

RAB NEWSLETTER

Your official community voice for the clean-up of the Titan 1A missile site

Will it work?

TCE cleanup test to use a sonic drill this time

By Jeffrey Callison
Community RAB

The homes nearest the former Titan missile facility are in Lincoln Hills, but the site's trichloroethylene (TCE) clean-up affects people outside of Sun City. Aiming to reach a wider public, the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) held its first quarterly meeting outside of Lincoln Hills on July 24 at the Pavilion in McBean Park.

On the agenda were updates from the community wing of the RAB, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project manager, and the water quality overseer for the State of California. A highlight, though, came from an environmental engineer with Parsons, the contractor working for USACE.

Abby Bazin described

Drill Rigs

Small Rig - Direct Push Technology
Used in Initial Attempt



Big Rig - Sonic Drill Rig
Planned for Next Attempt



After a smaller rig (left) failed to inject the treatment into the ground, workers will use a more-powerful drill (right).

the TCE cleanup technology to be tested in August as a possible remedy for the contamination left behind from the Titan 1 missile base when it operational in the 1960s.

A large sonic drill (think of a fancy electric toothbrush but exponentially bigger) will spray a substance deep underground that neutralizes the TCE.

The substance is a liquid form of zero-valent iron (ZVI), a neutral, uncharged form of the metal. When ZVI breaks down, it doesn't cause its own pollution — it dissolves into harmless products such as water, chloride and ethene.

Only one section will be treated for this test.

(Continued on Page 2)



Now accepting applications: Join the Titan 1-A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and be a voice for your Community in the environmental cleanup of a Cold War legacy site.

(Interested? See Page 2)

Testing to start with sonic drill

(Continued from Page 1)

The results will be reported by Parsons to the USACE, which is in charge of the TCE cleanup at this and thousands of other formerly used defense sites across the country.

Use of ZVI for toxic cleanup is well-established; the challenge is how to inject it into the concrete-like clay underneath Lincoln, and that's where the sonic part of the drill comes in. Using powerful sound waves, it should break up enough hard soil to create room for the ZVI. The test happens in August and we expressed hope during the meeting that it will be both effective and efficient.

Another report at the RAB quarterly meeting came from Paul Breckenridge of Placer County who told us that the cleanup of the lead scattered over part of the former missile site should take a couple of months and be concluded in the fall. The lead is a product of two former gun firing ranges — one that was used by the public and the other by law enforcement.

In some parts of the site, the lead is visibly plentiful. However, county plans are to restore it for its highest level of use.

The RAB meeting ended with public comment, and several people posed questions or raised concerns.

One topic was the impending start of home sales at the Hidden Hills housing development immediately south and southeast of the Titan site. (Three model homes are close to being finished and the developer's website says that the sales office will open on August 9.)

Questions were raised about vapor barriers under those homes (answer: more robust than normal barriers), disclosure of the contamination of the former missile site (answer: mentioned in the deeds) and a suggestion that the RAB reach out to the developer to assure proactive communication with the future residents of Hidden Hills.

“We are moving forward,” said Sandi Dolbee, the Community RAB’s co-chair. “The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) should have a game plan in place next year. And while it’s not over yet, it’s time for Lincoln to pull together and put the pedal to the metal for the solution.”

The next RAB quarterly meeting will be held in October, date and location to be determined. Contact us at CommunityRAB@yahoo.com.

The views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the community RAB partners and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Join the RAB team

From the USACE

Are you passionate about community health, environmental restoration or local history?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the community-led Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Titan 1-A missile site in Lincoln are seeking new community members.

As a RAB member, you’ll serve as a bridge between the community and the agencies leading this important work.

What does a member do?

- ✓ Attend quarterly public RAB meetings
- ✓ Attend monthly internal briefings
- ✓ Represent and communicate community concerns and interests
- ✓ Provide open, honest, and constructive feedback
- ✓ Review and comment on cleanup plans and documents
- ✓ Share information with neighbors and stakeholders
- ✓ Serve without compensation

No technical background required, just a commitment to your community and a willingness to learn and engage.

Email the Program Manager at spk_fuds@usace.army.mil to receive an application.

Deadline for applications is Aug. 24.