



Community Environmental Board

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA

3rd Wing Public Affairs, (907) 552-8970, Fax 552-5111, www.elmendorf.af.mil

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Background

The U.S. Air Force is actively involved in environmental activities at Elmendorf AFB, particularly in cleaning up the base under the Department of Defense's Environmental Restoration Program.

In the early 1990s, Elmendorf hosted a Technical Review Committee which was converted in 1995 to a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), whose primary focus was the cleanup of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites.

As the base began to fulfill restoration requirements, members of Elmendorf's RAB wanted input on general environmental issues. In 2003, the charter was revised and a Community Environmental Board (CEB) was created.

The CEB is now active in a wide spectrum of the base's environmental programs including hazardous and solid waste management, recycling, air quality, environmental planning, cultural resources and wildlife management.

What is a CEB?

The CEB is an advisory body designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between Elmendorf and the local community regarding environmental activities.

The CEB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values and needs between the affected community and the installation.

Elmendorf's CEB consists of approximately 15 community members, along with representatives from the Air Force, Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and local government.



Col. Jim Sturch, 3rd Wing vice commander, left, and Mr. Robert Gryder, Community Co-chair discuss the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Visit at the Community Environmental Board meeting held in April 2004.

CEB members are asked to meet twice a year, normally the fall and spring, and periodically tour sites during the summer construction season.

They review and individually comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental restoration activities at Elmendorf AFB. Members provide advice as individuals, not as a group; it is not the purpose of the CEB to provide consensus advice.

Technical support personnel are available to provide informational support and explanation to CEB members.

Restoration Program

The restoration program is the cornerstone of the Community Environmental Board. This is mandated by the Department of Defense (DOD) and was intended to bring the community early into the cleanup decision process.

The responsibilities of CEB members in the restoration program include:



Community Environmental Board members view a bioventing system during the Summer 2002 construction season.

- Provide advice to the installation, EPA, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and other government agencies on restoration activities and community involvement.

- Address important issues related to restoration, such as the scope of studies, cleanup levels, waste management and remedial action alternatives.

- Review and evaluate documents associated with environmental restoration activities, such as plans and technical reports.

- Identify environmental restoration projects to be accomplished in the next fiscal year and beyond.

- Recommend priorities among sites or projects.
- Interact with land use planners to discuss future land use issues relevant to environmental restoration decision making.

Community Expectations

CEB members are expected to serve as volunteers without monetary compensation for time or expenses incurred.

Members are expected to serve as a liaison with the community and be available to meet with community members and groups. All CEB meetings are open to the public.

Membership terms are decided by the CEB. The normal duration of appointment is two years and can be renewed with CEB board approval.

How to Become a CEB Member

Community members interested in applying for membership should complete the Community Interest Form and return it to the Environmental Community Relations Coordinator. If forms are needed or you would like more information, contact Jon Scudder at (907) 552-8970.

When applications are received, they will be forwarded to a panel of current community CEB members for review and selection.

The Environmental Community Relations Coordinator will contact you with the board results concerning your application.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.elmendorf.af.mil/othrorgs/restorat/webdocs/index.htm>

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE

3 WG/PA

10480 22nd Street, Suite 118

Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506

