



# US Army Environmental Command Restoration Advisory Board Overview 03 October 2024



- What is a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)?
- Purpose of a Restoration Advisory Board
- RAB Development
- RAB Selection Process
- Who Can Participate in a RAB?
- Roles & Responsibilities of RAB Participants
- How does a RAB Operate?
- What makes an effective RAB?
- When is the RAB complete with its work?
- References



# What is a Restoration Advisory Board?

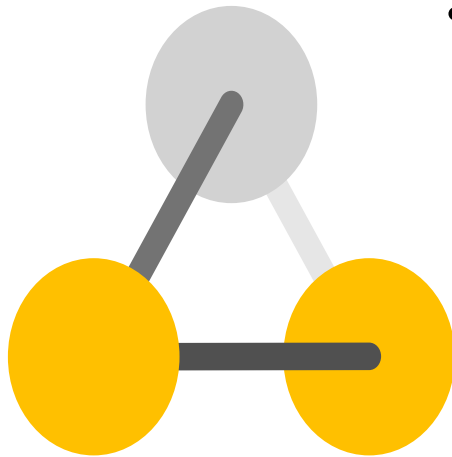
**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB):** A structured, collaborative forum to exchange information and allow community feedback on the environmental cleanup process.

- **RAB Participants should include:**
  - Local citizens and stakeholders
  - Army representatives
  - State representatives
- **Formation:** RABs are formed when the public expresses interest [per Department of Defense (DoD) Policy].
  - No interest = no RAB.



# Purpose of a RAB?

- Ensure stakeholders have an opportunity to express diverse viewpoints regarding environmental cleanup processes at Western Electric (TAMP).
  - ✓ RABs empower community members to actively participate in the environmental restoration process, while also encouraging them to share key information with their wider community to ensure transparency and collective involvement.

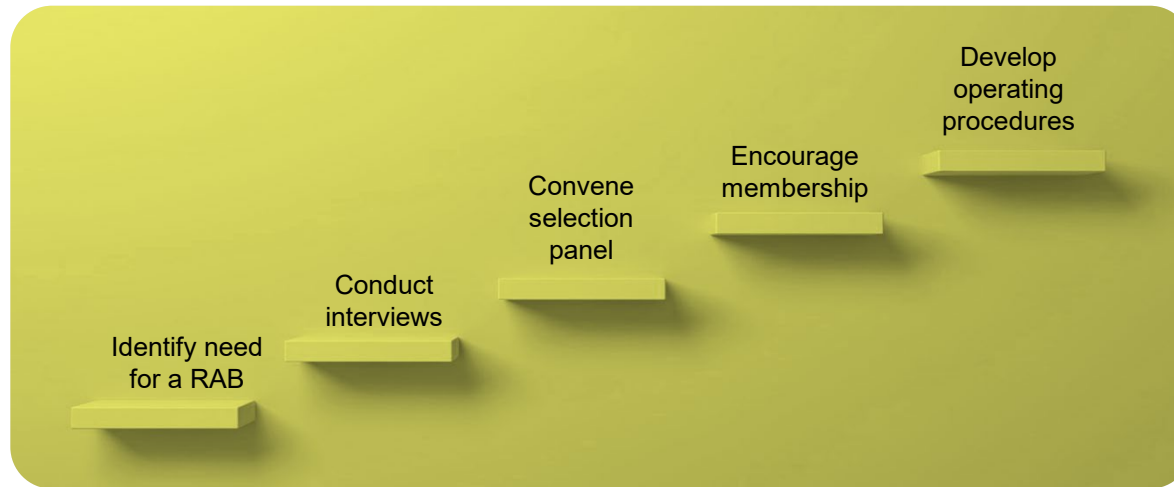


- **Examples of RAB activities:**

- ✓ Sharing information with and receiving information from the public
- ✓ Review environmental restoration documents, and
- ✓ Gather information regarding schedule and process updates of environmental restoration activities at Western Electric (TAMP)





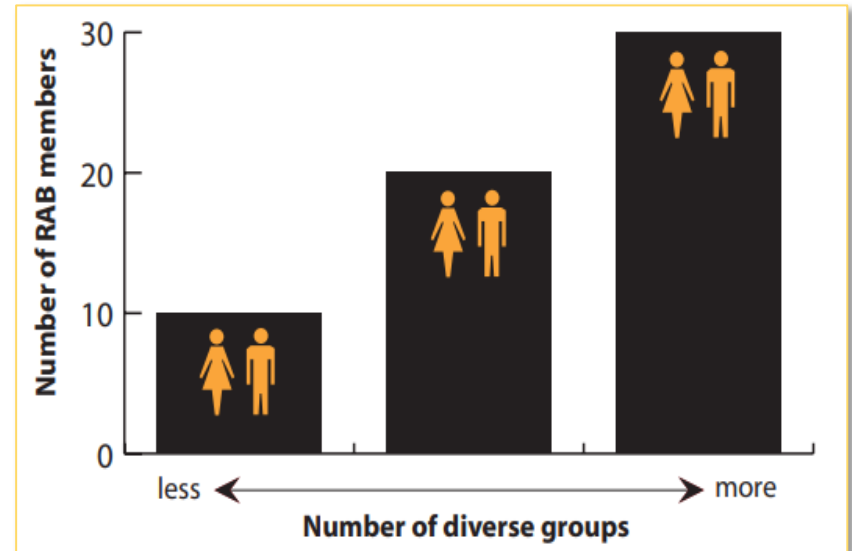


- **Criteria:** RAB will be formed when there is sufficient and sustained interest AND one of the following criteria are met:
  - ✓ Western Electric (TAMP) has determined a need for a RAB
  - ✓ At least 50 local citizens petitioned for a RAB: **CRITERIA MET**
  - ✓ Federal, tribal, state, or local government officials requested a RAB: **CRITERIA MET**
- **Responsible parties:** Western Electric (TAMP) representatives are responsible for RAB interest solicitation, evaluation, development, and implementation.
- **Assessing community interest:**
  - ✓ Release fact sheets, public announcements, press releases
  - ✓ Conduct interviews with local community members and organizations



# RAB Selection Process

- **Size**: ~ 20 to 30 representatives
  - ✓ One member each from the DoD and state
  - ✓ Remaining members from the public and other local agencies
- **Selection panel**: Army Lead, in conjunction with the State, select community member nominees who represent diverse community interests.
- **Two co-chair positions required**:
  - Selected by Army Lead & RAB community members, respectively;
    - ✓ One co-chair representing Army
    - ✓ One co-chair representing the community
- **Co-chair position duration**: Term lengths of each co-chair position are variable (typically one to two-year terms).
- **Additions to / removals**: Can occur at any time.



# Who Can Participate in a RAB?

- **RAB public members:**
  - Live or work in the affected community, or, be impacted by the restoration program in some capacity.
  - Reflect the unique interests and concerns of the local community.
- **Examples of community members and organizations:**



# Roles & Responsibilities of RAB members

- **RAB member responsibilities:**

- ✓ Prepare meeting agendas
- ✓ Prepare meeting minutes within two weeks of meeting
- ✓ Review and discuss technical documents and plans
- ✓ Make all information publicly available
- ✓ Respond to public comments in a reasonable timeframe

- **DoD-specific responsibilities:**

- ✓ Provide administrative support to the RAB
- ✓ Provide meeting facilities
- ✓ Maintain public mailing lists
- ✓ Print/distribute fact sheets and meeting minutes

***NOTE: Meeting minutes will be posted to City of Burlington - Western Electric Property webpage.***

## **Involvement:**

- Consistent engagement and regular meeting attendance of all RAB members is essential for success:
  - ✓ Attend training sessions, site tours, and workshops
  - ✓ Schedule regular meetings at accessible locations
  - ✓ Western Electric (TAMP), state, and other regulatory agency representatives are expected to attend all RAB meetings





# How Does a RAB Operate?



- **RAB Expectations:**

- Develop a brief mission statement outlining overall purpose.
- Develop a set of operating procedures defining:
  - ✓ frequency of meetings
  - ✓ attendance policies
  - ✓ process for responding to public comments
  - ✓ term lengths of co-chairs



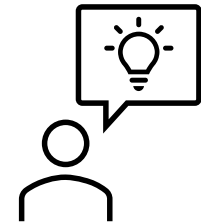
**NOTE:** Anyone interested in restoration activities and willing to dedicate their time may participate in RAB meetings, although they may not actually be a RAB member.



# What makes an effective RAB?

## RAB members are expected to:

- Attend all meetings
- Provide individual input in an open, honest and constructive manner
- Represent and communicate community concerns to other RAB members and act as a conduit for exchange of information
- Represent and communicate RAB issues to the community
- Serve as a resource on Western Electric (TAMP) RAB activities for community members



*A RAB that brings together diverse voices from the entire affected community fosters relationships and trust, creating a solid foundation for collaboration and shared success.*

*A successful and forward-moving public involvement program, like a RAB, thrives when all parties work together, minimizing delays and actively contributing to the progress of the project.*



## Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

- ✓ TAPP is a DoD program that provides technical assistance to RAB members and the public to better understand the complexities of environmental cleanups and helps encourage public participation, providing transparency throughout the phases of the cleanup process.
- ✓ TAPP helps community members more effectively articulate their concerns and preferences during the decision-making process.
- ✓ Eligible TAPP projects include technical assistance with interpreting technical documents into plain language, assessing technologies, explaining risk assessments and/or health assessments, or training, as requested by the RAB.
- ✓ The RAB must discuss using alternate sources prior to applying for TAPP, must be requested by a majority of community members of the RAB at Western Electric (TAMP), and be approved by the Army Lead to verify eligibility.



# When is the RAB Work Complete?

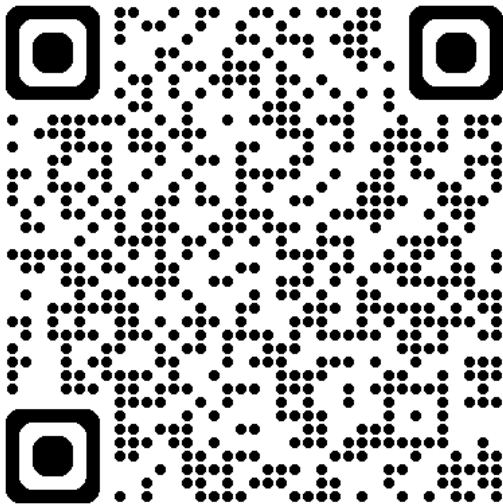


- RAB is complete when there are no more environmental restoration activities due to the facility or Western Electric (TAMP) reaching remedy in place or response complete (RC) status, or when the community is no longer interested in participation.
- In certain situations, a RAB may continue to operate after environmental restoration activities are complete, such as to review the decision of a CERCLA five-year review or to discuss long-term management of land use controls (LUCs) implemented at Western Electric (TAMP).
- Formal adjournment of a RAB is not required if a community loses interest; however, it is recommended.
  - ✓ Includes the Army Lead notifying RAB members, publishing the decision in a local newspaper, and documenting the rationale for the decision in the Administrative Record.



Office of the Secretary of Defense, 2007. *Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook* at [https://www.denix.osd.mil/rab/denix-files/sites/22/2016/03/RAB-Rule-Handbook\\_Final.pdf](https://www.denix.osd.mil/rab/denix-files/sites/22/2016/03/RAB-Rule-Handbook_Final.pdf)

U.S. EPA, 1994. *Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Implementation Guidelines* at <https://www.epa.gov/fedfac/restoration-advisory-board-rab-implementation-guidelines#background>



Western Electric (TAMP) RAB documents can be found on this USAEC web page.





# Open Discussion/Q&A

