

2025-07-03_Gasco OU Check-In Meeting

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Meeting Title: | Gasco OU Check-In Meeting |
| Date/Time: | July 3, 2025 / 10:30 - 11:30 am |
| Attendees: | AQ: Halah Voges, Matt Davis EE: Rob Ede DEQ: Wes Thomas |
| Location: | MS Teams Meeting |

Meeting Notes:

- IRAM BODR
 - DEQ's review is ongoing as we continue to prioritize review of the Treatability Study Work Plan and other investigation-related work plans. DEQ anticipates providing feedback on the prioritized work plans within the next few weeks. DEQ can provide an update during the next check-in meeting, and anticipates being close to completing our review by then.
 - DEQ is also prioritizing our review of the Lines of Evidence (LOE) Table that was provided by EE a few weeks ago. DEQ understands the DNAPL delineation investigation also affects the IRAM design schedule. The model has been very helpful for supporting DEQ review of the LOE table. The DEQ team is still working through the table, and DEQ anticipates having some questions and feedback on the LOEs and other information in the table. DEQ needs more time to develop specific feedback and questions, but we may be close. DEQ asks how AQ/EE would prefer receiving DEQ's feedback.
 - EE/AQ believe a meeting to discuss DEQ's feedback is the best approach.
- DLA Source Control Evaluation
 - DEQ has not reviewed the DLA SCE. DEQ plans to continue prioritizing review of the IRAM BODR. DEQ will review the DLA SCE after we have completed our review of the IRAM BODR.
- Siltronic Comments on IRAM BODR
 - EE/AQ note that Siltronic sent IRAM BODR comments shortly before this meeting. EE still reviewing the comments, but noticed one related to characterization of F002 wastes. EE asks if DEQ's assessment of F002 wastes have changed.
 - DEQ notes that Siltronic called to ask about listed wastes earlier this week. DEQ has a No Longer Contained In policy. The policy allows DEQ to make a no longer contained in determination for environmental media with listed waste constituents (i.e., F002 constituents) at concentrations below certain thresholds. Unless DEQ has made a no-longer contained in determination, the presence of F002 constituents would indicate a listed waste. The no-longer contained in process begins with the waste generator requesting a determination and providing the necessary rationale and data to support the request. If a request were made, DEQ would follow the procedures outlined in our policy.
- Tar Ponds
 - NW Natural will need to clear, grub, and grade the former Tar Ponds to support future cleanup, including implementing the IRAM and removing the surface water ponds. EE asks what DEQ would need to complete that work.
 - DEQ would need a work plan describing what would be done. NW Natural would also need to obtain permits to do the work. DEQ has the authority to waive certain state/local permits, but would need to go through an ARAR process to ensure that the substantive requirements were met. For many of these permits, it may be easier to obtain the permit than pursue a waiver. DEQ notes that NW Natural will need to determine whether the Tar Ponds constitute jurisdictional wetlands. If so, NW Natural may need to obtain federal permits that DEQ could not waive.
 - AQ was considering whether EPA could provide permit waivers for federal permits.
 - DEQ believes that could be complicated since DEQ has cleanup authority over

the Tar Ponds. DEQ is not interested in setting a precedent for exercising CERCLA authority over an area that is subject to a DEQ cleanup order.

- FS Comments
 - AQ/EE is developing comment responses (RTCs) that will hopefully inform future discussions about some of DEQ's comments. NW Natural would like to provide the RTCs as early as next week. The RTC will identify larger categories or themes for meeting discussions (e.g., hot spots, remedial action alternatives). The goal of the meeting discussions are to make sure NW Natural does not misinterpret or misunderstand the comments, or better understand whether NW Natural and DEQ may reach an impasse or disagreement around the resolution of DEQ's comments. The FS comments clearly ask to expand the FS including more hot spot treatment, more remedial alternatives, and a request to evaluate remedial alternatives in a different manner. NW Natural wants to provide the information DEQ needs to select a remedy. NW Natural would benefit from better understanding what remedial action DEQ envisions for the site.
 - DEQ did not request an RTC and that we do not envision working through an RTC process (similar to the Interim FS). We are also concerned that a prolonged series of meeting to discuss comments may be a poor use of time/schedule. For example, DEQ has discussed hot spots with NW Natural's team several times over the past few years, and we are not sure if additional discussions are going to provide more clarity beyond what we have already discussed and what we have provided in our comments.
 - EE notes that some of the meeting discussions relate to the mechanics of the Revised FS, and the likelihood that NW Natural will agree with the revisions. For example, there is a comment that risk reduction scales proportionally with the quantity of hot spot treatment. From EE/AQ's perspective it is not clear how that comment aligns with the hot spot priorities.
 - DEQ replies that we do not believe that topic would not take long to discuss and that it seems like a relatively minor question in the greater context of our comments.
 - With respect to discussion the scope of the remedial action that DEQ envisions, DEQ does not have a prescribed remedial action in mind. We believe that our comments leave room for NW Natural to be creative in the way that new remedial alternatives are structured, including which hot spots get addressed in lower alternatives, versus higher alternatives. We want to see the FS process lead us to the best remedial action for the site.
 - DEQ will review the RTCs and identify topics that we can discuss. In order to avoid a prolonged series of meetings, DEQ would prefer a single all-day meeting to review the topics that DEQ identifies as useful or productive.