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**FORMER TARHEEL ARMY MISSILE PLANT (TAMP)/  
WESTERN ELECTRIC SITE  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
MINUTES**

Meeting Location: John Robert Kernodle Senior Center  
1525 S Mebane St. Burlington, NC 27215

Date: Thursday, 3 October 2024

Time: 6:00 PM EST

**ATTENDEES**

**U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC):**

Nathaniel Edwards, Environmental Support Manager (ESM)

Paul Humphrey, Environmental Support Manager (ESM)

Xavier Hutchinson, Environmental Support Manager (ESM)

George Xanthos, Environmental Support Manager (ESM)

Lally Laksbergs, Public Affairs Officer (PAO)

Rufus Guillory, Programs and Liabilities Branch IAP/CIP/LUCIP Program Manager

Damari Anderson, Programs and Liabilities Branch RAB Program Manager

**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ):**

Qu Qi, Environmental Program Supervisor

**City of Burlington:**

Craig Honeycutt, Burlington City Manager

Morgan Lasater, Community Engagement Director

Rachel Kelly, Assistant City Manager

Bob Patterson, Water Resources Director

Scott Bibler, Director of Information Technology

Robert Foreman, Information Technology Specialist

**Conti Federal Services (CFS) / Cherokee Nation Environmental Solutions  
(CNES):**

Laura Tobin, Program Manager

Collin Gerald, Project Specialist

**Members of the Public:** Sign-in rosters are on file with USAEC

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### PRE-MEETING (1800 – 1830)

Community members were given an opportunity to walk around the room to view the displayed posters, meet the representatives from USAEC, NCDEQ, and the City of Burlington, and ask initial questions before the meeting commenced. All guests were asked to sign in as well; not required.

### OPENING REMARKS

Craig Honeycutt introduced himself as the Burlington City Manager. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and informed everyone that this is only the beginning of public involvement and ongoing participation is key for this RAB to be successful.

Laura Tobin introduced herself as the facilitator of the RAB meeting. She introduced what a RAB is, as well as the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) that will be developed. Ms. Tobin introduced some key personnel in the Army's environmental cleanup efforts; Nathan Edwards and Mr. Paul Humphrey. Edwards is the Army Lead on this project. Qu Qi introduced himself as NCDEQ's Division Waste System Manager. Sue Murphy will act as the NCDEQ Project Manager but was not able to attend.

### OVERVIEW OF THE RAB

Tobin explained what a RAB consists of, the purpose, why it is formed, who is involved, and what factors determine the length of the RAB. The RAB is put together by the Army because of the interest in the community on the cleanup of the former TAMP/Western Electric site. The RAB will act as a public forum for information and a place where the community can inquire and ask questions to officials for the duration of the cleanup process.

Tobin went on to explain the selection process for the RAB representatives, which will include a selection panel that consists of the Army Lead, State agency rep, and select community member nominees. The RAB representatives will need to select two RAB members for co-chair positions, an Army representative and a community representative. These co-chair positions will have a one to two-year term. A community member then asked for an explanation on the removal process of members, which Tobin explained that if someone in a chair position shows a lack of participation (unresponsive, not attending meetings, etc.) then they can be removed from their role at any time in replace for someone else. Tobin then explained the need for diversity on the board, to fully represent the Burlington community.

Tobin explained the RAB responsibilities, including preparing a meeting agenda, preparing meeting minutes within two weeks of the meeting itself, reviewing technical documents and plans, making all information publicly available, and responding to public

comments in a reasonable timeframe. The Department of Defense (DoD) will provide administrative support, provide meeting facilities, maintain public mailing lists, and distribute fact sheets and meeting minutes. All information sheets will be provided in English and Spanish. All meeting minutes will be posted to both the USAEC TAMP and City of Burlington – Western Electric Property webpages.

One member of the public brought up an issue with the public mailing list, indicating that many community members did not receive an email notification on the meeting. The individual asked how the system is going to be improved upon in future iterations. Edwards explained that the main issue found is that the email may be delivered to spam folders and they are working to fix these issues. He also stated that scheduled meeting dates/times will be posted to the USAEC TAMP and City of Burlington websites.

Tobin explained that the RAB will develop a brief mission statement outlining the overall purpose of the board. The RAB will also create a set of operating procedures for meetings that include, but are not limited to frequency of meetings, attendance policies, process of responding to public comments, and term length of co-chairs. Tobin went on to explain that the RAB meetings are always open to the public and are not just limited to the RAB representatives. She also explained key points that make an effective RAB, which included attending all meetings, providing individual input, communicating community concerns, communicating RAB meeting issues to the community, and serving as a resource for RAB activities for community members. The Army will make available the option for the RAB to request technical assistance through Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Program to help ensure documents are explained and easily digestible to the RAB and public.

Tobin explained that the RAB will stay ongoing until the cleanup is finished, or until the community is no longer interested. In some situations, RABs continue to operate after restoration activities to discuss long-term review documents implemented, such as land use controls (LUCs) and decisions made from a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) five-year review period. When RABs are ready to disband, it is recommended that an official adjournment be made, but is not required. This adjournment includes the Army Lead notifying RAB members, as well as publishing the decision in the local newspaper.

At this time, questions were taken from community members. These questions and subsequent answers can be found below in the Q&A section of this document.

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### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

Tobin introduced the community members to what a CIP is, and how it is separate from the RAB; but related to the former TAMP/Western Electric site cleanup efforts. Tobin stated that a CIP will be used to engage community members via interviews to help with public involvement during the former TAMP/Western Electric site cleanup process. These interviews will be documented and used by the Army to better understand how the public prefers to receive information. CIP sign-up sheets were provided at the meeting.

### PROPERTY

### TRANSFER

### OVERVIEW

Edwards introduced himself and stated that he is part of the Southeast division of USAEC and works on numerous cleanup sites across this region. He went on to explain how the Army does not do these cleanups alone and receives help from a number of parties that include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and state regulatory agencies (such as NCDEQ). USACE was invited to this meeting, but did not attend. The Army has also received help from multiple environmental community groups as well, to include West End Revitalization Association (WERA), Seven Nations of Service, and many more. Edwards went over a brief timeline of the history of the site (former TAMP/Western Electric), which was mainly used for electronic manufacturing. The site was labeled a missile site; it was used for the electronic guiding systems for these missiles and explosive components of the missiles were never produced on this site. The site was owned by the military but leased out to government contractors that dealt with the manufacturing at the site itself. During this time, a government contractor (Lucent Technologies) removed some underground petroleum tanks and discovered the trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminated groundwater plume. Controls were put in place to limit the spread of this plume; but because of some property owner issues in the 2013 – 2014 time frame, this control equipment was shutdown for a period of time. A more in-depth historical timeline can be found on the City of Burlington's website, as well as on USAEC TAMP website.

Edwards informed the community that a Remedial Investigation (RI) was completed to understand where the plume had spread and how widespread the contamination is. He went on to say that the next step is to create a remediation plan, which will be planned and discussed at later RAB meetings. The Army has hired an environmental consultant (Northwinds) to assist with the cleanup. Northwinds will be attending the next RAB meeting to help further communicate the cleanup plan moving forward. NCDEQ will

also review all remediation documents to make sure they meet state standards.

Edwards thanked the community and stated that this is the first time USAEC is setting up RAB in approximately 12 years.

A community member vocalized that they want to make sure that the Army focuses not only on the cleanup and documentation itself, but how the people of the community are affected by these decisions, such as the health implications. She also wanted to make sure this gets out to the public, since most community members that may be affected will not attend RAB meetings consistently, if at all.

Qu Qi stated that this is where the RAB comes into play and that the RAB's purpose is to understand how the Army's decisions regarding this cleanup will affect the community and communicate this information to the rest of the community members. Community members then can use the RAB to verbalize any questions and concerns to the Army. This is why the RAB plays such an integral role with keeping the community informed on the cleanup process.

Edwards then spoke about the current contract that was awarded in August 2023 to Northwinds and some of the steps that have already been taken to remediate the groundwater plume, which includes injections into the contaminated groundwater. A sampling event will commence in November 2024 to see how the degradation of the plume has been affected by these injections. This work along with any future work will be further explained by Northwinds in the subsequent RAB meeting tentatively scheduled for December 5, 2024.

Edwards then mentioned upcoming documents that will be discussed at the next RAB meeting. These include a Feasibility Study, a Proposed Plan, and a Record of Decision. These documents will also be published online for the community. The Army will work with the newspaper to make sure these are as accessible as possible. A community member suggested that including these publications in something that is received and looked at by all community members (example used was a water bill) would be a great way to spread the publication of these documents and any pertinent information. Lally Laksbergs made note of this and stated that this has been investigated, but with the rise of paperless billing it has become a challenge. Laksbergs stated that newsletters are also being investigated as another source of informing the community.

### **NCDEQ REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS**

Qu Qi explained the NCDEQ role and responsibilities of the former TAMP/Western Electric site cleanup process. He stated that Sue Murphy could not attend this meeting but will act as the Project Manager and will be the main NCDEQ point of contact for the duration of the cleanup process. Qi explained that the site was transferred

after the Formally Used Defense Site (FUDS) program deadline of October 17, 1986.

Because of this, the TAMP cleanup is the Army's responsibility. Qi provided the NCDEQ mission statement, which is "Providing science-based environmental stewardship for the health and prosperity of ALL North Carolinians."

Qi further explained the NCDEQ's role within the former TAMP/Western Electric cleanup process under the Defense and State Memorandum Agreement (DSMOA), which is an agreement between the DoD and a State that establishes partnerships with DoD installation cleanups. This includes technical review of documents, site visits, public participation support, attending RAB meetings, identifying and explaining requirements to RAB members, and quality assurance/quality control in supporting the DoD in the execution of these types of programs. Qi explained the usefulness of the NCDEQ's site locator feature, which can be used for information regarding the site, as well as any other **location** in North Carolina that there is public interest in.

### CURRENT SCHEDULE/NEXT STEPS

Paul Humphrey explained the next steps will be continuing setting up the RAB. Humphrey also asked everyone who did not receive an email about this meeting to please meet Laksbergs after the meeting to make sure all information is correctly input into the distribution system list.

Below are important milestones scheduled for the RAB:

- Establish Selection Panel and Criteria: October 10, 2024
- Selection panel – Review RAB Community Interest Form: October 10 – 24
- Selection Panel – Notification of RAB members via Letter: October 31, 2024
- RAB members receive information – November 14, 2024
- Next TAMP RAB Meeting: December 5, 2024
  - Discussion topics: Training, Roles/Responsibilities, Mission Statement, Operating Procedures

### CLOSING REMARKS

Edwards opened for a final Q&A session. These questions and subsequent answers are provided below in the Q&A section of this document.

Tobin spoke to the community about the CIP and the ability to sign up and be interviewed about the former TAMP/Western Electric site cleanup process and provide any feedback on the entire process.



Edwards reminded everyone that flyers are located at the front of the meeting room. Links are provided on these flyers to website locations that provide all information discussed during this meeting, including PowerPoint presentations, meeting minutes, schedules, sign-up sheets, etc. As well, he let everyone know there is an anonymous drop box at the front of the meeting room for any further questions community members may want to ask privately. Questions dropped in this box will be addressed at the next RAB meeting.

Edwards thanked all community members for coming to the meeting and mentioned that USAEC and NCDEQ personnel will be available after the meeting for any further discussion and questions.

**Meeting end time: 1948**

#### Q&A

**Q: How does the removal system of co-chair members of the RAB work?**

A: RAB chair members can be removed from their position at any time, which includes showing an extended period of lack of participation (unresponsiveness, not attending meetings, etc.).

**Q: Will all data and cleanup documentation be made publicly available?**

A: Yes, all data and cleanup documentation will be made publicly available and where these documents are located will be published in the local newspaper. These documents will also be shared and reviewed at the RAB with Army officials to further assist in any needed explanations of the documents.

**Q: Who decides when the RAB is disbanded?**

A: The RAB itself decides when to disband, which usually depends on gauging public interest when public participation of the RAB has dropped off significantly. Even if the RAB disbands or becomes dormant, the government must solicit in the local newspaper for the formation of a RAB at least every two years.

**Q: Will there be any other ways that the RAB interest will be published?**

A: With the fall of newspaper usage, RAB interest has been solicited via digital media, to help spread awareness. The Army has also been brainstorming ideas to help spread awareness of RABs and other public meetings and are open to any suggestions, which can be made via the USAEC website under the “contact” tab.

**Q: Will the government provide foot soldiers to get into the community and help**

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**spread the word of these public events?**

A: This is a large reason why RABs were established, because the government lacks the manpower along with the knowledge and connections of local communities for this tactic. RABs are a place for local involvement within these cleanup efforts, and for these RAB members within the local community to help spread the information from these events.

**Q: Can RAB members and community members cycle on and off for the long-term health of the RAB?**

A: Yes, anyone can come and go into the RAB as they please. We encourage all involvement. Meeting minutes will also be provided (and translated to Spanish) for community members that might not be able to attend RAB meetings.

**Q: Is the RAB only associated with the underground cleanup, or are the aboveground structures a part of the RAB?**

A: The RAB is only associated with the underground cleanup activities in one section of the property that has been identified. The above ground structures are privately owned and those efforts are not a part of this RAB.

**Q: How do you determine if the RAB is effective and represents the community?**

A: The RAB will typically have 20 – 30 members on the board itself, which the Army believes is a large enough number to represent a range of community members. The RAB will also have a selection committee to further confirm RAB members represent the community to the best of its ability.

**Q: Does TAMP qualify as a FUDS?**

A: The site was transferred from DoD control after the date of October 17, 1986. Because of this transfer date, the Army is responsible for the cleanup process. Therefore, the site is not part of the FUDS program.

**Q: Does the RAB cover the TCE plume that is offsite, and has a source of this contamination plume been identified?**

A: USAEC has a report on soil vapor testing from this plume but has not yet reviewed it. It is likely there is another source of TCE contamination within this area, but the investigation is still ongoing to understand the significance and source.

**Q: Are all RAB meetings open to the public?**

A: Yes, all RAB meetings are open and encouraged for the public to attend.



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### ONLINE RESOURCES

- USAEC TAMP RAB Website: <https://aec.army.mil/index.php/tamp/tamp-rab>
- City of Burlington TAMP Website: <https://burlingtonnc.gov/2624/Western-Electric-Property>
- NCDEQ: [Division of Waste Management Site Locator Tool \(arcgis.com\)](#)