

Comparison of Technical Review Committee (TRC) and Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

Technical Review Committee	Restoration Advisory Board
Advisory, not a decision-making body.	Advisory, not a decision-making body. Not expected to make consensus recommendations as a group.
Required by SARA section 211 [10 USC § 2705(c)]	Designed to expand public participation in environmental restoration (began under Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC], where Department of Defense [DoD] was closing institutions, to accelerate cleanup and transfer/reuse of property)
<p>“Whenever possible and practical” installations with Installation Restoration (IR) programs should establish a TRC</p> <p>Purpose is to review and comment on (technical aspects of) restoration actions and proposed actions with respect to releases (of hazardous substances) at DoD installations</p>	<p>RAB Rule Handbook (March 2007) states “RABs fulfill a statutory requirement for DoD to establish, whenever possible and practical, a committee to review and comment on DoD actions and regarding environmental restoration. DoD strongly encourages RABs at installations where environmental restoration activities occur and where there is community interest in establishing a RAB. Technical Review Committees (TRCs) satisfy the same statutory requirements as a RAB, but RABs are the preferred forum. If the community is not interested in establishing a RAB at the installation, then a RAB is not required; however, DoD must make the opportunity to establish a RAB available if the community becomes interested and must assess community interest every 24 months while environmental restoration activities are still ongoing.”</p>
	<p>RAB requires sufficient and sustained community interest in the environmental restoration program.</p> <p>RAB members are expected to actively share information with the community.</p> <p>RAB may only address issues associated with environmental restoration activities</p>
<p>At least 1 representative from each of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DoD agency ▪ EPA ▪ State and local authorities ▪ Local community 	<p>Members represent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DoD agency ▪ EPA ▪ Federal and state natural resources trustees ▪ State and local officials ▪ Affected community (more members than a TRC) <p>The RAB should be no larger than 20 individuals, should have enough members to adequately reflect the diversity of community interests about environmental restoration.</p>
DoD agency chair only	RAB is equally co-chaired by a DoD representative and a community member who is selected by community members.
All members are appointed by the DoD agency	<p>Open, formal application process for community members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advertise opportunity for RAB membership ▪ RAB public information meeting (can be at TRC meeting if notice is given) ▪ Written application (background, why they are interested, what can they offer the group, not conflict of interest) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conflict examples: works for DoD agency or IR contractor, business would benefit financially from cleanup decisions; involved in litigation against DoD agency ▪ Independent community-based selection panel recommends members to DoD agency; goal is to see community’s diverse interests are represented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish selection process and criteria (example: live within 25 miles of facility) – Current TRC members may be given preference but not guaranteed membership ▪ Installation Commander (or equivalent) accepts or rejects membership list, only on basis of insufficient diversity
TRC meetings need not be open to the public	RAB meetings must be open to the public; no member of public will be denied access, unless there is cause for concern for the safety of those involved with the RAB; often advertised in local newspaper (but not required)
Minutes not required but usually kept on file	Minutes must be made available to the public
Formal charter is not required	<p>Must develop and formally document its operating procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – goals, size, attendance, approving minutes, meeting frequency, selecting/replacing members and co-chairs, resolving disputes, responding to public comments on issues addressed by RAB, public participation in RAB activities <p>There are formal procedures for dissolving a RAB when it is no longer needed or it is not fulfilling its intended purpose.</p>