



Robins Air Force Base Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)

Fact Sheet



Volume 6, Issue 1, August 2011

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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August 2011 EAB Meeting

The summer EAB meeting was held Thursday, August 11, 2011, at Centerville City Hall in Centerville, Georgia. Two topics were briefed: "The Recycling Loop and Integrated Solid Waste Management at Robins AFB" and "Recent Successes at the Greater Base Industrial Areas (GBIA) Restoration Sites".

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2011.

RECENT SUCCESSES AT GBIA RESTORATION SITES YIELDING SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS

Robins AFB is the largest industrial facility in Georgia. Approximately 90 percent of the industrial activity at the Base occurs within the Greater Base Industrial Area (GBIA). The GBIA is generally located in the northern portion of the Base and encompasses areas of the flight-line, as well as maintenance hangers, machine shops, paint/depaint facilities, fuel storage areas, etc., which support the mission of the Base.

Several of the Robins AFB restoration sites, which are regulated by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD), are also located within the GBIA. During the recent EAB meeting, **Mr. Griff Cox**, Robins AFB Restoration Project Manager, and **Ms. Jennifer Ludwig**, with Tega EC, LLC, briefed on the remedial progress being made at several of these sites, including Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 10B, 20, 40, 59, 60, and 61, as well as the Jet Propellant 8 (JP-8) Release Site.



Several Robins AFB restoration sites, including SWMUs 10B, 20, 40, 59, 60, and 61 and the JP-8 Release Site are located in the highly industrialized area of the Base know as the GBIA.

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RECENT SUCCESSES AT GBIA RESTORATION SITES YIELDING SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS (CONT'D)

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Due to the density of activities in the GBIA, there are many challenges to working on the restoration sites, including site access, numerous utilities, coordination with flightline activities, etc. Despite these challenges, Robins AFB has had many recent successes at several of the GBIA restoration sites.



The numerous utilities present in the vicinity of the GBIA restoration sites present challenges to constructing, operating, and maintaining remediation systems.

SWMUs 10B, 59, 60, 61, and the JP-8 Release Site generally consist of soil and/or groundwater impacted with petroleum products. SWMU 20 is the chlorinated solvent groundwater plume associated with releases from multiple SWMUs in the GBIA. SWMU 40 consists of soil impacted by chlorinated solvents.

The active remedial systems for SWMUs 10B, 20, 40, 59, 60, 61 generally include either Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) or Air Sparge in combination with SVE (AS/SVE). In an AS/SVE system, AS wells are installed below the groundwater table and air is injected into the formation to strip the contaminants from the groundwater and convert them to vapor phase. The SVE wells are installed above the groundwater table to recover the vapor phase contaminants from the subsurface and transport them to a treatment unit. At the JP-8 Release Site, the remedial strategy included excavation followed by installation of a POL Sorb[®] barrier wall to treat any remaining groundwater contamination.



Vapor treatment system at SWMU 20.

Recent remediation successes at these sites include: (i) significant progress toward remediation goals (i.e., contaminant concentrations in soil and/or groundwater are decreasing); (ii) closure and/or cessation of active remediation systems, with regulatory approval, at three sites; (iii) system shutdowns for rebound studies, with regulatory approval, at three sites; and (iv) recognition of significant cost and energy savings due to these system shutdowns.

More specifically, closure and/or cessation of active remediation system includes the shutdown of the SVE system at SWMU 40, shut down of the AS/SVE system and transition of the remedial approach to Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) at SWMU 61, and No Further Action (NFA) at the JP-8 Release Site. The systems undergoing rebound studies include the SWMU 10B biosparge system and the SWMU 59 and 60 AS/SVE systems.

The overall estimated energy and cost savings due these successes include more than \$280,000 per year in utility cost savings and more than \$400,000 per year operations and maintenance savings.

The Robins AFB approach to cleaning up contaminated sites was recently recognized by the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) as one of the best in the Air Force. Keys to these successes include the excellent partnering relationship with the GA EPD and the team-based approach between Robins AFB and the contractors that assist in managing the sites.

RECYCLING EFFORTS AND GREEN PROCUREMENT KEY COMPONENTS OF ROBINS AFB INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Robins AFB Solid Waste Program manages all non-hazardous solid waste generation, recycling, and disposal at the Base. **Ms. Susan Green**, Robins AFB Solid Waste Program Manager, provided details on the program during the August EAB meeting.

One key goal of the program is to divert a minimum of 50 percent by weight of the solid waste generated on the Base from the landfill. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, the Base met this goal by recycling more than 80 percent of the solid waste generated [excluding Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris waste].

The types of materials commonly recycled at the Base generally include, but are not limited to: paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, aluminum cans, scrap metals, cooking grease, construction and



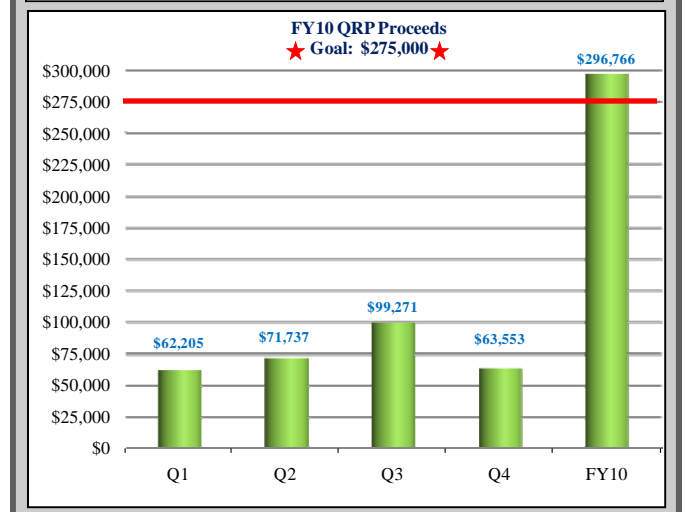
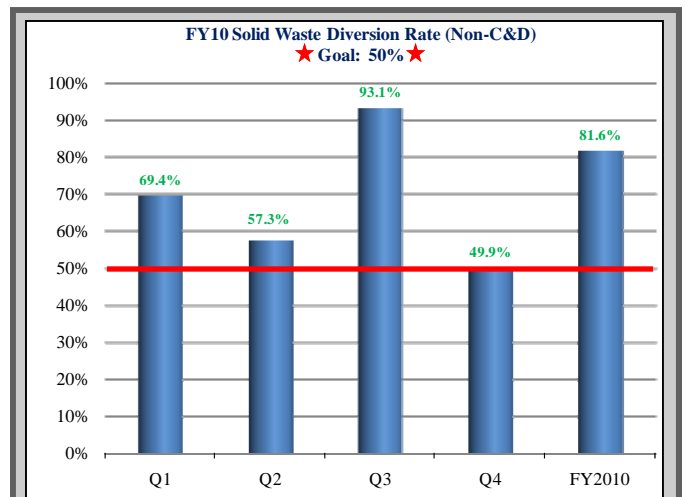
Recycling bins are placed throughout the Base to encourage recycling of paper, plastics, aluminum cans, etc.



The composting facility recycles yard and stable waste for use in Robins AFB beautification projects.

demolition debris, etc. Additionally, yard and stable waste are recycled at the Base composting facility for use in landscaping.

A Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) was established to allow the Base to retain the proceeds generated from the sale of the recyclables and subsequently use those proceeds to offset the cost of recycling efforts. For FY2010, the QRP generated almost \$300,000 in proceeds, exceeding the goal of \$300,000.



Beyond recycling, Robins AFB also has a strong Green Procurement Program (GPP). The GPP is a federal program that generally requires the acquisition of goods and services through the use of sustainable environmental practices (i.e., purchas-

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ing of biobased, environmentally preferable, energy-efficient, water-efficient, and recycled-content products). The GPP closes the “divert-remake-buy recycling loop. The vast purchasing power of the federal government creates a de-

mand for green products and supports recycling markets.

The success of both the QRP and GPP have been recognized several times in the last few years. In 2009, Robins AFB won the White House Closing of the Circle Award for the GPP. In 2010, the Robins AFB QRP tied for the best QRP

program in the Air Force Material Command, and it was runner-up in 2011.

THE ORIGIN OF THE RECYCLING LOOP GRAPHIC



The recycling loop graphic has become a universally recognizable symbol that encourages recycling, identifies products that are recyclable, and/or denotes products that contain recycled material. The symbol was created in 1970 by Gary Dean Anderson, who won a contest sponsored by the Container Corporation of America. The contest was to design a symbol to represent the paper recycling process. Coincidentally, the very first Earth Day was held in April 1970.

For more information regarding the EAB, please contact **Ms. Charline Logue, Robins AFB EAB Manager**, at (478) 327-9268 or visit <http://www.robinseab.org>

Acronyms

AFB	Air Force Base
AFCEE	Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment
AS/SVE	Air Sparge/Soil Vapor Extraction
C&D	Construction and Demolition
EAB	Environmental Advisory Board
FY	Fiscal Year
GA EPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GBIA	Greater Base Industrial Area
GPP	Green Procurement Program
JP-8	Jet Propellant 8
MNA	Monitored Natural Attenuation
NFA	No Further Action
Q	Quarter
QRP	Qualified Recycling Program
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
SVE	Soil Vapor Extraction

Environmental Advisory Board Members

Mr. Alexander Stokes, Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	Mr. Fred Hursey Robins AFB Chief, Environmental Restoration and Conservation Section	Mr. John Harley, Centerville Community Member	Dr. Brian E. Rood, Macon Community Member
Dr. Linda Smyth, Macon Community Co-Chair	Dr. Dan Callahan, Warner Robins Community Member	Dr. Joyce Jenkins, Fort Valley Community Member	Dr. Joseph Swartwout, Fort Valley Community Member
Mr. Hugh Hazen, U.S. EPA Region 4 Hazardous Waste Division	Mr. Ron Carbon, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Stephen Johnson, Macon Community Member	Mr. Don Thompson, Macon Community Member
Ms. Mary Brown, GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	Mr. James Harden, Warner Robins Community Member	Mr. Mike Maffeo, Macon Community Member	