

Former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Notes of the Board Meeting

January 2026

The first quarter Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for the Former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (FSAAP) in 2026 took place on January 22, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the DeSoto City Hall Senior Center in DeSoto, Kansas.

Army Co-Chairman Present

Scott Smith (Army BRAC)

RAB Members Present

See the attached RAB Sign-In Sheet

RAB Members Absent

Cary Rivard

Shirley Allenbrand (represented by Jay Leipzig)

Dawn Buehler

David Rhodes

John Neuberger

Mike Pierce

Public Present

Teresa Wilke

Andy Andersen

Brian Nowotny

Katherine Marshall

Margaret Mellott

Lynee Hermansen

Charlie Trouten

Sara Maloney

Carrie Brandon

Jay Leipzig

Brad O'Connor

Cindy O'Connor

Army Present in Person

Kathy Baker (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Austin Hargadine (USACE Geologist)

Francis David Hufford (U.S. Army Environmental Command)

Ian Thomas (BRAC)

Virtual Attendance

Lally Laksbergs (U.S. Army Environmental Command)

Quang Nguyen (U.S. Army Environmental Command)

Call to Order

Scott Smith (Army Co-Chair and BRAC site manager) called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. He then proceeded to Old Business on the agenda and requested the adoption of the RAB meeting minutes from August 2025.

Mr. Smith called for a vote on the August meeting minutes and recognized unanimous approval by the board.

Moving to New Business, Mr. Smith asked the board to schedule the next RAB meeting for April 23rd at 6 p.m. at the DeSoto Senior Center inside DeSoto City Hall. The board unanimously approved this recommendation.

Scott Smith then presented the Environmental Update. Mr. Smith began by discussing the updated Environmental Remedial Status map. The map presents an overview of status of each SWMU/AOC in the RCRA process. The investigation portion of the RCRA process is complete. Most of the sites are in the Corrective Measure Implementation stage or No Further Corrective Action phase.

Mr. Smith then explained that SFAAP is broken into five Groundwater Operable Units with Operable Unit (OU)1, OU2 and OU3 currently being sampled. Mr. Smith reported that OU1 has 95 wells being sampled and the data summary report is due in the Spring, OU2 has 119 wells being sampled with the data summary report is due in Spring, and OU3 data summary report is

forthcoming in a few weeks. Mr. Smith stated that the small dots on the figures presented are all the well locations within the OUs; however, not all were necessarily sampled in the current groundwater events. This current sampling effort is to further define and delineate the contaminants in each of the groundwater OUs. Mr. Smith reported that OU4 sampling is complete and has resulted in a No Further Corrective Action Planned for that OU. SRL and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) have recently completed a Kansas Environmental Use Control Agreement (KEUCA) which aids in the restriction of use of groundwater and overall protection of the site. Army will be requesting No Further Action for groundwater operable unit 4. The KEUCA states that without prior KDHE approval, groundwater cannot be used for potable water use. Groundwater sampling at OU5 has been completed and the data summary report is nearly complete.

RAB Member: What does the KEUCA say?

Mr. Smith: Groundwater cannot be utilized for potable water without prior approval from KDHE.

Mr. Smith then proceeded to introduce the tasks completed in fulfillment of the RCRA Remedial Investigation (RFI) and Corrective Measure Study (CMS) for SWMU 24. SWMU 24 is located in the central portion of SFAAP and is part of the Nitroglycerin Area. Contaminants of concern for groundwater include lead, Hexavalent Chromium, and nitrate. Munitions of Explosive Concern (MEC) removal was completed and adjacent contaminated soils removed. The RFI sampled in the remaining areas such as ditches, areas around non-explosive buildings and groundwater. The results of the RFI indicate there are nineteen soil removal locations for Arsenic and Lead that will need to be remediated as part of a Corrective Measure.

Mr. Smith then went on to report that Corrective Measures for SWMU 39, 58 and AOC 17 east have been completed. SWMU 39 was a dioxin removal in a ditch which has been remediated and fully restored. SWMU 58 had excavation areas for lead and PCBs which were completed and backfilled. The SWMU 39 and SWMU 58 completion reports are under internal Army review. The AOC 17 interim corrective measure involved removal of process sumps. The sumps on the eastern half of AOC 17 have been successfully removed and backfilled. The completion report is pending. The sumps on the western half of AOC 17 and one excavation for Iron is a pending Army task.

Mr. Smith outlined the Remaining Environmental Tasks at SFAAP. The remaining Corrective Measures and the party completing the CMI include: AOC 16 (SRL), SWMU 65 (SRL), SWMU 26 (SRL), AOC 17 western half sumps (Army), SWMU 17 (SRL), SWMU 4,5,6 (Army) and SWMU 24 (SRL). Groundwater investigations are currently being conducted in OU1, OU2 and OU3. OU4 is No Further Action. Once investigations are completed the need for Long-Term Monitoring will be evaluated.

Paul Oberle asked: Which are the sediment ponds?

Mr. Smith: SWMU 4,5, and 6 and they are a larger effort.

Carrie Brandon asked: Where did the acid sewer run to and did contaminants ever enter the municipal sewer or wastewater treatment system?

Mr. Smith: The acid sewers ran throughout AOC 16 to a point where they eventually daylighted into open ditches east of AOC 16. These ditches then ran into SWMU 4 (Pond A). Water was then released into SWMU 5 catch basins where the acidity was neutralized before being released into SWMU 6 (Pond B). This water did not enter the SFAAP wastewater treatment system. SFAAP was a contained facility. It had its own wastewater treatment plant (SWMU 3). The acid sewers did not connect to SWMU 3 or any other wastewater treatment plant.

Carrie Brandon asked: What is the status of the PFAS investigation:

Mr. Smith: The Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Site Investigation (SI) are complete. Two Areas of Potential Interest were sampled. The only area with PFAS, above the Office of Secretary of War (OSW) risk screening levels was the old fire station. A Remedial Investigation of that area is pending. PFAS above the OSW risk screening levels was found in groundwater in the area, not soil. Clarification: PFAS related compounds were detected in 3 of the 5 soil samples taken in the Fire Station area but these detections were below the OSW risk screening levels. The other area sampled was SWMU 3, the Wastewater treatment plant. No detections in soil or groundwater were found in this area.

The Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation report is available at the following location.
<https://aec.army.mil/PFAS/KS/SFAAP/>

Carrie Brandon expressed concern that the PFAS reportedly found on farm fields in Johnson and Douglas counties came from SFAAP. The sludge from the city/county wastewater treatment plant is being used as fertilizer and spread on farm fields. SFAAP sewer system did not feed city/county systems that we know of. Clarification: During decommissioning/demolition of the SFAAP sewage treatment plant in 2008, 520,000 gallons of water and sludge were taken to the City of De Soto wastewater treatment plant and treated.

Terry Wilke: What are the contaminants of concern for SFAAP?

Kathy Baker: Metals, specifically, lead, hexavalent chromium and arsenic, PCBs, nitrate, and petroleum.

Mr. Smith then polled the board for items for the April 23rd RAB meeting agenda. The board decided to keep the same agenda as for the January meeting.

Carrie Brandon: Can the RABs be live or can we tape them?

Mr. Smith: We do not have the ability to go live. RABs can be filmed.

The RAB and public were informed that all documents for the site were available at the SFAAP Army office and on KDHE's website.

Mr. Smith called for adjournment of the meeting and at 6:51pm the board approved.