OF ANNUAL BASEWIDE GROUNDWATER SAMPLING

During the spring EAB meeting, personnel from CAPE Environmental Management Inc. (CAPE) gave the EAB members an overview of the annual basewide sampling program, as well as a demonstration of groundwater sampling.



Personnel from CAPE gave the EAB members a demonstration of groundwater sampling at the April EAB tour.

At the beginning of the tour, **Mr. David Fortune** gave the members a briefing, which included an overview of the basewide groundwater sampling project, the sampling methods used, sample management strategies, and information on how the resulting data are used to evaluate progress at the Base's restoration sites.

The groundwater sampling is conducted to maintain compliance with the Robins AFB Hazardous Waste Permit, which covers restoration activities at 17 corrective action sites (16 of which require annual groundwater monitoring). The Base also has an underground storage tank (UST) site (Building 922), which is regulated under the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's (GA EPD) UST program. Groundwater monitoring for petro-

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EAB MEMBERS RECEIVE DEMONSTRATION OF ANNUAL BASEWIDE GROUNDWATER SAMPLING (Cont'd)

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leum contaminants is required on a quarterly basis at the UST site.

To meet the annual sampling requirements, an annual sampling event is conducted by the Air Force in the April/May timeframe using the Performance Based-Remediation (PBR) Contract. For the 2015 event, there are a total of 476 monitoring wells that are scheduled to be sampled. The field activities for the sampling event take approximately four weeks to complete. The samples are analyzed for a variety of chemical and biological parameters. The sampling strategy is defined by the Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manuals that are developed for each site.



Mr. Fortune describes how a peristaltic pump used for low-flow sampling works.



Close-up view of bladder pumps.

A Uniform Federal Policy Quality Assurance Project Plan (UFP-QAPP) is developed as the overall Work Plan for the project. It identifies the wells to be sampled, the sampling procedures, the analytical parameters for each well, and the data quality and reporting objectives. The UFP-QAPP is updated each year prior to sampling.

Sampling is generally conducted via low flow methods including peristaltic pumps or bladder pumps. In some cases, a bailer is used to sample a well. The wells are purged prior to sampling to clear the stagnant water in the well and pull water into the well from the surrounding aquifer. The goal is to collect groundwater samples for analysis that are representative of the particular zone of water being monitored. To assess the sample quality, during the purging of the wells, the water is typically passed through a water quality meter. Field parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, and turbidity are monitored until they stabilize. Once these parameters have stabilized, the groundwater samples can be collected.

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ROBINS AFB RECEIVES 2ND CONSECUTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD

The 78th Civil Engineer Group Environmental Management Branch has recently earned the 2015 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Environmental Quality. The award recognizes individuals, teams, and installations that support mission readiness through its environmental activities.

As noted in the Robins Rev-Up (April 24, 2015); "Through its commitment to environmental excellence, stewardship of community resources and sustainability to the warfighter, Robins has created and exemplified model programs to support its more than 22,000-member work force." This award is especially important as it marks 'back-to-back' wins by the Base.

EAB MEMBERS RECEIVE DEMONSTRATION OF ANNUAL BASEWIDE GROUNDWATER SAMPLING (Cont'd)



Collection of groundwater samples at LF1-4.



Close-up view of LF1-4 wellhead with bladder pump controls attached.



Collecting sample in amber bottle for analysis of semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs).



Collection of sample in 40-milliliter vials for analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).



Water quality meter used to evaluate if groundwater quality has stabilized and groundwater sample can be collected.

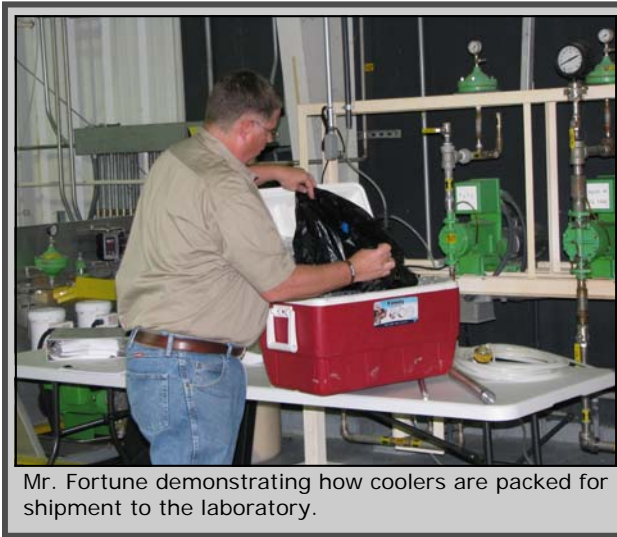
EAB MEMBERS RECEIVE DEMONSTRATION OF ANNUAL BASEWIDE GROUNDWATER SAMPLING (Cont'd)

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The samples are collected in a variety of different sizes and types of containers depending on the analyses required (e.g., 40-milliliter glass vials for VOCs, 1-liter amber glass bottles for SVOCs, etc.).

The samples are carefully packaged to prevent breakage, and then they are placed in a cooler with ice. The samples are shipped to an accredited laboratory under Chain of Custody (COC) protocols. A COC maintains a record of where the samples are at all time. The data is typically received from the la-

boratory in approximately 21 to 35 days. CH2M Hill, CAPE's teaming partner on the Robins AFB PBR Contract, performs the data validation to evaluate the quality of the data. The validated data are then used to evaluate the progress being made at each of the restoration sites.



Mr. Fortune demonstrating how coolers are packed for shipment to the laboratory.

Acronyms

- AFB Air Force Base
- CAP Corrective Action Plan
- COC Chain of Custody
- EAB Environmental Advisory Board
- GA EPD Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- GWTP Groundwater Treatment Plant
- O&M Operations and Maintenance
- PBR Performance-Based Remediation
- SVOCs Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds
- UFP-QAPP Unified Federal Policy - Quality Assurance Project Plans
- UST Underground Storage Tank
- VOCs Volatile Organic Compounds

For more information regarding the EAB, please contact
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 or visit <http://www.robinseab.org>

Environmental Advisory Board Members

Mr. Alexander Stokes, Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	Dr. Dan Callahan, Warner Robins Community Member	Ms. Debra Jones, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Don Thompson, Macon Community Member
Dr. Brian E. Rood, Macon Community Co-Chair	Mr. James Harden, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Mike Maffeo, Macon Community Member	Mr. Penrose Wolf, Perry Community Member
Ms. Martha Berry, US EPA Region 4 Hazardous Waste Division	Mr. John Harley, Centerville Community Member	Dr. Linda Smyth, Macon Community Co-Chair	
Ms. Mary Brown, GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	Mr. Stephen Johnson, Macon Community Member	Dr. Joseph Swartwout, Fort Valley Community Member	