



# Robins Air Force Base (AFB) Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) Updates



## OPTIMIZED REMEDIATION CONTRACT – UPDATE

- ❖ Bhate Zapata LLC (BZJV) and Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) continue their efforts on the Optimized Remediation Contract (ORC) for Robins AFB. Highlights of select ongoing activities are provided below.

### Underground Injection Permit (UIC) Inspection

On 8 July 2021, representatives from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD), Industrial Permitting Unit conducted an inspection of five Robins AFB restoration sites with UIC permits. UIC permits are required for injecting fluids into the subsurface via an injection well (e.g., at sites where bioremediation injections or air sparge or biosparge operations are ongoing). The inspection was successful with no deficiencies noted.

### SWMU 62 (OT037)

SWMU 62 refers to a chlorinated solvent plume near the Third Street storm sewer in the central portion of Robins AFB. The definitive source for the groundwater contamination has not been identified. Previous remediation activities included the injection of chemical oxidants, primarily to address trichloroethene contamination. Under the ORC, the performance objective is to achieve remediation levels (RLs) in groundwater for the site-specific contaminants of concern. To assist in meeting this goal, BZJV is conducting a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) to gather information necessary to update delineation of the plume and design an optimized injection remedy to address remaining groundwater contamination. BZJV prepared an optimized Uniform Federal Policy Quality Assurance Project Plan (UFP-QAPP) detailing the proposed SSI activities, which primarily include the collection of groundwater samples through direct push technology (DPT) borings and temporary well screens. The UFP-QAPP has been approved by the Air Force, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the GA EPD. The field activities are scheduled to begin the week of 9 August 2021.

### Landfill No. 3

Landfill No. 3 is located on the southeastern portion of the base. The contaminants in the landfill are contained by a slurry wall, leachate collection system, and engineered cap that were installed in 1995. Groundwater contamination migration outside the slurry wall is controlled through operation of an active groundwater extraction system. The performance objective under the ORC for LF003 includes an SSI to evaluate the integrity of the slurry wall. To address this objective, BZJV developed a UFP-QAPP detailing a hydraulic study and tracer test. The UFP-QAPP has been approved by the Air Force and USACE. The document has also been reviewed by the GA EPD, and comments are being addressed.

**For more information regarding the EAB, please contact Ms. Laurel Cordell, Robins AFB EAB Manager, at (478) 327-9275 or [laurel.cordell@us.af.mil](mailto:laurel.cordell@us.af.mil) or visit <http://www.robinseab.org>**



## Robins AFB EAB Updates (Cont'd...)



### Alternative Objective (AO) Sites

- ❖ Geosyntec is currently working to obtain approval of UFP-QAPPs, which serve as SSI Work Plans, for five remediation sites at the Base, including Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) 10B, 17, 20, 36, and 57. These five sites are defined by the Air Force as having complex attributes that have, to date, inhibited progress toward the achievement of site cleanup. These sites each have an incomplete conceptual site model (CSM) and are generally expected to require longer than 30 years to achieve closure under the current remedial approach. Resolving data gaps through SSI activities will provide a basis for evaluating future remedial action objectives and strategies. The ORC performance objective for these sites includes advanced site characterization (ASC) during the SSI, remedy evaluation and recommendation, and a Decision Document (DD) amendment, as applicable. The ASC will be conducted to further characterize and refine source areas and contaminant transport pathways.

### FIFTH FIVE-YEAR REVIEW NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL) SITE – UPDATE

- ❖ The fifth Five-Year Review of the remedies selected for the Base's only NPL site is currently being finalized. The NPL site consists of Landfill Number 4 (LF004) and the Sludge Lagoon Waste Pit 14 (WP-14). The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of remedial progress at the site and determine if the selected remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment. The Five-Year Review was conducted by Nicklaus Engineering, Inc. On 14 July 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a letter indicating that the USEPA has found the selected remedies for the site to be protective in both the short- and long-term. A recommendation is being made in the Five-Year Review Report to better define the northern edge of the groundwater plume to enable a more accurate estimate of when groundwater levels will achieve cleanup goals. The additional groundwater investigation will not affect the protectiveness of the remedy.

### EAB TRANSITIONS

- ❖ As a reminder, the EAB has positions available for new members. If you are aware of potential candidates who may be interested, please reach out to Ms. Laurel Cordell, EAB Manager (contact information below).

### EAB MEETINGS

- ❖ The next EAB meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in-person on Thursday, 4 November 2021. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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