



FAQs

Restoration Advisory Board



Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Q. What is a RAB and its purpose?

A. A RAB is a forum to exchange information and discuss the environmental restoration program. The sole purpose of a RAB is to discuss all environmental efforts within the entire environmental restoration program and allow community members to provide input to the cleanup process.

Q: What is the composition of a RAB and what is the selection process for becoming a member?

A: A RAB should generally be no larger than 20 individuals and is composed of local community members, DoD representatives, state representatives as well as EPA representatives, as appropriate. It is the Air Force's duty to educate the community about the RAB and provide the opportunity for participation. RAB members should live/work in the affected community or be impacted by the environmental restoration program. The installation commander in consultation with the state, EPA, and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, as appropriate, should identify community interests and solicit names of individuals who can represent these interests on the selection panel. Once the selection panel nominees have been provided, the commander reviews the selection panel nominations to ensure balance and diversity. If nominations represent the diversity of the community, they will become the selection panel.

Q: What is the difference between a RAB and public meeting?

A: Public meetings are held to share information and discuss specific topics. Public meetings allow community members to express their opinions and develop solutions for specific projects, such as PFOS/PFOA. RABs are specifically focused on all Air Force environmental restoration activities at the installation, and only those activities that fall under the restoration program.

Both meetings:

- Introduce a project or issue to a community
- Provide all participants a chance to voice their concerns, issues, and ideas
- Disseminate detailed information and decisions throughout the community
- Provide opportunities for exploring alternative strategies and building consensus
- Can create consensus for action on complex issues that require broad-based community input

Q: What are the responsibilities of the RAB?

A: The responsibility of a RAB is to conduct regular meetings to discuss restoration efforts, discuss key issues, provide transparency and allow public involvement.

Q. What does a RAB contribute to the community?

A. A RAB serves as a resource to help the community better understand the environmental restoration program as well as review and provide comments on current and future projects.

Q: How often do RAB meetings occur?

A: RAB members decide on the scheduling and frequency of meetings.

Q: How is a typical RAB meeting conducted?

A: RAB members will select a location for each meeting that is accessible to all individuals. Each meeting should have a purpose, agenda and topics selected by RAB members that are related to the environmental restoration program. During each meeting, a discussion period is provided for RAB members and the general public. Meeting minutes are documented and should be published to the public within two weeks of the meeting.

Q: How is a RAB meeting conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RAB meetings are being conducted on virtual platforms in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus. Location of the meeting is the only modification to how a RAB meeting is conducted. Registration links are distributed to the public within two weeks of the RAB meeting. The meeting is recorded and published for public access.

Q. What is discussed during a RAB meeting?

A. During a RAB meeting, “old” business is reviewed, RAB members discuss the presentation given by the project staff, the public provides input, action items are determined, and the next meeting’s agenda is discussed.

Q. Can the general public attend a RAB meeting?

A. Yes, public attendance is welcome and encouraged so the Air Force can address any comments and/or concerns in timely manner. Attending a RAB meeting is the best way to have your questions answered.

Q. How is the public notified about RAB meetings?

A. A public notice is issued in at least one local newspaper as well as installation media sources in advance to the meeting. The public notice includes the time and location of the meeting, membership opportunities, topics for consideration as well as name(s) and phone number(s) of contact person(s) for more information.

