

# PBOW RAB

## Former Plum Brook Ordnance Works Holds First Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

The community around the former Plum Brook Ordnance Works and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers came together for the first time to discuss the Army's efforts in locating and cleaning up contamination left behind at the site.

The First meeting of the Plum Brook Ordnance Works Restoration Advisory Board was convened at 7:00 p.m. on January 22, 1977 at the Firelands College Library. Diane Folk, DoD Co-Chair and Project Manager opened the meeting. This was followed by a personal introduction by each attendee.

### Attendees were as follows:

Diane Folk  
Carla Ontko  
John Blakeman  
Bob Hermes  
Tom Ferrell  
Larry Bruns  
Judy Bruns  
Lisa Ohlemacher  
Mark Bohne  
Charlie Pascoe  
David Speer  
Lee Yeckley  
Gil Steinen  
George Parker  
Richard Pitsinger  
Starr Truscott  
Janet Bohne  
Peg Kingsley  
Mary Thompson

Ms. Folk presented a brief review of the site:

The former Plum Brook Ordnance Works is located four (4) miles south of Sandusky, Ohio, near Lake Erie. Nitro-aromatic explosives produced at the site included TNT, DNT and pentolite; other products produced at the ordnance works included nitric and sulfuric acid. The plant operated from 1941 to 1944, and was decontaminated by the end of 1945. Possession of the property was transferred to the Ordnance Department in 1946, then to the War Assets Department, and finally to the General Services Administration (GSA) in 1949. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) acquired the property in 1963 and presently maintains and utilizes in excess of 6,000 acres of the original 9,009 acres. Portions of the site is believed to be contaminated with nitro-aeromatics and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will be involved with this cleanup.

### **Discussion: Restoration Advisory Board.**

**Purpose:** A forum for information exchange and a partnership among citizens, State and applicable federal agencies. It is a representative group of stakeholders that meets regularly to discuss environmental issues of common concern. It is useful because it is a forum for hearing citizens' ideas and a place where agencies can present goals and proposed programs. It is democratic and representative of opposing points of view, with equal status for each participant in presenting and deliberating views and in being heard.

**Operating Procedures for RAB community members:** Members are expected to attend meetings; provide advice and comment on restoration issues to the decision makers; represent and communicate community interests and concerns; members should act as conduit for the exchange of information between the community, DOD installation, and environmental oversight agencies regarding the installation's restoration and reuse programs; the members should review, evaluate, and comment on documents and other such materials related to installation restoration and closure, where applicable;

and community members are expected to serve without compensation on the RAB.

**The RAB will be lead by:** the Department of Defense Installation Co-Chair/Project Manager, and the Community Co-Chair who will be elected by the committee members. (A list of those members who have indicated a willingness to serve as Community Co-Chair will be sent to each of the RAB members and the selection will be made at the next RAB meeting (March '97).

**Meeting frequency and place:** After discussion, it was agreed to meet bi-monthly (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) at the Firelands College Library. Mr. Bohne volunteered to make the arrangements for using the library.

**How often shall the board be reconstituted?** Members suggested that this would be by normal attrition, i.e., someone resigns, becomes ill, moves away, etc. (Further discussion, if warranted, at the March meeting.)

**Status of ongoing Investigations:** Ms. Folk stated that draft copies of reports will be forthcoming from the Architect Engineering Firm, International Technology, who is performing the groundwater sampling at Plum Brook. She asked the committee to designate a location where a copy of each of these draft reports, (upon receipt in the Huntington District) could be sent. The RAB members would then review them and provide comments within a specified time period. The committee suggested that the reports be sent to the Firelands College Library since it was a central location with public access. The reports will be sent to the attention of the RAB Community Co-Chair. The RAB DOD Co-Chair will notify the RAB members by letter when a draft report has been received in the Hunting District and when it is being mailed to the library.

Ms. Folk announced that a copy of the Plum Brook Administrative Record was now being maintained in the Firelands College Library. She then conducted a tour of where it is located.

#### **Administrative Items:**

1. Ms. Folk stated that at the next meeting she would provide maps/site drawings of the site to each member.
2. The members requested a site visit sometime in the summer. Ms. Folk stated that she would

coordinate with a NASA representative and see if they would conduct a tour of the site for the RAB members, possibly in May '97.

3. A "Fact Sheet" for the Plum Brook Ordnance Site will be developed and distribute to each member at the next meeting.

**Schedule of next meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for 12 March '97.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

### **RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS WHO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SERVING AS COMMUNITY CO-CHAIR**

Starr Truscott  
Carla Ontko  
Larry Bruns  
Judith Bruns  
Gilbert Steinen  
George Parker  
Thomas Ferrell  
Charles Pascoe  
Mark Bohne  
Ralph Roshong  
John Blakeman

A discussion of the responsibilities and those interested will be held at the March 12, meeting.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD**

The attached information will better explain the role of the members of the Restoration Advisory Board, including the community co-chair.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**MARCH 12, 1997**  
Firelands College Library  
Bettcher Industries Seminar Room  
Second Floor, East Building  
7:00 p.m.

**Diane Perry Folk, Project Manager**

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