

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
August 4, 1994

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins

Reed Hodgins called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. There was an introduction of Board members and staff present, and discussion of ground rules for meeting.

Board/Ex-Officio members present: Alan Aluisi, Gale Biggs, Jim Burch, Jan Burda, Lloyd Casey, Chuck Clark, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Kathryn Johnson, Jack Kraushaar, Albert Lambert, LeRoy Moore, Linda Murakami, Joe Tempel, Gary Thompson, Beverly Lyne Wilber, Martin Hestmark, Leann Smith, Steve Tarlton

Board/Ex-Officio members absent: Lorraine Anderson, Stuart Asay, Bruce Belleville, Ralph Coleman, Gislinde Engelmam, David Navarro, Richard Seebass, Reginald Thomas

Public/observers present: T.E. DuPont (citizen), Kenneth Werth (citizen), Jack Krupansky (citizen), George Zepernick (EG&G Rocky Flats), Mike Freeman (CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee), Lance Smith (citizen), Beth Brainard (RFFO), Jessie Roberson (RFFO), George Martelon (RFFO/SAIC), Bob True (CDPHE), LizBeth Cone (ASG), Steve Keith (EG&G), Jeanie Sedgely (RFLII), Tom Nielsen (citizen)

PRESENTATION: Solar Ponds Closure Status

Frazer Lockhart - DOE, Environmental Restoration Major Systems Acquisition Division, gave a presentation on the status of the solar ponds at Rocky Flats. DOE is proposing to close the solar ponds by installing a RCRA cap. Currently, DOE is emptying the ponds of its sludge. Four of the five ponds have been emptied, the fifth will be emptied of sludge in the next two months.

Closure of the ponds is mandatory because they were used to store and manage RCRA waste. DOE would like to use an engineered barrier cover (RCRA cap) to close the ponds. The cap is intended to have a 1,000 year life. There are two steps involved: closure and cleanup. The caps will be designed to prevent infiltration and protect groundwater. Main contaminants of concern include: radionuclides - americium, plutonium, uranium, radium, cesium, gross alpha, gross beta; metals - beryllium, cadmium and uranium; seven organic compounds (primarily benzene ring-type compounds); Aroclor, a form of PCB; and additional compounds including lithium and sodium. Materials to be placed under the caps include: pond liners and contaminated soil, stabilized sludge, surface soils, material from Building B-788, and material collected from cleanup operation. Construction is currently anticipated to begin in the fall of 1995.

DOE would like the CAB to discuss: (1) contamination remaining at Rocky Flats; and (2) programmatic issues including disposal facility availability, waste storage limitations, and cost and schedule efficiencies.

Action: The topic was referred to the Environmental/Waste Management Committee for evaluation and recommendation to the Board. Additional questions not covered during Q&A period were deferred to staff (Ken), who will get answers from DOE. Staff will get responses to the questions to the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Recommendation:** FY95 Budget.
Action: Motion to accept budget. APPROVED.
- **Recommendation:** Policy for Submission of Committee Recommendations for Approval by the Board. It was suggested to change date for submission so that it is at least 10 days prior.
Action: Motion to accept as amended. APPROVED.

- **Recommendation:** Policy regarding Executive Committee Oversight of Administrative Matters. Add phrase to end: "except as otherwise noted in the Bylaws, or directed by the Board."
Action: Motion to accept as amended. APPROVED.
- **Recommendation:** To Address Potential Contractors of the Performance Based Integrating Management Contract (IMC).
Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED.
- FYI - Kathy Schnoor has resigned from the Board effective immediately. Linda Murakami will send thank you letter on behalf of the Board.
- FYI - Linda Murakami sent a letter to Bruce Belleville, a Board member who has an excessive number of absences, notifying him of impending removal from the Board. Executive Committee will draft proposal for replacing vacancies on Board.
- **Recommendation by Jim Burch:** To establish policy that reading room documents be available for check out to Board members for a period of two weeks.
Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED. Staff will draft policy.

2) SITE WIDE ISSUES COMMITTEE

- The Committee reviewed and provided input to the draft Community Values; and reviewed the Plutonium Vulnerability Assessment - further information is required before making a recommendation.
- September 12 meeting agenda: Plutonium Vulnerability Assessment, and Sitewide EIS and comments to DOE. Committee will make recommendations after that meeting.

3) COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- The Committee received an update on RFCA and public participation opportunities; in the future it will propose that the Board publish a Citizen's Guide after gathering more information.
- The Committee also reviewed a draft CAB Outreach Plan. The Committee and staff will continue to develop and revise at future meetings.
- **Recommendation:** Approve CAB's Community Values for the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, which will be submitted to DOE, EPA and CDPHE.
Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED.

4) ENVIRONMENTAL/WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- The Committee had a presentation on Rocky Flats Accelerated Cleanup Program. At its next meeting, it will discuss containment devices for potential cleanup; there may be a recommendation to the Board regarding this issue.
- **Recommendation:** To the Department of Energy regarding the level of National Environmental Policy Act coverage for the Plutonium Liquid Stabilization Program in Building 771 at Rocky Flats.
Action: Suggested addition to end of first paragraph: "Once complete, a review of the EA will allow the RFCAB to decide if additional information is necessary and to evaluate the adequacy of the decision reached." Motion to accept as amended. APPROVED.

5) ALTERNATIVE USE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- The Committee had a presentation from the Site Use Review Board, which oversees strategic planning on-site; it will continue to receive updates.
- The Committee has and will continue to record concerns on NCPP Stage III, and will forward those to the NCPP Steering Committee.
- Next meeting: draft scope for work for next 3-6 months, to help focus Committee's efforts; land-use presentation by EG&G; and prioritization of issues.

NEW ISSUE / NOT ON AGENDA:

Beth Brainard of DOE notified the CAB that her office had just received word that the DOE would privatize the manufacture of stainless steel components for plutonium pits, and would put that job up to bid. DOE was going to push to have that work done in Building 460; it could employ as many as 150-200 workers that will be laid

off in the next year. It is a non-nuclear activity: machining a piece of material that will be used by the Department of Energy and given to foreign governments. The timeline for this project is accelerated.

Several different proposals were made for the CAB to move ahead on this issue without consensus being reached. At this time, the Board chose to continue discussion on this issue and set aside the next three decision items on the agenda.

Recommendation: Draft a letter to Defense Programs to the effect that: "Word has filtered down to us that you may be considering putting out a bid for a project to make stainless steel containers for plutonium pits. Have you considered the fact that this work might be done at Rocky Flats, and that some people here are very interested in it. If this is the case, would it be wise to allow enough time for the folks at Rocky Flats to consider it?"

Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED. Staff will draft letter. Beth Brainard will provide staff with contact person for receipt of letter.

SET TIME AND AGENDA FOR BOARD RETREAT:

Recommendation: Defer this item to next month's meeting.

Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: September 1, 1994, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Westminster City Hall, Multi-Purpose Room

Agenda:

- Strategic Plan
- Board Retreat Items/Retreat Date
- Board on Representation, Decision-making Process
- Procedures

Recommendation: Linda Murakami suggested that the Board consider adding a second monthly meeting, beginning in September.

Action: Proposal was made to attempt to address all issues at next month's meeting, and if not able to complete, then a tentative date for second meeting is set for September 20. Motion to accept. APPROVED.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY:

ASSIGNED TO:

1) Evaluate solar ponds issue/make recommendation	Environmental/Waste Management Committee
2) Thank you letter to Kathy Schnoor	Linda Murakami
3) Draft policy for replacing vacancies on the Board	Executive Committee
4) Draft policy/reading room checkout of documents	Staff
5) Draft cover letter and forward recommendation re: Liquid Stabilization/Building 771	Staff
6) Draft letter to DOE/Defense Programs	Staff

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55 P.M.

* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in CAB office.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD TO SOLAR PONDS BRIEFING:

- Question:** You're going to remove the contamination down to a certain level, and then put a barrier down - leaching from below - how far down will you dig?
- Answer:** There is fluctuation in the alluvial water level. We will dig down to variable levels, then construct layers to engineer the cap so it is all captured from below and above.
- Question:** Why aren't the solar ponds being covered while they are being remediated?
- Answer:** Analysis shows that is not necessary for the work being done.
- Comment:** More studies need to be done [noted].
- Question:** Why aren't you going to clean it up all the way, why are you going to make it into a dump site?
- Answer:** This is the most straightforward way to close the ponds and deal with the issue now. Difficult issues: straight to put it - do you put the waste in a building or ship it, and how far would you clean it up. Ponds are closed with an engineered cover in lots of places, including the Denver area.
- Question:** You mentioned the sludge or pondcrete would be buried with the pond liners? Is that the sludge or pondcrete that's onsite?
- Answer:** Yes, the contamination in the sludge and the old pondcrete is less than it is in the soil.
- Question:** Are you going to cover the whole pond area, it seems like a very large area?
- Answer:** Yes, it's really a small area by cap standards. We will cover all five ponds.
- Question:** What about contaminants that have already leached below the water table? And could you elaborate on surface soil contamination?
- Answer:** (1) There were above background readings beyond the pond perimeter (metals, rad, nitrates). The intent is to take the soils and move them under the cover. (2) Groundwater plume - the intent of the design is to make sure that it doesn't make it worse. Phase II of the project will look at how to address that plume - another project in about two years. We're stopping the source as quickly as we can, and the next phase is going after the release that happened historically.
- Comment:** It's important to note that there was a plan to put soils and liners back in this cap. There are other options available. And to address Eugene's question: the laws in place allow this to happen. There is no RCRA requirement to clean close. There's no guarantee that you won't have that waste in barrels, drums of waste, forever, and nowhere to ship it.
- Question:** In uranium mining - tailings calls for a 100,000 year minimum lifetime at closure. Why are you settling for 1,000?
- Answer:** We're directed to meet 1,000 as a minimum criteria by the state. The difference between the uranium and what we have here is that there's a difference in the pathways and concerns. The 1,000 years means that if we built it and no one did anything at all - the cap would still maintain its integrity for 1,000 years. DOE intends to monitor it, however, so that if there is a problem you can take action.
- Question:** What do you see for the future? Will you put a fence around it and monitor it, and for how long?
- Answer:** We are actively required to monitor it for 30 years. Most caps, if they fail, show problems within 2-5 years. However, there will be some monitoring as long as DOE is at the site.
- Comment:** The 30-year requirement is a RCRA requirement. The siting requirement isn't a RCRA requirement - that's the State of Colorado and county-implemented.

Question: How many governments exist for 1,000 years? How long will this material that you're dealing with remain toxic or radioactive? What is the relevance of those numbers - 1,000 years or 30 years? What is the possibility of a major geologic change and what effect would that have on this facility that is being created? What are the alternatives?

Answer: The plutonium 239 becomes benign in about 240,000 years. As far as the geologic stability, that was investigated prior to design, the historical records shows this a stable area. We believe the nature of the cap's is self-healing and will last much longer than 1,000 years.

Comment: All rad and contaminant levels are very low.

Question: Is this cap just over the solar ponds, and does not include the stuff outside the solar ponds?

Answer: The stuff outside the solar ponds will be brought in underneath the cap.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD TO SOLAR PONDS BRIEFING:

Question: What's the percentage of the water volume in the solar ponds?

Answer: In C-pond, only one with sludge material, it's about 30-35% water (about 100,000 gallons).

Question: What if you knew of a company that would use the water as a method to filter contaminants out of the water?

Answer: There's some potential - it's something that's being pursued, mostly at OU-2. It's a system that works fairly well, but it cannot always meet the strict standards. If additional there is technology that could go a step further, we'd like to have information.

Question: I know of such a company, Ionic Corporation, that could get 99.99% of the particulates out of the solar ponds. Would you like to know more?

Answer: EG&G is writing down the name, and I'm sure there's interest there.