

## Corps Contact

The *Badlands Bombing Range Report* is researched, written, compiled, and distributed by members of the Corps of Engineers, Omaha District BBR Project team. Articles relating to the environmental restoration of the Former BBR may be submitted for publication by members of the RAB; the Oglala Sioux Tribe; federal, state, or local agencies; and the general public. Mr. Thomas O'Hara has been designated as the official point of contact for all public inquiries concerning the Corps of Engineers' efforts at the Former BBR. All calls and letters directed to other Corps representatives will be re-routed through the Public Affairs Office. To avoid delays, please contact Mr. O'Hara directly at the following address.

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### RAB NOTES

The BBR Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) serves as a forum for the exchange of information about environmental cleanup at the Former BBR. It provides for partnership among tribal members, citizens, DOD, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of South Dakota, and others. The RAB brings together people who reflect the variety of interests within the local community and enables early and continued flow of information between all parties. If you would like to apply for membership to the BBR RAB, contact Thomas O'Hara.

The next BBR RAB meeting will be held on 12 March 1998, in the Piya Wiconi Auditorium at the Oglala Lakota College near Kyle. As usual, a pre-RAB training session will be held at 10:00 a.m. The March training will provide an overview of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the National Park Service. This agreement is designed to facilitate public use of tribal lands within the Badlands National Park. The RAB meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

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## Inside this Issue. . .

The quarter's issue of the *BBR Report* provides information on the activities underway to complete the environmental restoration at the Former Badlands Bombing Range (BBR) and its transfer to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. In February, the Corps of Engineers held a Partnering Conference to promote teamwork among the many groups involved with the BBR Project. The conference was a definite step in the right direction and the team's progress will be reported in future issues.

The National Park Service has developed a safety program designed to educate visitors to Badlands National Park of possible dangers from ordnance. This awareness program includes signs, exhibits, a video, and brochures.

The *BBR Report* staff is excited to unveil an informative new column. Badlands Faces/Badlands Places will present information on the people who make this project a success and details about locations, sites, and places related to the project. This issue takes a look at two key people who ensure the continuous progress of the BBR Project: Ms. Emma Featherman-Sam of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Mr. Kirk Engelbart from the Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

Also included in this issue are the regular columns providing updates on the ongoing Ordnance and Explosives (OE), and Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW) projects; acronym definitions; Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) information; and information on how to contact the Corps of Engineers' point person.

## Corps Holds Partnering Conference

Members of the BBR RAB participated in a Partnering Conference on 17-18 February 1998 at the Radisson Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. These representatives from tribal, state, and federal agencies came together to explore the key elements of partnering:

- trust
- commitment
- communication
- conflict resolution
- continuous evaluation

Facilitated by Ms. Joy Winn, a communications consultant, the group worked together to identify common project goals and objectives while exploring avenues to resolve issues with "win-win" outcomes. Minutes of the Partnering Conference, including the partnership charter which details each member's commitment to the partnership, will be available at the 12 March RAB meeting. Information about the BBR RAB is provided on the back of this newsletter.

## Safety is Number One at Badlands National Park

The National Park Service is developing a multi-level safety and education program for areas of the Badlands National Park within the Former BBR. A "wayside" exhibit providing a history of the former bombing range will be installed in front of the White River Visitor Center. Inside the center will be a temporary exhibit describing the bombing range and safety issues in areas that may have unexploded ordnance. Also, a short safety video and two brochures on the history of the Former BBR and safety will be made available at the visitor center. For more information, contact Ms. Marianne Mills, Chief of Resource Education, Badlands National Park, at (605) 433-5240.

In addition, the Corps of Engineers has ordered new signs about bombing range safety that will be placed at entrances to the park's South Unit. The signs are expected to be delivered around the first week in April. The Badlands National Park and the BBR Project Office will install and maintain the signs.

## PROJECT STAFFING CHANGES

Ms. Jill Solberg, BBR Technical Manager, has left the project to tackle other challenges for the Corps of Engineers. Her replacement is Mr. Joe Slattery. Joe is currently a senior technical advisor to the Omaha District Environmental Restoration Branch Chief. During his past 15 years of government service, he has worked in both a technical and management capacity. He holds a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Jill worked on the BBR project from its inception and was instrumental in the establishment of the RAB, and executing the PA/SI investigations at the four burial pits and the geophysical surveys for the Ordnance and Explosives avoidance projects (see flow charts inside). *"The past three years have been challenging as well as educational for me. I've met and worked with a terrific group of people and I know I leave one of my 'babies' in good hands. My best wishes for continued success on the BBR Project."* *continued. . .*

**- Partners in Progress -**

# BADLANDS FACES



*Emma Featherman-Sam*

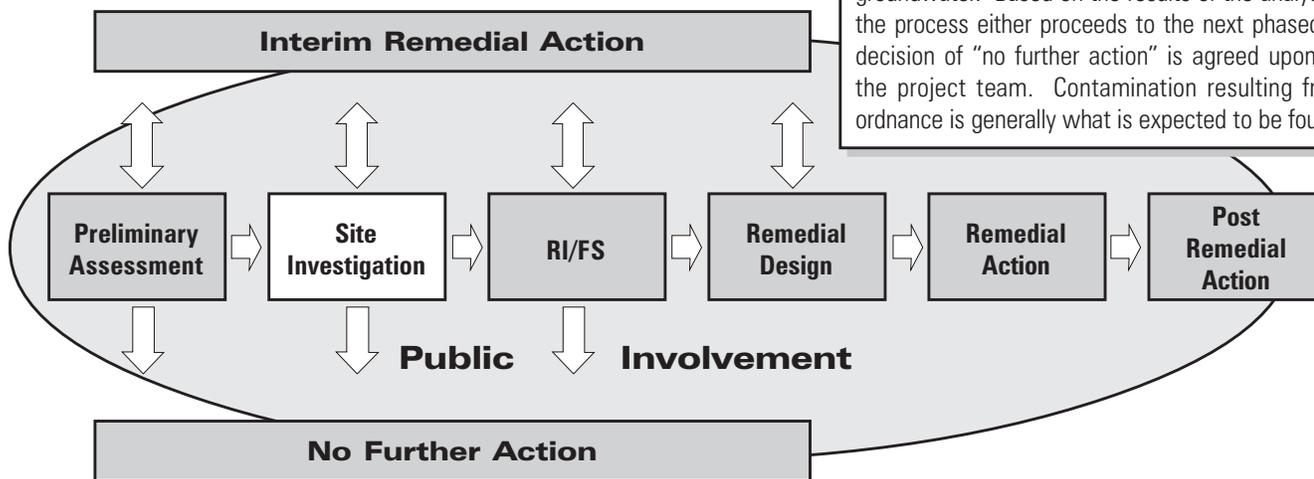
**M**s. Emma Featherman-Sam, an Oglala Sioux, is the Director of the tribe's Badlands Bombing Range Project. She played a key role in establishing the BBR Project Office and in the acquisition of Department of Defense (DOD) funding for cleaning up and mitigating defense activity impacts to the Former BBR. The BBR Project Office provides administration of these funds and oversight of the following project activities:

- development of the Archives Search Report and other historical documentation,
- public participation, and
- environmental investigations leading to the restoration of the Former BBR.

Emma received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and biology from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She is currently a master's candidate in city planning at MIT. Emma has a long history of environmental involvement, both on the tribal and national fronts. She sits on a variety of boards aimed at improving tribal lands and dealings with tribes. Her participation on DOD's Range Rule Working Group has led to developing a solid process for addressing military impacts on closed, transferred, and transferring ranges while respecting tribal concerns.

As a member of the BBR RAB, Emma acts as liaison to the tribal community, providing information and promoting public involvement opportunities. As a tribal member having grown up in Kyle, South Dakota, located about five miles south of the Former BBR, her goal for the project is personal. *"As a young person, I recognized the need to ensure the health and safety of our people on the reservation. I planned my education first toward the medical field, but ended up in the environmental field because this is where it all comes together. If we don't protect the environment, it won't be here for future generations. The environmental restoration of the former bombing range focuses on the protection and safety of our people as they continue to reoccupy the areas that were given back to the tribe for 'unrestricted use'."*

## HTW Update: Where We Are in the Process



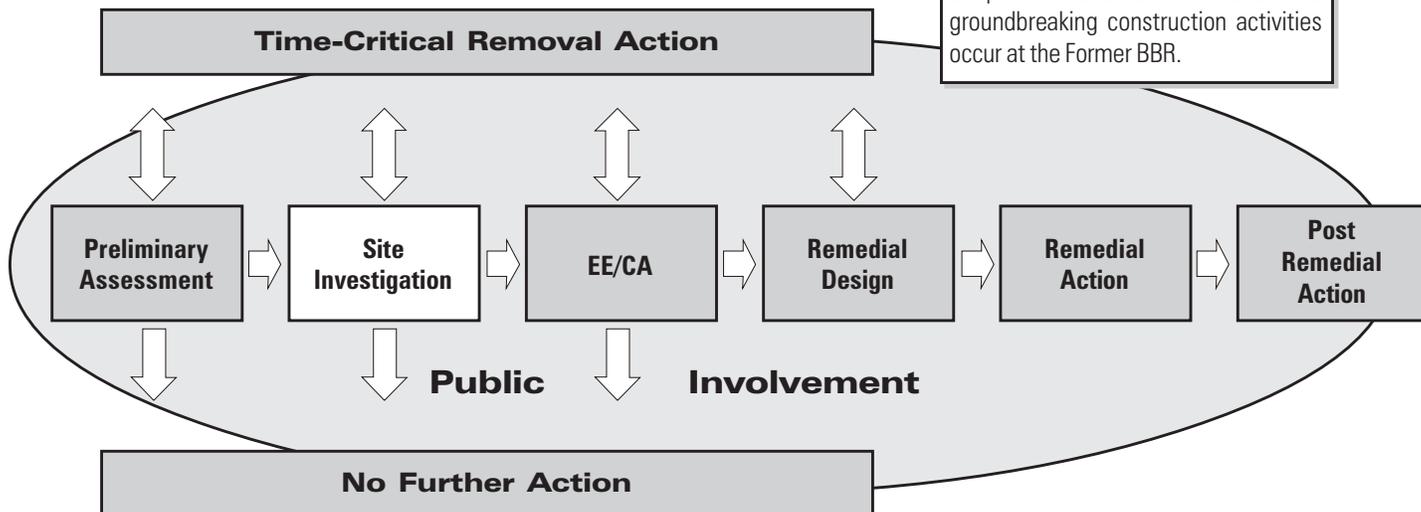
**T**he Site Investigation phase of the HTW restoration process involves evaluating whether a suspected source of contamination exists by taking and analyzing samples of soil and/or groundwater. Based on the results of the analyses, the process either proceeds to the next phase or a decision of "no further action" is agreed upon by the project team. Contamination resulting from ordnance is generally what is expected to be found.

**A**dditional sampling to evaluate beryllium levels in soil was conducted at the four debris burial pits. The draft report on this sampling will be distributed for review on 13 March 1998. Results of this report will be presented at the 12 March RAB meeting. In addition, the final *Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI) Report for Four Debris Burial Pits* is scheduled to be released in April 1998.

The BBR Project Office team has nearly completed the draft *Archives Search Report* which will be sent to the Corps of Engineers for review in the near future. During the archive search, documentation was found indicating a demolition/burn site, located about seven miles south of the town of Scenic, was authorized for use by the U. S. Air Force. The Corps of Engineers is preparing to have a PA/SI conducted at the site this summer.

## OE Update: Where We Are in the Process

The **Site Investigation** phase of the OE restoration process involves using geophysical equipment to detect OE on and below the ground surface. The Corps conducts this work before groundbreaking construction activities occur at the Former BBR.



The draft *Geophysical Survey Report* for the ordnance avoidance investigations for the 4- and 50-mile stretches of waterline and associated service lines and reservoir sites was made available for RAB review with comments due

to the Corps of Engineers by 4 March 1998. This investigation was conducted so that any anomalies in the ground can be avoided during construction of the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System waterline. Anomalies were not removed as part of this investigation.

## BADLANDS FACES

*continued*



*Kirk Engelbart*

Mr. Kirk Engelbart is the BBR Project Manager for the Omaha District Corps of Engineers. Kirk was born in Omaha, Nebraska. He received an associate of arts degree from Indian Hills Junior College in Centerville, Iowa; a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Iowa; and completed several post graduate courses at the University of Nebraska.

Kirk began his career at the Corps of Engineers in 1978 as a designer and Project Manager. He later served six years as a Military and Environmental Program Manager at the former

Headquarters, Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. He returned to the Corps of Engineers in 1992, and is currently an Environmental Project Manager for a variety of projects. He feels that this project is important to the cultural development of all team members, the Corps of Engineers as well as the many agencies involved. *"With everyone's continued partnership, the Oglala Sioux Tribe will obtain the necessary tools to complete the remediation of the former bombing range."*

### PROJECT STAFFING CHANGES

*continued*

The State of South Dakota, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has also had a change in staff. Mr. Matt McDermott, BBR Technical Manager and official representative to the RAB, has accepted a position with the State of Arizona. DENR is in the process of hiring a replacement for Matt's position. Mr. Mark Lawrensen will

### ACRONYMS

BBR	-	Badlands Bombing Range
DOD	-	Department of Defense
DENR	-	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
EE/CA	-	Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis
FS	-	Feasibility Study
HTW	-	Hazardous and Toxic Waste
OE	-	Ordnance and Explosives
PA	-	Preliminary Assessment
RAB	-	Restoration Advisory Board
RI	-	Remedial Investigation
SI	-	Site Investigation

fill in on the BBR Project until a replacement is hired. Mark is the South Dakota Federal Facilities Program Manager and has been with the department for eight years. He has attended several BBR RAB meetings and is familiar with specific project concerns. He expects that the transition will be seamless. Welcome Mark!