

# **SOUTH WEBER CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING**

## **TOUR OF SOUTH WEBER OPERABLE UNITS HILL AFB ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING LOCATIONS**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 03 June 2008

**TIME COMMENCED:** 4:05 p.m.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>MAYOR:</b>	Joseph Gertge
	<b>COUNCILMEMBERS:</b>	Scott Peterson
		Michael Poff (4:57 p.m.)
		Farrell Poll
		Scott Woodbury
	<b>CITY MANAGER:</b>	Matt Dixon
	<b>CITY RECORDER:</b>	Erika Ahlstrom
	<b>DEPUTY RECORDER:</b>	Emily Thomas

**EXCUSED:** **COUNCILMEMBER:** David Thomas

### **HILL AFB REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Mark Loucks, Hill AFB Environmental Management**  
**Kyle Gorder, Hill AFB Environmental Engineer**  
**B (Barbara) Hall, Hill AFB Environmental Engineer**  
**David Harris, Hill AFB Community Relations, Concordia Communications**  
**Carly Brown, Hill AFB Community Relations, Concordia Communications**

**Visitors:** Brent Michelson, Bryce Michelson, Brent Poll.

Packets of information with maps and pamphlets were provided by Hill AFB.

Mark Loucks introduced himself and gave a brief history of how the contamination plumes came into being. He said that the Base used to manufacture munitions and became an Air Base in World War II. Hill AFB has historically been a logistics center where airplanes are repaired, which required the use of paint strippers and degreasers. Mark stated that before environmental regulations were put in place in the mid 1970's, the protocol to dispose of waste was to dump it in the ground around the perimeter of the Base. Contamination also resulted from fire training areas. Mark explained the term "operable unit" is an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) term used to describe geographical area of contamination.

Mark said as laws developed throughout the early 1980's the State of Utah informed the Air Force they had to do something about the contamination. He agreed that the Air Force was not as cooperative in the beginning. Mark assured the Council the Air Force is now being proactive and agrees that this is their responsibility. He said Environmental Management is trying to restore the ground waters and soil the best they can with the physical parameters they are given. Mark said that is the mission within the Restoration Department and they have very good scientist working toward this effort.

Brent Poll referred to interviews that were held with people who did the dumping. He believes copies of these interviews should be provided to the city.

At this time the following individuals travelled via the Hill AFB bus transport: Mayor Joe Gertge, Councilmembers Scott Peterson, Farrell Poll and Scott Woodbury, Matt Dixon, Erika Ahlstrom, Emily Thomas, Marks Loucks, Kyle Gorder, B Hall, Carly Brown, Brent Michelson, Bryce Michelson, and a driver. David Harris drove a separate vehicle. Brent Poll followed in his own vehicle.

Mark said that within the plumes there is potential for evaporation of contaminants from the ground water to come into homes. They sample the air in the homes on an annual basis. However, testing is done quarterly if there is detection of contaminants above action level. Mark briefly explained the sampling process. Vapor mitigation systems are offered and recommended to those residents in whose homes contaminant vapors have been detected above action levels. Mark said there are challenges due to homeowners having other chemicals in the home that interfere with the testing, i.e. gun cleaners, items that have been dry cleaned. A map was provided with the most recent air sampling results for OU1 and OU2, which includes homes that have mitigation systems installed. Mark indicated that if a new owner moves in and desires re-sampling, Environmental Management will provide that service.

Mark explained the major compound in the operable units is TCE (trichlorethylene). There are other chemicals, but this is they chemical with the largest footprint area. Mayor Gertge said he worked with this chemical when he worked on the Base, and it would make people pass out. Matt said with new development coming in, if someone is digging, does the chemical dissipate once it is exposed to the air. Mark responded that it dissipates very quickly. He said it evaporates faster than water, and once it hits sunlight it degrades fairly readily. Kyle added that in areas such as Canyon Meadows even if one were to dig so low as to hit the ground water, the concentration levels are very low.

Councilmember Woodbury asked about the substance that Brent Poll has referred to, the “yellow oozy” substance. Mark responded that what Brent is referring to is iron oxidation, iron in its reducing condition. He said most soils in Utah contains iron, and with iron is arsenic. He explained that the landfills on the Base above Brent’s property concentrated the levels of iron and complicated the geochemical conditions. Mark said where the springs come out you see the iron turn into rust. .

Discussion took place about testing for other chemicals. The representatives from Environmental Management assured the Council they test for numerous harmful chemicals. They said they are working to keep people from coming into contact with the contaminants.

The group arrived at the first location on Hill AFB near the Golf Course Clubhouse, where they had a view of the sources of OU1. The sources pointed out where a fire training area and landfills. B explained the direction of flow of the plumes as indicated on the maps. (Councilmember Poff arrived at 4:57 p.m. when the group was at this location.)

The group travelled to the next location. On the bus, discussion ensued about what level of contamination is deemed below action level. Mark said they use the EPA standard of the maximum safe level of the chemical that can be in drinking water, which is one part per million. Councilmember Peterson added that when a person pumps gas into their car, they get a whole lot greater exposure to harmful contaminants.

Mark said he doesn’t want to sugar coat this, and there were a lot of chemicals dumped, but they are doing their best. He added there are some places there is not much they can do that is better than nature to remove the contaminants. Mark said most of the concentrations are stuck on the Base. They have cut off the feed, the OU’s are stable, they are starting to shrink which takes time.

The group arrived at the second location, which overlooked the Poll property with the arsenic impacted sediment. B explained the geochemistry was adjusted as a result of the landfill and there is arsenic contaminated sediment in the springs along the hillside. B said that where the water has surfaced the arsenic levels are above the safe level. These areas are fenced and have warning signage. She said a trench has reduced the migration of water from the landfills. The record of decision was that after a spring has been dry for 5 years, Environmental Management will go in and remove the sediment, replace with clean backfill, and restore the site. An RFP is out, and this will be done this fall on one of the sites.

The group travelled to the last location – OU2 SRS Building. Kyle explained a chemical disposal pit was located just west of this building, where 50,000 gallons of waste was dumped. They have recovered 45,000 gallons and shipped it for incineration. Kyle showed a jar with a sample of TCE and grease. Kyle stated part of the system to control the movement of the chemical is a slurry containment wall around the disposal pit, which was put into place in 1996. Monitoring shows that this has been effective.

Brent Poll expressed his disagreement that only 50,000 gallons were dumped, stating there is no data to support that. He referred to reports of shipments of 300,000 gallons of the chemical coming on Base. Kyle said there have been numerous studies and he has never found any indication there are those kinds of volumes. Mark and Kyle informed Brent there are accurate records for OU5.

It was discussed that if Environmental Management were to find something new in their testing, they would take action.

Brent expressed concern about his family members digging, such as a post hole, as he has seen an oily substance. It was discussed this may be a result of natural vegetation. Mark encouraged Brent to call Environmental Management if he ever sees something of concern so they can sample it.

The group loaded onto the bus to return to the South Weber City office.

Councilmember Poff asked about the safety of drinking water. It was discussed that this is monitored regularly by the State and the County.

Councilmember Poff requested that Environmental Management coordinate with the City as they move forward with the arsenic cleanup to ensure slope stability and check to see if any permits are needed. Mark agreed to do so.

The group arrived at the City office at 6:10 p.m., at which time the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by

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Erika Ahlstrom, City Recorder