

By bringing together people who reflect the diverse interests of a community, a RAB can help identify issues of concern.

Restoration Advisory Boards

Restoration Advisory Boards (RAB) provide a forum through which members of nearby communities can provide input to DoD's environmental restoration program. RABs are being established at operating installations, closing or realigning installations, and formerly used defense sites where there is sufficient sustained community interest.

Who Are RAB Members?

RABs include members of the local community and representatives of the installation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and state, tribal, and local governments. RAB membership should be balanced and reflect the diversity of interests within the community, including homeowners, business persons, local environmental groups, and low-income and minority populations. At closing installations, a representative of the Local Reuse Authority should be a member of the RAB.

What Does a RAB Do?

RABs meet regularly to:

- Discuss and exchange information regarding cleanup
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to participate in the cleanup process and provide input to decision makers

Features of a RAB

- Shared chairmanship between the installation and the community
- Advisory
- Open meetings, minutes are available to the public

In addition, RABs complement other community involvement activities, such as public meetings, mailings, and local information repositories.

What is the Status of DoD's RAB Initiative?

More than 250 installations in the United States and its territories are participating in RABs. These boards are contributing to DoD's environmental restoration program in the following ways:

- Increasing community understanding of and support for DoD's cleanup program
- Reviewing cleanup plans and technical documents

- Providing input to workplans, such as priorities among sites or projects
- Providing advice on cleanup activities
- Providing input to the selection of protective, cost-effective remedies
- Acting as a resource to the community

How Can You Get Involved in a RAB?

Most installations that have cleanup programs also have established RABs. This is especially true at closing installations. For more information about forming or participating in a RAB, please contact the Public Affairs Office at your local installation or consult the *Directory of Restoration Advisory Boards*.



A copy of the *Directory of Restoration Advisory Boards* is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/rab/intro.html>

Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

DoD is developing a TAPP program to help community members of RABs participate more effectively in the restoration program at local installations. This program, when implemented, will allow community members to obtain objective, independent analysis of topics such as the hazards present at a site and potential health and environmental effects. This assistance will be provided by the DoD installation through government purchase orders issued to small businesses.



A copy of the proposed rule for the TAPP Program is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/rab/61fedreg-tapp.html>