



# Robins Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

## Fact Sheet



Volume 18, Issue 1, March 2025

### The Robins AFB RAB

Recognizing the importance of public involvement in environmental matters, Robins Air Force Base (Robins AFB or Base) has established the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The mission of the RAB is to encourage participation of surrounding communities in the Base’s environmental restoration program and allow community members and other stakeholders to have meaningful dialog with Base officials. Specifically, the RAB serves to promote community awareness and obtain constructive community review, comment, and input on current and proposed actions associated with the environmental restoration program at Robins AFB. The RAB 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.

#### Inside this issue...

- ◆ Basewide Groundwater Sampling Program ..... 1
- ◆ Landfill Number 3 (LF003) Fence Replacement and Dig Permits..... 3
- ◆ Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP) General Operations ..... 3

### March 2025 RAB Meeting

The spring RAB meeting was held on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

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

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025. The meeting will be a tour of select restoration sites at Robins AFB. The bus will depart from the Warner Robins City Hall at 4:45 p.m.**

### Basewide Groundwater Sampling Program

**Ms. Caitlin Ryan** with Bhate Environmental (Bhate) briefed on the annual basewide sampling program at the spring RAB meeting. The RAB members were shown a series of tables describing the sample and analysis plan for the event. The environmental restoration sites monitoring wells are sampled basewide on an annual, biennial, or every 5 year frequency.

In 2025, the program included sampling of 553 monitoring wells with a total of 681 wells monitored for water levels. Approximately 30 wells are sampled by a crew of 7 to 9 team members each day over an approximate one month period. A health and safety meeting is held each morning to discuss potential hazards the teams may encounter in the field.

During sampling, the monitoring wells are inspected and notes are made for required repairs. Select monitoring wells may also be redeveloped prior to sampling. Low flow sampling is conducted with peristaltic or bladder pumps. The samples are sent to an environmental laboratory for analysis. The results are validated and subsequently reported each year in a Correction Action Plan Progress Report (CAPPR). Investigation derived waste is managed in accordance with Air Force protocols.

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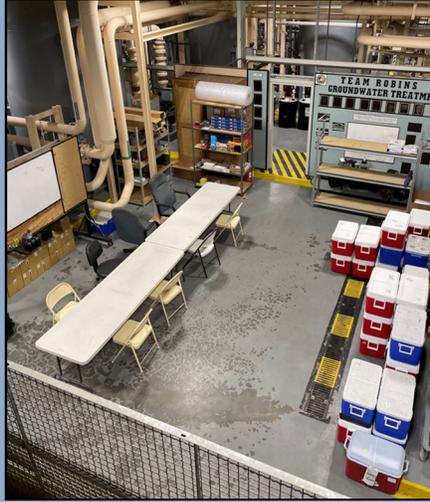
The basewide sampling team receiving training on Day 1 of the annual sampling program.

# Basewide Groundwater Sampling Program (Continued...)

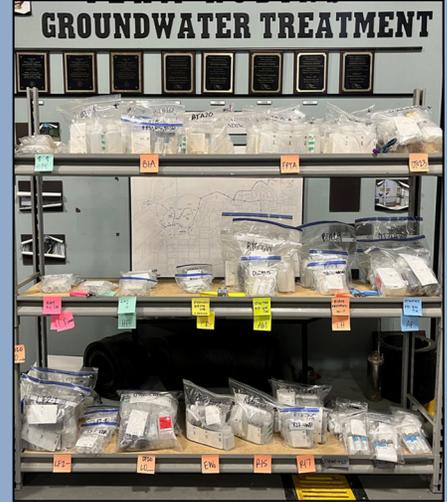
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Rental equipment staged for sampling



Sampling work area at the groundwater treatment plant



Sampling kits staged for team members



Select monitoring wells are accessed by boat



Sampling in the wetlands



Sampling adjacent to the wetlands



Hive of bees on the tailgate of a truck



Alligator at LF003



Snake in the wetlands

## LF003 Fence Replacement and Dig Permits

**Mr. Humberto Altamirano** with Bhate presented on the Landfill Number 3 (LF003) fence replacement project that occurred in the fall of 2024. The scope of work was to remove and dispose of the approximately 1,500 linear feet of stackable black locust split rail fence that has been in place around the LF003 perimeter. The fencing was replaced with approximately 1,750 linear feet of red cedar split rail fence. The fencing was expanded on the west of LF003.

The phases of work required that the dig permit process at the base be followed to minimize the potential to encounter the utilities at LF003 during fence installation, particularly those associated with the leachate and groundwater extraction system

The old fencing materials were repurposed by the base to revitalize the Treefrog Nature Trail located just south of LF003.



## GWTP General Operations

**Mr. John Darsey** with Bhate discussed the GWTP operations. A leachate collection and groundwater extraction system is present at LF003 to collect contaminated water from the subsurface. The leachate collection wells are located inside the slurry wall that surrounds the landfill; the extraction wells are located outside the wall to provide hydraulic containment of the groundwater plume.

The leachate is conveyed to a wet well for collection of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL); the DNAPL is pumped to containers and disposed of by the base. The remaining leachate is then pumped to an oil water separator (OWS) for collection of light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL). The discharge from the OWS, along with the extracted groundwater, is then pumped to the GWTP. The system is managed through a se-

ries of programmable logic controllers.

The water enters the GWTP through an equalization tank, allowing the operators to control the flow rate through the plant. Water is treated at a flow rate of approximately 35 gallons per minute. The primary treatment mechanism is ozone, which is a highly reactive molecule that can oxidize a wide range of both organic and inorganic contaminants. Granular activated carbon (GAC) vessels provide secondary treatment. Sampling is conducted throughout the treatment process to assess if the water is being treated effectively.

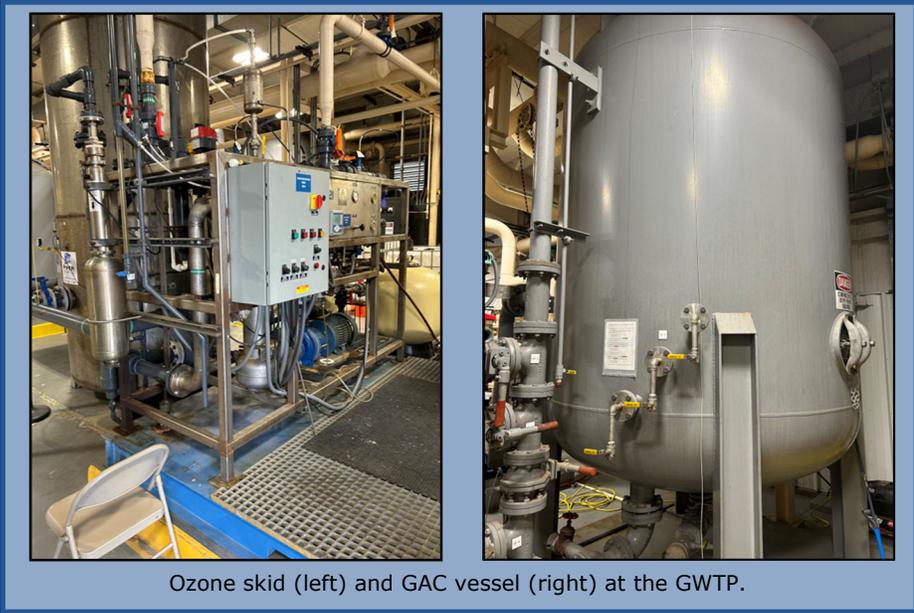
The treated water is discharged through an outfall covered under the base's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The outfall

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## Groundwater Treatment Plant General Operations (Continued...)

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is sampled for various constituents in accordance with the permit on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. Samples are sent to an environmental laboratory for analysis. The treated effluent is commingled with treated wastewater from the base and discharged to the Ocmulgee River, in accordance with the NPDES permit.



Ozone skid (left) and GAC vessel (right) at the GWTP.

### Acronyms

AFB	Air Force Base
Bhate	Bhate Environmental
DNAPL	Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
GWTP	Groundwater Treatment Plant
LF003	Landfill Number 3
LNAPL	Light Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OWS	Oil Water Separator
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board

For more information regarding the RAB, please contact  
**Mr. Fred Otto, Robins AFB RAB Manager**, at (478) 327-9272  
 or visit <http://www.robinseab.org>

### Restoration Advisory Board Members

<b>Mr. Heyward Singleton,</b> Robins AFB Installation Co-Chair	<b>Mr. Lawrence Collins,</b> Byron Community Member	<b>Dr. Richard Mines,</b> Macon Community Member
<b>Dr. Linda Smyth,</b> Macon Community Co-Chair	<b>Mr. James Harden,</b> Warner Robins Community Member	<b>Dr. Clarence Riley,</b> Warner Robins Community Member
<b>Mr. Craig Benedikt,</b> US EPA Region 4 Superfund Division	<b>Mr. John Harley,</b> Centerville Community Member	<b>Dr. Brian E. Rood,</b> Macon Community Member
<b>Mr. Jim Ashworth</b> GA EPD Hazardous Waste Management	<b>Mr. Stephen Johnson,</b> Macon Community Member	
<b>Ms. Tiffany Bowen,</b> Warner Robins Community Member	<b>Mr. Mike Maffeo,</b> Macon Community Member	