



# Robins Air Force Base Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)

## Fact Sheet



Volume 7, Issue 4, May 2013

### 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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### May 2013 EAB Meeting

The spring EAB meeting was held on Thursday, May 2, 2013, at Centerville City Hall in Centerville, Georgia. The topics briefed included: "DC034 Horse Pasture Trench Disposal Site (SWMU 36), Update on Progress" and "SWMU 20, Greater Base Industrial Area Chlorinated Solvent Plume, Update on Progress".

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

**The next meeting will be a tour of restoration sites at the Base on Thursday, August 1, 2013.**

### ROBINS AFB RECOGNIZED AS BEST IN DOD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Robins AFB has once again been recognized for their outstanding environmental program. During the May EAB meeting, Mr. Alexander Stokes announced that the Robins AFB Environmental Management Branch won the Department of Defense (DoD) Environmental Quality - Industrial Installation Award for 2012. The award recognizes the environmental program being a leader in a number of areas, including air quality, hazardous materials and waste management, pollution prevention, green procurement, natural resources, restoration, and water quality. This is the first time the Base has won the award at the DoD level.



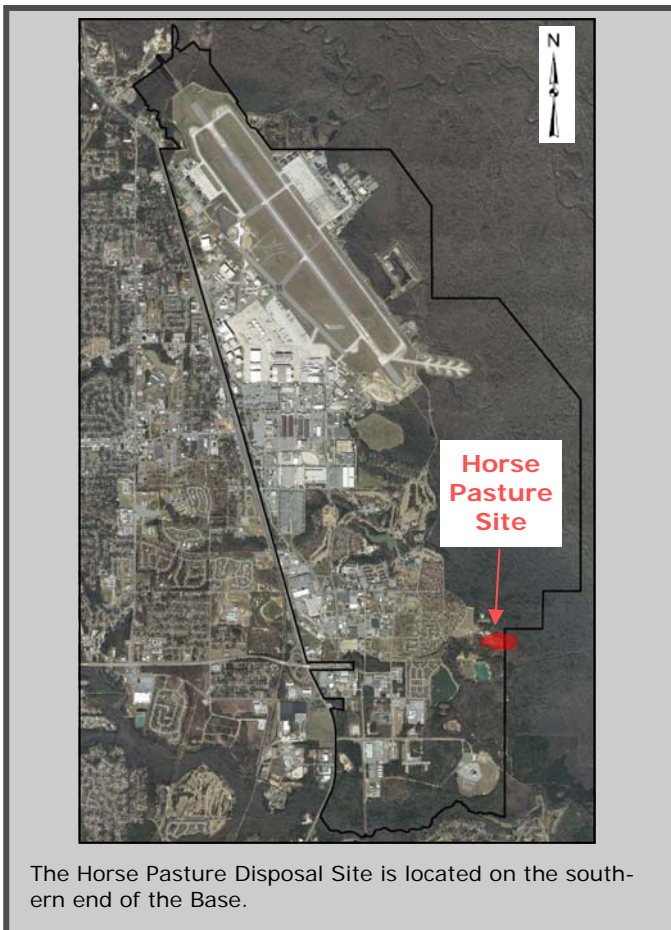
The GWTP was recognized as part of the award package for the numerous accolades it has received for successful, efficient, and safe operation.

Among the notable achievements was the Base's active involvement in environmental community groups and activities. The EAB was recognized as a vehicle for fostering a proactive and sincere partnership between the community, the regulators, and the Base.

Additionally, the state-of-the-art Groundwater Treatment Plant was recognized for the numerous accolades it has received for successful, efficient, and safe operation. The plant was the first industrial wastewater treatment facility in Georgia to receive the Platinum Award. It has also received Plant of the Year ten times since 2000, with zero lost time accidents.

## PERFORMANCE-BASED REMEDIATION UPDATE FOR THE HORSE PASTURE DISPOSAL SITE

The Horse Pasture Disposal Site was used as a disposal area from the 1950s until the 1970s. Soil and groundwater at the site were impacted by volatile organic compounds (VOCs) commonly associated with solvents and lubricants. Initial remediation activities at the site consisted of excavation of the contaminated soil and in-situ chemical oxidation (ISCO) for the contaminated groundwater.



In 2004, approximately 72,000 tons of contaminated soils were excavated from the site. The excavated soil was characterized as non-hazardous and disposed of off-site at a landfill. No Further Action status was subsequently granted for site soils.

The ISCO program for groundwater remediation was conducted in 2005 and 2006. While ISCO resulted in notable decreases in groundwater contaminant concentrations, concentrations at many locations remain elevated and additional remediation is required.

The CAPE Team's original approach to the additional remediation activities included: (i) an investigation to further delineate the contamination at the site; (ii) hot spot treatment of the contaminants in the clay layer at the site; and (iii) groundwater plume containment using an Air Sparge (AS) cut-off trench along the Base's eastern property line.

The field investigation was conducted in two phases in November and December 2012. The field activities included drilling using a Direct Push Technology (DPT) drill rig to collect both soil and groundwater samples. Groundwater samples were also collected from existing site injection wells.

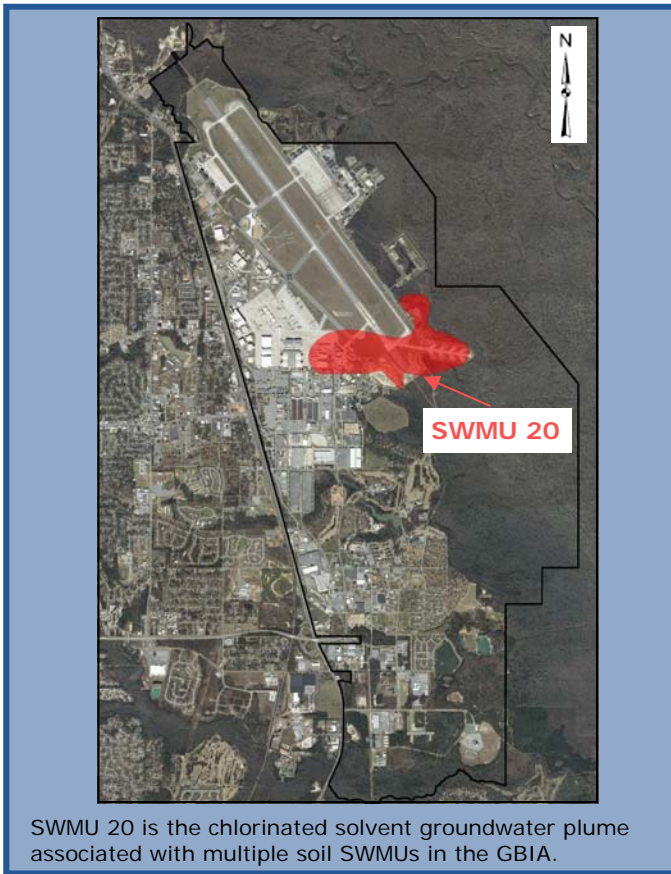


The results of the field investigation did not identify hot spots in the clay. As a result, the CAPE Team has transitioned their optimized remedial approach for the site to focus on the groundwater contamination. Technologies currently being considered include in situ bioremediation, as well as ISCO. The AS trench is still being planned for construction along the eastern site boundary.

A new Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the site will be submitted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) and a Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) Work Plan is under development. Field implementation of the remedial action is scheduled for September to December 2013.

## PERFORMANCE-BASED REMEDIATION UPDATE FOR SWMU 20

SWMU 20 is defined as the Greater Base Industrial Area (GBIA) chlorinated solvent groundwater plume. The plume extends from multiple soil SWMUs. Active remediation of the site currently includes operation of a groundwater extraction system and an AS/Soil Vapor Extractaion (SVE) system. Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) is implemented for portions of the plume not influenced by the active systems.

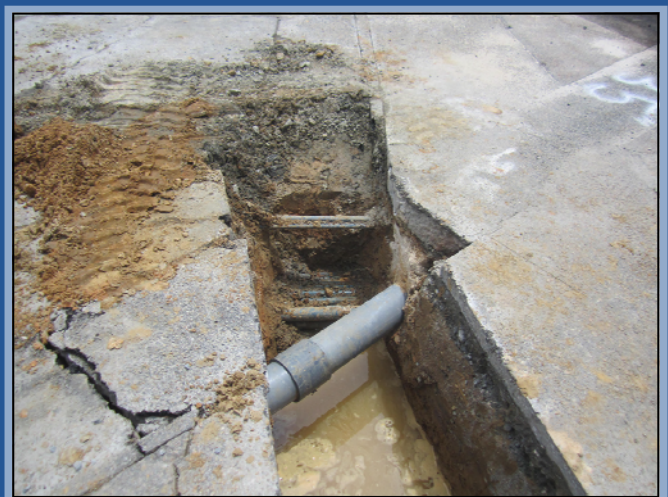


SWMU 20 is the chlorinated solvent groundwater plume associated with multiple soil SWMUs in the GBIA.

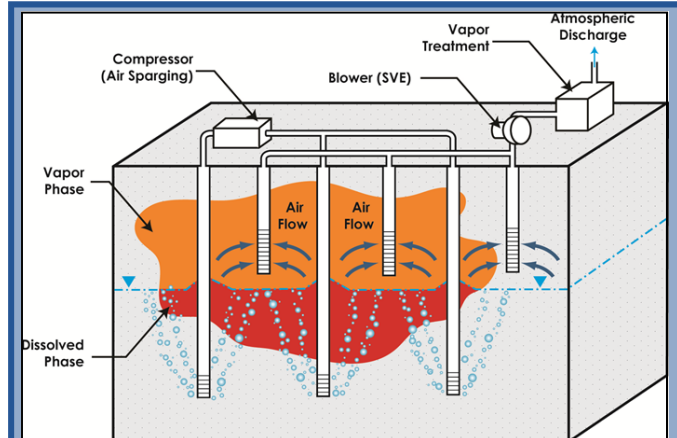
As part of the Performance-Based Remediation (PBR) contract, the CAPE Team proposed to: (i) conduct a source area investigation to further delineate the contamination at the site; (ii) phase out the groundwater extraction system; (iii) continue operation of the AS/SVE curtain; and (iv) implement a focused source area remediation using two horizontal directionally drilled AS/SVE wells.

During the investigation to further delineate the contamination at the site, a utility survey was conducted to evaluate utility locations. The results

indicated a large amount of utilities along the proposed alignment for one of the two horizontal wells. As a result, a decision has been made to replace this horizontal AS/SVE well with a cluster of eight vertical AS wells, installed to a depth of 60 feet below ground surface (ft bgs) and 6 vertical SVE wells, installed to a depth of 9 ft bgs.



A large number of underground utilities were identified along the proposed alignment of one of the horizontal wells during a recent utility survey.



Schematic of a vertical AS/SVE system. Air is introduced into the AS wells. The air strips the VOCs from the groundwater. The SVE wells are under vacuum and bring the vapors to the surface for subsequent treatment at a vapor treatment unit.

The CAPE Team is currently finalizing the design documents for the proposed system and developing the construction work plan. Construction of the AS/SVE system expansion is scheduled to be completed by August 2013.

## ROBINS AFB ELECTS NEW COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR

**Dr. Brian Rood** was elected the new Robins AFB EAB Community Co-Chair at the May meeting.

Dr. Rood holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida. He has been a professor at Mercer University since 1994, and is currently the Director of Environmental Studies.

Dr. Rood is actively involved in the non-profit Ocmulgee River Initiative, Inc. (ORI), which he founded along with two of his friends in 1996. ORI carries out a quarterly water quality monitoring

program for the 222 river miles of the Ocmulgee, organizes river clean-ups, and gives presentations in area schools and social/civic groups. Currently, ORI is working on producing a video documentary on the natural and cultural history of the Ocmulgee River watershed.



Dr. Rood was recently elected the new Robins AFB EAB Community Co-Chair.

### Acronyms

AFB	Air Force Base
AS	Air Sparge
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
DoD	Department of Defense
DPT	Direct Push Technology
EAB	Environmental Advisory Board
ft bgs	feet below ground surface
GA EPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GBIA	Greater Base Industrial Area
ISCO	In-Situ Chemical Oxidation
MNA	Monitored Natural Attenuation
PBR	Performance-Based Remediation
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
SVE	Soil Vapor Extraction
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound

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>

### Environmental Advisory Board Members

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