



Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Fact Sheet

What is a RAB?

A restoration advisory board, or RAB, is a stakeholder group that meets regularly to discuss environmental restoration at a specific property that is currently or was formerly owned by the Department of Defense, or DOD, where the DOD oversees the environmental restoration process.

How does a RAB work?

RAB operating procedures are based on the RAB Rule governing the purpose and scope of RABs. Although each RAB creates their own operating procedures, they must align with the DOD's RAB Rule which dictates:

- RABs are required to develop a mission statement outlining the RAB's purpose and focus.
- A RAB should decide on a schedule to meet as often as necessary.

RABs may only address topics associated with the environmental restoration activities.

- Funding for RABs are supplied by the service's Environmental Restoration account; therefore, RABs may only discuss environmental restoration topics.
- Typical RAB actions include, but are not limited to: reviewing and commenting on environmental documents and activities, providing information and status updates to the community and receiving input from the community.

Admin Records of RAB activities should be kept for historical purposes and to keep the community informed of the installation's progress.

- The Office of the Secretary of Defense annually reports to Congress the RAB activities, advice provided and funds used.

RABs can influence cleanup decisions through discussion and valuable input provided to installation decision makers, but they do not make restoration decisions.

- Installation decision makers listen closely to and consider input provided by RAB members, but are not legally required to follow RAB recommendations.

Who participates in a RAB?

A RAB provides an interactive and focused forum for interested individuals and groups to exchange information with representatives of regulatory agencies, the installation and the community.

The community members are usually selected to be on the RAB because they live near the installation and have genuine interest in the progress of the restoration. They also have a commitment to share what they learn with others in the community and they express willingness to bring community concerns to the Air Force and Regulatory Reps on the RAB.

Oftentimes a Facilitator is key to the RAB, not as a member, but instead solely to ensure smooth functioning of meetings and that all voices are provided equal opportunity to express opinions appropriate to the RAB's agenda.



How are RABs established?

RABs are established through a DOD process that first determines the need for a RAB, mainly sufficient and sustained community interest.

What is expected of RAB members?

- Serve as a conduit between the RAB and the community members they interact with, bringing community concerns to the table
- Commit to sharing what they learn with others in the community
- Attend regular RAB meetings
- Become familiar with all materials provided, including the RAB Handbook

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