

Environmental Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2008

Opening

The regular meeting of the Environmental Steering Committee (ESC) was called to order at 1:00 pm (EDT) on April 29, 2008 by James Biasco.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Steve Aoyama

James Biasco – Chair

Gordon Delchamps

Roger DeRoos

Paul Geisert

Burke Helmer

CJ Means

Dale Mossefin

Keith Shortall

John Smart

Deanne Waconda

Members Absent:

Gary Gefroh

Others Present:

N/A

NOTE: voting members are shown in bold type.

A. Old Business

1. Environmental Compliance Awareness Guide

- The final version was distributed to the Areas and posted on the DFO Web site. Contact Gordon if additional copies are desired.

2. Environmental Audit Process

- Roger provided an update on the IRT's activities and the status of the updated audit process.
- The OEHE Communication Piece was distributed to the ESC members and has been provided to the Areas undergoing pilot audits.

- Audits will be conducted using a three tier system.
 - Tier I –Completed Self Audit Questionnaire (SAQ)
 - Tier II – Completed SAQ + Telephone Survey and Additional Documentation
 - Tier III – Completed SAQ + Tier II + Full Comprehensive Audit OR Completed SAQ + Full Comprehensive Audit
- Pilot SAQ's are being completed at several representative Installations within the Albuquerque, Billings, and Oklahoma Areas. The Phoenix Indian Medical Center completed the first SAQ and many changes/improvements to the forms were incorporated as a result. Alaska and Bemidji Areas will also complete SAQ's for representative Installations.
- The Tier III audit protocol and associated checklists are in draft. The goal is to have some pilot sites audited before the Facility Manager's meeting in August. The IRT has asked the Areas to keep track of how much time is required to complete the SAQ.
- There were questions and discussion regarding time line, sites, data integration, FEDS, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Gordon will send the proposed pilot time line to the ESC.

3. Guidance Document

- The Guidance Document will be updated to include the following:
 - Underground Storage Tanks;
 - Process for lab analysis of asbestos samples;
 - Asbestos cement pipe;
 - O&M plans.
- The update stalled while the SAQ was being developed but should restart in May.

4. Previous Projects

- a. Environmental Remediation and Demolition of Building 211 at Sitka, AK (\$47k ER + \$79k D).
 - Funds were Adviced in FY-2000, Area indicates project is on hold pending historic issues.
- b. Souix San Hospital Hazardous Materials Remediation (\$200k ER).
 - Funds were Adviced in FY-2004, Area indicates “no activity.”

- c. Pine Ridge – Old Hospital Demo.
 - Waiting for decision on disposition and funding split. ES-Seattle is performing a survey/assessment of the building.
- d. Demolition of an Elevated Water Storage Tank and Miscellaneous Structures on the Walker River Paiute Reservation.
 - We are waiting for an approved Report of Survey and a HABS is currently being performed.
- e. Sells Hospital Lead and Asbestos Surveys, Abatement and Demolition of Quarters Building Numbers 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 603, 604, 605, and 610.
 - The new Area Facility Manager is working toward completing the Report of Survey for Building 592.
- f. Tanana Environmental Remediation
 - The ESC agreed to fund this project and requests for Advice of Allowance have been submitted to Finance. However, due to backlog and additional workload associated with UFMS GoLive, funds have not yet been Advised to the Area.

NOTE: There was verbal indication from Finance (Ione) on 5/6/2008 that the funds had just been Advised to the Area although we don't yet have hardcopy verification.
 - We discussed whether unexpended funds should be taken back from Areas that do not show progress toward project completion within a reasonable time.
 - The ESC maintains a list of outstanding projects and their status. During future meetings the list will be discussed and the ESC will decide whether to pull back funding.
 - When the Areas are asked for status updates the email will state that the funding will be pulled back if not used in a timely manner.

5. Position on Mold

- The final version was distributed to the Areas and is posted on the DFO Web site.

6. Other Old Business

- None

B. New Business

1. Cleanup of FEDS and BEMAR

- Environmentally-related BEMAR is just under \$20M.
- To present an accurate picture of environmental needs, Areas need to assure all environmentally-related data in HFDS is accurate, coded correctly, and cost estimates are up to date.
- EarthTech performed environmental audits in the late 1990's and many of the audits recommended that additional testing be performed.
 - Roger stated that the follow-up testing for lead and asbestos has been performed in the Aberdeen, Albuquerque, Nashville, Navajo (except for Crownpoint, Gallup, and Kayenta), and Phoenix Areas. Roger indicated that work has been done in Oklahoma but was unsure how complete the coverage was. He also mentioned that four service units were recently completed in the Portland Area but is not sure if they have completed required work at all sites.
 - Roger indicated he does not know the status of follow-up testing in the Alaska and Bemidji, Billings, and Tucson Areas. Burke indicated that some follow-up work had been completed in the Billings Area.

ACTION ITEM: Gordon will draft an e-mail to the Facility Managers requesting they update all environmentally-related FEDS and BEMAR items.

ACTION ITEM: Give Areas a deadline (July 31) to verify/update deficiencies and associated cost estimates.

ACTION ITEM: Ask Areas for status report on progress toward completing EarthTech-recommended testing.

2. Technical Handbook Chapters

- All environmentally-related and demolition chapters need to be updated. Most are drafts from the late 1990's and no longer reflect current practices and/or desires.
- Some chapters are dependent on the Audit process so updates have been in abeyance as the Audit chapter is an "anchor" for several other chapters. An initial update of the Audit chapter has been completed and provided to the ESC for information.
- A workgroup was formed but has not yet met.

ACTION ITEM: Convene the workgroup to begin updates.

3. Expanding Use of Funding

- There was a lot of discussion regarding whether we should allow use of Environmental Remediation and/or Demolition funds for:
 - Repair-by-Replacement projects or should it all come from the “construction” funds?
 - Build-back after remediation to allow total projects the Areas could not otherwise afford.
- We have the *Guidance Document for Managing Hazardous Materials in IHS Buildings* to help determine when remediation is necessary.
- The ESC did not agree on whether to fund in-kind replacement after abatement/remediation.
- No decisions were reached regarding expanding the use of funding.

See also the discussion regarding the following agenda item - M&I Workgroup.

4. M&I Workgroup

- The M&I workgroup is looking at Environmental Remediation and Demolition funding to determine whether funding levels are adequate and whether the set-asides are correct or should be adjusted?
- The hospitals at Pine Ridge, Talihina, Ft. Belknap, and Crow need to be demolished or prepared for transfer but demo may not be politically possible. If they are demolished, we may have sufficient Environmental funds but be short of Demolition funds.
- We would need Congressional approval to change the amounts and may also need tribal consultation.
- The funds cannot be used to repair or remodel a building for transfer.
- The *Guidance Document for Managing Hazardous Materials in IHS Buildings* should guide the level of remediation required.
- We should determine what funding levels are required before changing current levels.

See also the discussion regarding the previous agenda item - Expanding Use of Funding.

ACTION ITEM: Gordon will look at past funding trends and what may be anticipated for the future. He will send the information to the ESC along with the list of excess buildings and the Three Year Timeline.

5. Funds Available Recap

- We discussed the funds balances in the Environmental Remediation fund and the Demolition fund.
- The following funds are currently available:
 - \$8,070,047 – Environmental Remediation.
 - \$8,020,449 if Committed but not Advised funds are subtracted.
 - \$947,649 – Demolition.
 - \$35,049 if Committed but not Advised funds are subtracted.

NOTE: The figures reported during the meeting inadvertently omitted funds committed to the Tanana project. The following figures reflect those commitments:

- **\$8,070,047 – Environmental Remediation.**
 - **\$6,442,449 if Committed but not Advised funds (including Tanana) are subtracted.**
- **\$947,649 – Demolition.**
 - **(\$678,951) if Committed but not Advised funds (including Tanana) are subtracted.**

However, subsequent phases of the Tanana project are not scheduled until 2009 (Phase 2, 2101-2015 (Phase 3), and 2015 (Phase 4).

6. PSD Review and Project Award

- A total of ten (10) PSD's for Environmental Remediation projects and five (5) PSD's for Demolition projects were submitted and received. One PSD for Environmental Remediation and one for Demolition were withdrawn. Therefore, nine (9) PSD's for Environmental Remediation projects and four (4) PSD's for Demolition projects were reviewed by the ESC.
- Each PSD was reviewed and discussed in detail by the ESC.
 - a. Environmental Remediation Projects
 - **ACTION ITEM: The ESC recommended funding the following six (6) Environmental Remediation projects:**

- Alaska – Kakanak Environmental Cleanup (AN8KA002Z6) – \$253,000
- Alaska – Kakanak Eroding Graves (AN8KA001H6) – \$61,000
- Alaska – Phase I Environmental Assessment of Old Kotzebue Quarters Site (AN8KZ001Z7) – \$32,000
- Billings – Poplar, Montana Building 41 Repair by Replacement (BI08FP204C6) – \$42,539
- Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Demolition at Chinle, Fort Defiance, Gallup, and Window Rock – \$5647
- Phoenix – Ft. McDermitt Health Station Abatement and Demolition (PH8SZ001C6) – \$41,000
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC requested that the Area **provide clarification and/or additional information** regarding the following three (3) Environmental Remediation projects:
 - Alaska – Housing Boiler Replacement at Kakanak, Alaska (Reimbursement) – \$159,300

The project is partially fundable. The BBAHC requested \$176,050, however, the following line items are not reimbursable:

- Housing Residents Emergency Displacement – \$1896
- Food Allowance – \$1000
- On-site Asbestos Physical for Employees Exposed – \$2188
- Temporary Boiler Hook-ups – \$11,665

They must also validate/substantiate the cost associated with the line item Procurement of Building 316 Abatement [RFP, Bid, & Award] – \$4862.

ACTION ITEM: The Area must provide a revised PSD with an updated cost estimate with the disallowed line items removed and procurement costs validated/substantiated.

- Oklahoma – Pre-transfer Environmental Assessment at WW Hastings – \$165,000 (requested)

The Area must provide a signed copy of the PSD and a detailed cost estimate indicating work to be done – Phase 1 site assessments typically cost less than \$25,000.

ACTION ITEM: The Area must provide a signed PSD and an updated cost estimate justifying the funds requested.

- Oklahoma – Talihina Indian Hospital Complex Remediation and Demolition – \$168,300 (requested)

The ESC would like the Area to keep this process moving and begin remediating the outlying buildings. The Area must use the *Guidance Document for Managing Hazardous Materials in IHS Buildings* to guide the level of remediation required. Lead-based paint may not need to be removed if the building will be demolished. In the outlying buildings, is it possible that some LBP can be left in some areas if it is in good condition and the tribe is advised of the need for a management plan? If this approach is not used, please justify complete removal.

It was not clear to the ESC if the \$168,000 requested includes all remediation, e.g., removal of CFC's in the old hospital, removal of lead contaminated soils, etc. Will the \$5000 requested for asbestos removal be adequate for all pre-demo ACM removal?

The ESC requests that all pre-demo remediation in the old hospital continue along with separation of utilities and stoppage of any operations (storage, etc.) which require individuals to enter the building.

The Area must provide an accurate cost estimate itemizing all environmental remediation work associated with the hospital separately from the outlying buildings. The estimate must be clear about what costs relate to outlying buildings and what costs relate to the old hospital.

NOTE: See same project under Demolition Projects.

ACTION ITEM: The Area must answer the questions above, revise the PSD, if necessary, to reflect actual work required, and update the cost estimate commensurate with the revised scope.

b. Demolition Projects

- **ACTION ITEM: The ESC recommended funding the following three (3) Demolition projects:**

- Billings – Poplar, Montana Building 41 Repair by Replacement (BI08FP204C6) – \$18,000
- Navajo – Environmental Remediation and Demolition at Chinle, Fort Defiance, Gallup, and Window Rock – \$107,353
- Phoenix – Ft. McDermitt Health Station Abatement and Demolition (PH8SZ001C6) – \$64,000
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC recommended against funding the following Demolition project:
 - Oklahoma – Talihina Indian Hospital Complex Remediation and Demolition – \$2,057,000 (requested)

The ESC would like the Area to keep this process moving and begin remediating the outlying buildings. The Area must use the *Guidance Document for Managing Hazardous Materials in IHS Buildings* to guide the level of remediation required. Lead-based paint may not need to be removed if the building will be demolished. Although it may not be necessary to remove all of the lead prior to disposal, a study should be made to determine what portion of the demolition debris may require special handling and disposal. This should be a part of the overall demolition plan for the hospital.

The Area must develop a demolition plan that addresses, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- Removal of items stored in the hospital building;
- Historical activities required (HABS);
- Remaining environmental studies required;
- Rerouting/relocation of utilities to outlying buildings;
- Removal of recoverable materials from building interior (piping, wiring, mechanical equipment, etc.);
- Smokestack demolition;
- Other site preparation activities;
- Etc.

The Area must also provide a more detailed itemized cost estimate with costs associated with each of the elements defined in the demolition plan.

NOTE: See same project under Environmental Remediation Projects.

ACTION ITEM: The Area must develop a demolition plan for the hospital building and provide a detailed itemized cost estimate for each element in the demolition plan.

7. Other New Business

- None

C. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The date and time of the next Environmental Steering Committee meeting will be determined but will be scheduled for September 2008 at the latest. The agenda will be developed and distributed to all members prior to the meeting.

D. Adjournment

James Biasco adjourned the meeting at 3:16 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by: Gordon Delchamps

Approved by: James R. Biasco