

Environmental Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2006

Opening

The regular meeting of the Environmental Steering Committee (ESC) was called to order at 12:00 pm (EDT) on July 27, 2006 by Gordon Delchamps.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Steve Aoyama

Gordon Delchamps

Roger DeRoos

Gary Gefroh

CJ Means

Dale Mossefin

Keith Shortall

Deanne Waconda

Members Absent:

James Biasco, Chair

Roger Carmichael

John Smart

Others Present:

Doug Clark (Navajo Area)

Gilbert Harrison (Navajo Area)

Glenn Tsingine (Navajo Area)

NOTE: voting members are shown in bold type.

A. Old Business

1. Guidance Document

- Official name is *Guidance Document for Managing Hazardous Materials in IHS Facilities*.
- The document is in use and available on the Web site.
 - a. Chapter 75-9

- To officially implement the Guidance Document, a Technical Handbook Chapter will be issued. The related Transmittal Notice must indicate which other documents are affected. Roger has prepared a list and will coordinate with Gordon.
- The next version of the Guidance Document should address O&M plans for various materials. It will also address changes related to affected documents mentioned in the previous bullet. We will soon begin working toward a new release and will use the same workgroup with some new members – CJ volunteered.

2. Commander's Guide

- All environmental chapters are in draft form and work has begun on the safety chapters.
 - a. IRT meetings
 - Standing meetings are scheduled for the third Friday of each month.

3. New FEDS Code

- There are two new codes to be used for coding environmentally related items in the FEDS list. They became necessary after development of the *Guidance Document*.
 - a. Code 44 – *Environmental Practices (EHS)* includes items such as MSDS, hazardous materials handling plans, management plans, etc.
 - b. Code 45 – *Environmental Responsibility* includes items that do not require immediate action and may not ever require action but can be included for tracking purposes. The items may be covered under an O&M plan and not currently require abatement/remediation.

4. On-line Document Repository

- A listing of documents submitted is available on the Engineering Services Web site
- Plans are being formulated to make electronic copies of the reports available on the Web site.

5. Technical Documents

- a. Technical Handbook Chapters

- The initial review of these chapters assessment has been completed and several changes are dependent on possible revisions to the environmental assessment process. The item was tabled until next meeting
- i. Use Environmental Assessment (Audit) resource team
 - The same Internal Resource Team (IRT) will be used for both the changes to the Environmental Assessment process guidelines and the updates of the Technical Handbook chapters. New team members will be identified for this assignment.

b. Environmental Assessments

i. Protocol/guidelines

- We need a resource team (as noted above) to develop/update the protocol/guideline. Gordon will talk to John Smart about potential candidates for this assignment. It will be best to have members heavily skewed toward subject matter content and environmental experience.
- Deanne Waconda volunteered and Gordon will talk to the new member from ES – Seattle (Paul Geisert). Dale would like to have an ANTHC member involved.
- We would like to have the group together by mid-September or October.

ACTION: Send names of qualified candidates to Gordon.

ii. ANTHC DEHE involvement

- ANTHC DEHE is interested in assisting in the development of the assessment guidelines. They have delayed assessments in hopes of using the new guidelines and offering pilot sites.

iii. Funding

- Funding will be identified as the process proceeds.

iv. Pilot sites

- We would like to use a representative sample of our facilities as pilot sites. The actual sites will be selected as the process proceeds.

6. Previous Projects

a. Chinle Duplexes

- This is a previously deferred project entitled Environmental Remediation and Building Demolition Chinle Duplexes 2001-2006. The Area has decided to demolish the buildings and requests the funding that was tentatively approved in the April 5, 2005 minutes.
- The ESC **recommended funding** \$86,000.

b. San Xavier Lagoon

- This project was agreed to in 2003 and will provide environmental funds to correct environmental problems associated with the sewage lagoons serving the San Xavier compound. James Biasco will honor the previously made commitment and fund the project.
- The estimate from FY-01 totaled \$160,000
- On May 12, 2003, \$600,000 was Advised to the Area for “Environmental Remediation of San Xavier Lagoon by Connection to City Sewer System.”
- The Area must **provide an updated PSD, current cost estimate, explain how this work is in addition to what was already approved.**

B. New Business

1. Position on Mold

- Gary Gefroh was requested to develop the Committee’s position on mold. The position must contain rationale for the decision and will be incorporated into a Technical Handbook chapter.

ACTION ITEM: Gary will research several sources and develop the official position paper.

2. Funds Available Recap

- We discussed the funds balances and the listings of Environmental Remediation and Demolition projects awarded.
- We have environmental remediation projects to perform and buildings to dispose of. We need the Areas to submit PSD’s for funding.
- The call for PSD’s included Area totals of environmental deficiencies listed in HFDS and instructions how to print a report that will show buildings they indicate

are to be demolished or transferred. HFDS, Admin Tab, FAQ's, General, Vacant Excess Building Report.

- The following funds are currently available:
 - \$7,462,906 – Environmental Remediation.
 - \$843,794 – Demolition.

3. PSD Review and Project Award

- A total of fifteen (15) PSD's for Environmental Remediation projects and four (4) Demolition projects were submitted, received, and 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 five (5) Environmental Remediation projects:
 - Alaska – Asbestos Remediation and Hazardous Materials Disposal at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital – the original request was for \$374,780

The scope of this project has changed. The Area withdrew the portion of the project associated with disposal of 55-gallon drums. All remediation activities associated with asbestos abatement and disposal remain – the project will be funded for \$98,500.
 - Albuquerque – Environmental Surveys at Albuquerque, Mescalero, Santa Fe, Taos, and Zuni Service Units – \$434,000
 - Nashville – Environmental Review Project for IHS Facilities Located in Cherokee, NC and Choctaw, MS – \$39,842

This project is fundable. The ESC would like a listing of the specific facilities covered under this project.
 - Navajo – Comprehensive Environmental Surveys for Asbestos, Lead-Based Paint, and Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility, Tsaile Health Center, Many Farms Clinic, and Old Pinon Clinic – \$749,000
 - Phoenix – Asbestos Abatement Phoenix Indian Medical Center Building 233 – \$215,000

- Phoenix – Demolition of Building 240 - Boneyard at San Carlos – \$14,900

The Area will have a NESHAPS survey prior to remediation.

- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC requested that each respective Area **provide clarification** regarding the following six (6) Environmental Remediation projects:

- Aberdeen – Evaluate Underground Storage Tanks in the Aberdeen Area – \$25,000

The Area should perform evaluations on all tanks not covered under other projects. The evaluations will give a better understanding of what work needs to be done. The subsequent projects should include field work and leak testing.

The ESC requested that the Area fund this project and, if over the threshold, request reimbursement for evaluations and corrective actions necessary.

- Aberdeen – Replace Underground Storage Tank at Eagle Butte PHS Indian Hospital – \$42,000

This project is tentatively fundable. The ESC requested clarification regarding how and where the tank and sludge will be disposed of. The Area must assure that they are disposed of in an authorized manner at a state authorized site.

- Aberdeen – Replace Underground Storage Tanks at Rosebud PHS Indian Hospital – \$141,000

This project is tentatively fundable. The ESC requested clarification regarding: Has soil contamination has been verified? Why the tanks are being replaced? What regulatory requirements mandate replacement? What other factors dictate replacement? What factors indicate these tanks are a concern?

- Albuquerque – Lead Based Paint and Asbestos Abatement at Santa Fe Field Health Building – \$500,000

The remediation/abatement portion of this project is tentatively fundable. However, the project includes \$390,000 to address historic issues./concerns. The ESC requests the Area to reconsider

whether they want to pursue this project in light of only \$110,000 for abatement/remediation.

- Oklahoma – Abatement of Hazardous Materials - Campus Wide at Lawton Indian Hospital – \$1,683,600

The ESC requested a breakdown of short term need with timelines and what the funding will be used for. Oklahoma has received in excess of \$2M to address ACM, LBP, and CFC's and the PSD's requesting those funds specifically mentioned Lawton. How is this work outside what has already been awarded? The Area needs to indicate what portion of the request will be used for renovation.

- Phoenix – IHS Properties Arizona, Nevada, and Utah Environmental Assessments – \$105,000

This project is tentatively fundable. The ESC requested clarification regarding historical significance.

- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended against funding** the following one (1) Environmental Remediation project:

- Nashville – Mold Remediation Project - Nashville Area Regional Youth Treatment Facility Cherokee, NC – \$158,978

This project is not fundable. Mold does not fit the intent of the Environmental Remediation funds and the ESC does not fund mold remediation. If the damaged materials contain ACM or LBP, their removal and disposal can be funded. It is unknown whether ACM and LBP surveys have been performed no whether those materials exist in the affected areas. If assessments have not been performed, the Areas should request funding to have true assessments done. The Area should provide a listing of all other hazards in the affected areas. The project as submitted is not fundable. If assessments show the existence of other hazards, the Area should submit a PSD for their removal.

- The following two (2) projects were withdrawn by the submitting Area:

- Navajo – Environmental Remediation at Winslow Indian Health Center, Luepp Clinic, and Dilcon Clinic – \$110,080

Surveys have been completed but there have been changes in the use plan. The Area will reassess and resubmit to reflect the changes in the use plan.

- Oklahoma – Remediation and Mitigation of 8.5 Acre Woods at Tahlequah – \$109,000

b. Demolition Projects

- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended funding** the following two (2) Demolition projects:
 - Albuquerque – Building 00029 Demolition - Albuquerque Area Indian Health Center – \$75,000
 - Phoenix – Demolition of Building 240 - Boneyard at San Carlos – \$36,100
- **ACTION ITEM:** The ESC **recommended against funding** the following two (2) Demolition projects:
 - Oklahoma – Demolition and Removal of Solar Hot Water System at Tahlequah – \$45,000

The solar hot water system is part of a system. The intent of the Demolition funds are to remove items from the Real Property Inventory (RPI) and not to demolish unwanted parts of systems.

- Oklahoma – Demolition of Cooling Tower and North Property Line Fence at Lawton Indian Hospital – \$34,800

The intent of the Demolition funds are to remove items from the RPI. If the Area can demonstrate that the cooling tower is in the RPI that portion of the project is fundable.

c. Emergency PSD

- Phoenix Area submitted an emergency PSD to remediate soil due to a propane leak. The work has been completed and the Area requests reimbursement. The ESC agreed to reimburse \$30,000.

ACTION ITEM: Keith will provide actual costs.

4. Dental Decommissioning Pilot

- A briefing was provided regarding the FDA's request for a dental facility and approximately \$16,000 funding to develop protocol for decommissioning dental facilities.

ACTION ITEM: The ESC recommends funding the \$15,944 and requests that the FDA provide a copy of the study design.

5. Replacement Member

- Roger Carmichael's term expires this year. We have two nominees from the previous request for members. It was agreed that Burke Helmer would replace Roger as a voting member of the ESC and that Paul Giesert would join as an ex-officio member.

ACTION ITEM: Gordon will notify the new members and provide them they required information.

6. Other New Business

- It was noted that we do not have closure on any of the projects funded with Environmental Remediation or Demolition funds. There is a draft Technical Handbook Chapter 75-6 titled *Final Reports for Environmental Remediation and Demolition Projects*. However, it has not been used and no reports have been submitted.

Beginning this cycle, the Committee will require close-out reports for all projects funded with Environmental Remediation funds and/or Demolition funds. Until final determination is made regarding the chapters, the reports should comply with Chapter 24-8 *Project Final Report* dated September 30, 1996. If reports are not received for projects funded from this cycle forward further funding will not be awarded.

ACTION ITEM: As an interim measure, Gordon will ask each Area to provide the status of each previously funded project.

C. Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Environmental Steering Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled. Once a meeting is determined necessary, a date will be determined and an agenda will be developed and distributed to all members.

D. Adjournment

Gordon Delchamps adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM EDT.

Minutes submitted by: Gordon Delchamps

Approved by: James R. Biasco