



Restoration Advisory Board



What is it?

- Department of Defense organization
- Authorized, established, led by GC or designee
- Serves as forum for discussion and exchange of restoration program information between the Army and the community
- Includes:
 - DOD [Army] representatives
 - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - State environmental regulatory agencies
 - Local government agencies
 - Tribal governments
 - Members of the local community
- Reflects the diverse makeup of the community



Restoration Advisory Board



Purpose

- Provides input to the Garrison Commander or Site Manager
- Facilitates information exchange between installation and community
- Provides stakeholder opportunities to:
 - Participate in the restoration process
 - Monitor restoration progress
 - Make community views/concerns known to the decision-makers
 - Review progress for restoration activities
 - Establish and promote dialogue between installation decision makers and those affected by their decisions



Restoration Advisory Board



RAB Establishment

- Decision of commander
- Based on survey of interest
- No more than 30 individuals
- No smaller than is necessary to reflect diverse community interests
- Focused on environmental restoration ONLY
- Leadership responsibilities shared by installation appointed and community elected co-chairs
- Develops ground rules and operating procedures which define responsibilities within the RAB



Restoration Advisory Board



Examples of Community Interests

- Affected community
- Business community
- Homeowners associations
- Local environmental groups
- Environmental justice groups
- Local officials
- Health officials
- Senior citizen associations
- Civic groups
- Installation workers
- Installation residents



Restoration Advisory Board



Garrison Commander Role

- Selects installation representatives/participants
- Contacts EPA, tribal, state and local government and/or regulatory agencies to request appointment of respective RAB members
- Identifies diverse community interests (with stakeholders)
- Organizes a selection panel to nominate RAB members
- Ensures community members live or work in affected area
- Ensures priority given to those community members directly affected/impacted approves final list of initial RAB members.



Restoration Advisory Board



Installation Role

- Educates/informs community members about the Defense Environmental Restoration Program and Army environmental decision-making process
- Facilitates productive community participation
- Helps members understand and participate in the relative risk site evaluation and/or munitions response site prioritization protocol processes
- Helps members understand the Army budgeting process; develops budget requests and advises RAB of funds provided
- Provides cleanup alternatives, including implications of choices
- Provides technical support as required



Restoration Advisory Board



RAB Member Role

- Addresses important issues related to environmental restoration
 - Scope of studies
 - Cleanup levels
 - Remedial action alternatives
- Reviews documents (plans and technical reports)
- Provides input on priorities among sites/projects
- Participates in meetings
- Documents decisions; makes information available to public
- Discusses future land-use issues with appropriate planning bodies



Restoration Advisory Board



Community Co-chair Role

- Coordinates meeting order and agenda matters with community RAB members and Installation Co-chair
- Assists in the dissemination of information to the general public
- Ensures that RAB membership reflects diverse interests within the community (jointly with Installation Co-chair)
- Ensures community issues and concerns related to cleanup activities are addressed (jointly with Installation Co-chair)
- Ensures that the RAB has the opportunity to participate in decision processes (jointly with Installation Co-chair)



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Installation Co-chair Role

- Coordinates meeting order and agenda matters with community RAB members and Community co-chair
- Ensures that adequate administrative support is provided to the RAB
- Ensures that RAB membership reflects diverse interests within the community (jointly w/ Community Co-chair)
- Ensures community issues and concerns related to cleanup activities are addressed (jointly w/ Community Co-chair)
- Ensures that the RAB has the opportunity to participate in decision processes (jointly w/ Community Co-chair)



Restoration Advisory Board



RAB Responsibilities

- Mission statement/charter
- Operating procedures – Individual RABs are encouraged to develop their own unique and installation-specific operating procedures
 - Determine meeting frequency
 - Establish membership rules
 - Attendance requirements
 - Selection of new members
 - Removal of non-participating members
 - Meeting format
 - Adjournment process
 - Usually occurs when restoration decisions are completed
 - Can be adjourned due to lack of sustained community interest
 - Formal adjournment recommended, though not required



Restoration Advisory Board



Formal Adjournment Process

- Can make decision to adjourn when:
 - All restoration decisions are made or all sites have response complete/remedies installed
 - Sustained lack of community interest
 - Property transfers to non-DoD entity
- Installation Commander may adjourn the RAB after consulting with and considering comments from community, EPA, state, tribes, RAB
- Installation Commander formalizes adjournment by :
 - Notifying RAB members in writing
 - Publishing notice of adjournment in the local paper
 - Describing ongoing opportunities for public involvement
 - Documenting rationale for adjournment in Admin Record



Restoration Advisory Board



Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

- Department of Defense program
 - Only community members (not government members) are eligible to apply for assistance
 - Minimum of three RAB community members apply
- Provide access to independent technical consultants
 - Interpret technical documents
 - Assessing technologies
- Helps community members understand scientific and engineering reports and documents
- Related to specific environmental restoration activities



Restoration Advisory Board



Ineligible for TAPP

- Activities associated with non-restoration issues
- Litigation of underwriting legal actions
- Political activity and lobbying
- Generation of new primary data
- Disputing remedy selection
- Reopening final Army decisions
- Epidemiological or health studies
- Community outreach
 - Reproducing reports
 - Conducting site tours
 - Obtaining meeting rooms



Restoration Advisory Board



Questions?