

Technical Project Planning (TPP)
Meeting 1
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
for Area of Interest North of Castner Range
Fort Bliss, Texas

Contract Number: W912DY-10-D-0027 – Delivery Order: DS01

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Prepared for
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Project Manager

PROJECT: Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for Area of Interest (AOI) North of Castner Range, Fort Bliss

PURPOSE: Stakeholder Technical Project Planning (TPP) 1 Meeting

DATE: January 19, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m. MST

CONTRACT #: W912DY-10-D-0027 – Delivery Order DS01

Attendees	Organization*
Frank Roepke	USACE
Rick Smith	USACE
Mike Slavens	USACE
Eric Kirwan	USACE
Mike Bowlby	USAEC
Ron Baca	Fort Bliss
Victor Garcia	Fort Bliss
Dan Burnett	KEMRON
Andy Gascho	Gilbane
Rebecca Pisha	Gilbane
Allan Posnick	TCEQ
Ruth Winsor	TCEQ
Robert Gilliam	TCEQ
Matt Levesque	UXO Pro
Dr. Cesar Mendez	FMSP
Gisela Dagnino	EPWU
Gonzalo Cedillo	EPWU
Marilyn Guida	FMWC

* USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers
 USAEC – United States Army Environmental Command
 TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 EPWU – El Paso Water Utilities
 FMWC – Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition

The following meeting minutes address items discussed on the January 19, 2017 RI/FS AOI North of Castner Range Stakeholder TPP1 meeting, which was convened under the direction of Rick Smith and Frank Roepke of USACE. The meeting was held at the Embassy Suites hotel in El Paso. Those present at the meeting are listed in the attendees table above.

The meeting began with introductions at 2:00 p.m. MST. The meeting presentation was led by Dan Burnett. Andy Gascho presented the geophysics and anomaly investigations portions and Rebecca Pisha discussed the munitions constituents (MC) sampling general approach. The following items were discussed during the meeting.

Be mindful of the “3 Rs” of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) awareness: recognize, retreat, and report. This was followed by a discussion of the project team, roles, and contact information. Robert Gilliam (listed above) was identified as an additional stakeholder for TCEQ and the FMWC was identified as an additional stakeholder. It was noted that additional stakeholders will likely be identified as the project moves forward.

The origins of the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) were discussed. The MMRP follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process flow. We are currently in the RI/FS phase of CERCLA and will move through to the Decision Document (DD) phase by the end of the contract.

The project overview including known history of the AOI and a brief summary of the MEC reconnaissance survey was presented and the project objectives were discussed. EPWU and FWSP agreed with the parcel boundaries as depicted; however, stated they would assist in providing additional documentation. There is no physical representation on the actual AOI as to where the boundary is located. It was confirmed that Bowen Ranch leases land from EPWU for cattle ranching. The quarry north of the AOI also leases a portion of the AOI.

In the discussion regarding the Community Relations Plan (CRP), it was noted that three new trailheads are being installed this year: Round House (near the Bowen Ranch round house), Lazy Cow (at the northern end of the adjacent neighborhood), and Chuck Heinrich Park. Two weeks public notice is required prior to closures. It was suggested that a zonal closure map depicting the anomaly exclusion zones could be developed, maintained, and provided throughout the field effort. The notices can be sent to: FMSP, Mountain Bike Association, Parks Department, North Hills West subdivision, FMWC, Frontera Land Alliance, and the City of El Paso for posting on their various websites. It was suggested that notices also be placed in the El Paso Times and the El Paso Scene. Additionally, there is an event between August and November called “Celebration of Our Mountains” that includes a guided hike in the AOI lead by District 2 Representative Jim Tolbert. Coordination with this event, FMSP, and EPWU land counsel and master planning is required. Contact information for the EPWU individuals will be provided.

The historical records search began this week and the findings will be included in the development of the MEC and MC investigation activities. It was stated that there is an archaeological resource potential. The Texas Historical Commission, Chair of the El Paso County Historic Commission, and the City of El Paso Historic Landmark Commission should be consulted.

An overview of the RI process was presented and the general approach to the MEC investigation during this RI was discussed including geophysics, anomaly investigations, and MEC management. Discussion of the geophysics approach was conducted to clarify the specifics of the approach and how natural and cultural resources could be affected. It was suggested that statistical subsamples could be investigated in an effort to eliminate the potential need to evacuate the adjacent housing development and close the adjacent road (Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard).

The general approach to the MC investigation during the RI was also discussed. The proposed list of metals (antimony, arsenic, copper, lead, and zinc) and explosives (HMX, RDX, TNT, DNT, NG, PETN, and Tetryl) analytes, collection methodology, decision unit size, location reasoning, and comparison values was agreed upon. The background values identified in the 2013 Field Demonstration Report of Incremental Sampling Methodology will be used for metals comparison.

The Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, and Decision Document were discussed.

No new information was identified in the open discussion as most of the topics had been discussed over the course of the meeting.

Concern regarding the visual impact of the fencing was expressed by the FMWC. It was explained that visually minimal fencing would be installed around the Archaeology and Border Patrol Museums as a safety measure to prevent unintentional ingress to Castner Range. Concern was also expressed about the ability to install the fencing over the arroyo that runs through the center of the site. Techniques will need to be explored prior to installation. A break in the fence was suggested as the best mitigation.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the schedule and the next steps.

The meeting concluded at approximately 4:30 p.m. MST.