

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION October 3, 1996

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgkin, AlphaTRAC

Tom Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Aluisi, Jan Burda, Tom Clark, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Paul Grogger, Mary Harlow, Susan Johnson, Sasa Jovic, Beverly Lyne, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, Linda Murakami, David Navarro / Jeremy Karpatkin, Tim Rehder, Steve Tarlton

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Thompson / Shirley Olinger

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Larry Helmerick (DOE); Kenneth Werth (citizen); Carol Barker (RF retiree); Jim Stone (RFCC); Sujit Gupta (committee member); Victor Holm (citizen); J. Sedgely (RFLII); R. W. Terry (CDPHE); Kay Ryan (SWEIS); J. C. Laul (citizen); Hank Stovall (City of Broomfield); Linda Campbell (CAB intern); Julie Kramer (citizen); John Morris (DOE); Bruce Campbell (Mason & Hanger); Ravi Batra (DOE); Joe Legare (DOE); Russell McCallister (DOE); Mariane Anderson (DOE); John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill); Allen Schubert (Kaiser-Hill); Jackie Nelson (RMRS); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

PRESENTATION ON ROCKY FLATS FY97 RFCA MILESTONES AND KAISER-HILL PERFORMANCE MEASURES (Steve Slaten, DOE): DOE was not able at this meeting to give a presentation on the FY97 Kaiser-Hill Performance Measures, as they are behind schedule and still negotiating. However, they do expect the performance measures to be completed within the next few days, and will be able to give a detailed presentation to CAB at its November meeting. DOE promised to provide a copy of the performance measures to CAB as soon as they are completed. Steve Slaten then reviewed RFCA milestones for FY96. As of September 30, Kaiser-Hill had completed the following milestones and target activities:

- T3 excavation (completed July 3).
- T4 excavation (completed August 14).

- Cleaning and foaming of IAG underground storage tanks (completed September 23).
- Completed five megashipments of saltcrete to Envirocare-Utah.
- Evacuation of waste and solid residue from Building 779 (completed September 30).
- Reactive chemical treatment or disposal (completed 50).
- Disposition of 1,119 HSP 31.11 plutonium metal items.
- Stabilized 80% of newly generated plutonium oxides.
- Remove Highly Enriched Uranyl Nitrate (HEUN) solutions from tanks in Building 886 and ship offsite by December 31 (project is on schedule).
- Removed category I and II special nuclear materials from Building 779 (completed September 30).

Q&A Session:

Question: Mary Harlow: How much is in a megashipment?

Answer: Steve Slaten: It's about three big truckloads. A megashipment is sent to Envirocare because Envirocare creates a certain cell size, and they only want to receive as much material as necessary to fill up one cell, about 600 tons.

Question: LeRoy Moore: Under this disposition of 1100 HSP, what was the weight of that material and where did it go?

Answer: Steve Slaten: This is a bunch of different plutonium metal items that have different weights. They sat around and got oxide on them. That oxide becomes dangerous and has to be brushed off and then they have to be put in a special sealed canister - that's the disposition. They are still onsite but have gone from a less safe configuration to a more stable one by brushing off the plutonium oxide. Disposition to us meant to weigh them, figure out whether they needed to be brushed, and put them into the right container. It's in a slip-lid type of can with a certain inert atmosphere.

Question: Jim Stone: What was the classification of the waste and what was the unit cost of shipping it?

Answer: Steve Slaten: This is low-level or low-level mixed waste. I don't know the cost.

Question: Beverly Lyne: What does the DQO mean? Is that something you're working with cities on?

Answer: Steve Slaten: Data Quality Objectives. We're working with the cities, EPA and CDPHE.

Question: Kenneth Werth: I want to know what you're doing with the excavated soil from T3 and T4.

Answer: Steve Slaten: Most of the soil has already gone back into the excavation and refilled the same hole it came out of, after it was thermally treated to drive off the organics. There are some parts that have been segregated as waste and are awaiting disposition.

Question: Kenneth Werth: How are you storing it?

Answer: Steve Slaten: We're storing it in rolloff containers that are lined, it's low-level radioactive waste. It's sitting out there near where it was excavated waiting to be shipped to Envirocare as waste.

Comment: Steve Tarlton: You each have a copy of a document dated 9/30/96 called RFCA Milestones. This is a work in progress, ongoing discussions between EPA, CDPHE and DOE and the contractor to discuss the milestone setting for this year and where we are in that process. We're continuing those discussions. These milestones and targets will not be finalized until we know how much money DOE is going to get for FY97, that's expected to be about a month to six weeks out. At that time there is a formal process for finalizing these milestones.

Question: J. C. Laul: How much was the newly-generated plutonium oxide?

Answer: Steve Slaten: It's oxide that comes from the one above it, where we disposition the item, we brush the items, and sometimes there's five or 10 grams of plutonium oxide which is brushed off and caught, heated up to change its chemical form to become more stable, and 80% of it was stabilized.

Question: Eugene DeMayo: Evacuation of solid residue from Building 779, what was taken out of it and what is left of it?

Answer: Steve Slaten: It was items in drums that was not appropriate, not best to be in

that building. It was moved out to some other storage location. We cleaned the building of solid residue in barrels.

CAB RECOMMENDATION ON SOIL ACTION LEVELS (Tom Marshall): After two months of review during workshops and meeting, the Board developed a draft recommendation on the Soil Action Levels (SALs) proposed for Rocky Flats. The recommendation option that Board members agreed to recommends the agencies delay setting specific SALs until EPA has issued its Radiation Site Cleanup standards as a final rule, and after some uncertainties have been addressed. CAB did not support adopting the draft standards on an interim basis. In its recommendation, CAB expressed concern that additional cleanup might not take place after actions to meet the interim action levels are complete. But the Board did note that urgent risks must still be addressed, such as HEUN removal, stabilization of liquid and solid residues, and stabilization and consolidation of special nuclear materials. CAB members believe that addressing these more urgent risks may cause additional contamination. Therefore, major environmental restoration activities should be delayed until the more urgent risks are completed, except when soil contamination presents a risk to surface water, groundwater or other exposure pathways. If that should occur, environmental restoration must be done to the maximum level possible, using CAB's Cleanup Principles and Critical Reporting Elements as a guideline. The Board reiterated that - as stated in previous recommendations - the goal should be to clean up Rocky Flats to average background levels for the Front Range, and recommended that the agencies review cleanup levels on a regular basis to see if they can be improved upon.

Decision: *Approve recommendation on Soil Action Levels, with revisions. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Comment: J. C. Laul: I want to give you one scenario, at Hanford when they are looking at the handling of waste, a lot of geologists and geochemists have run models and still have found radionuclides miles away, in the aquifers etc. So if they are not testing, the models have no credibility. The dose and risk assessments all depend on what input is used. The models do not consider many important issues. It is very important to check into that and to have quantifying numbers.

Comment: Kenneth Werth: As an average lay person, I'm trying to represent the 2.5 million people who live within 50 miles of Rocky Flats. I don't think very many of those people are going to know what you're talking about when you talk about 10-6. It would be better if you just talked in plain language to the citizens and tell them what the radiation exposure is going to be. A lot of these people don't have an engineering degree. You have to put the information out in plain English.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CAB 1997 WORK PLAN: At its September 8 retreat, the Board approved a final draft version of its 1997 work plan. Highlights of new work activities include:

- Comment on: Proposed water quality standards for Rocky Flats; plutonium storage vault EIS; Ten Year Plan; Rocky Flats budget.
- Research: Water quality issues; non-radioactive contaminants/chemicals; privatization and outsourcing; transportation of nuclear wastes and materials; external regulation and DOE orders; emergency response issues; plutonium residue issues.
- Develop contract requests for: Review of environmental monitoring at Rocky Flats; assessment of building D&D issues; technology development.
- Provide tracking on: RFETS contractor performance measures; Waste Management PEIS; Site Treatment Plan; Site Wide EIS.

***Decision:** Approve final CAB 1997 Work Plan. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

PRESENTATION BY HEALTH COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

CONFERENCE (Beverly Lyne): Beverly attended a conference on behalf of CAB in September called "Meeting Community Needs: Improving Health Research and Risk Assessment Methodologies." The conference was held in Worcester, Massachusetts. People from around the country represented different stakeholder groups. The theme from citizens across the country seemed to be that communities are taking power and finding ways to work with governmental agencies and the universities -- by performing research, taking action to remediate sites, or developing policy -- the community players are equal participants at the table. Conference attendees were very interested in the Community Needs Assessment performed for Rocky Flats. Linda Campbell is proposing as part of her research on behalf of the Health Committee to take oral histories from people, to pull together information to use in case identification or therapeutic intervention.

LETTER TO DOE/STCG REGARDING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT: Tom Marshall asked the Board to consider sending a letter to Jessie Roberson expressing its support for continuation of the Technology Integration Program. The letter also requests that DOE explain: 1) how technology development will be pursued at Rocky Flats and what financial resources will be available; 2) prepare a list of both long and short term technology needs at Rocky Flats; and detail how CAB and the public will be included in the site's budget development for FY 98.

***Decision:** Approve sending letter to DOE regarding technology development, with*

revisions. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Update by Personnel Committee. The committee is proceeding with hiring a program specialist on staff; this is its first priority work. The Hiring Committee for this staff person will consist of the Personnel Committee, with the addition of Tom Marshall and Linda Murakami. The second priority for the committee is to begin work on current year evaluations of staff. Alan Aluisi has joined the Personnel Committee.
- Discussion of staff role / location during Board meetings. No consensus was reached, and there was a split of opinion among Board members; the discussion about staff sitting at the table will continue at a later time. The Board felt that it may be a good alternative at this time to set up a place near the front of the room for staff, and to encourage staff to give input at any time during Board discussions if they feel there is something that should be shared. The Board felt it would be worthwhile for staff to give a brief verbal report at its monthly meetings. Also, Board members noted that they don't feel the Board sufficiently recognizes work that staff does and will in the future make a concerted effort to do so.
- Change January Board meeting date. The Board agreed not to change the January meeting date and leave the date as January 2.
- Participation in CABnet: The Board did not at this time wish to add the ex-officio members to CABnet. They felt they would like to try the e-mail system by themselves for a while to see how everything works. They will revisit this decision at a later time.
- Leave of absence. Linda Murakami will be granted a three-month leave of absence from Board meetings for personal reasons. This leave of absence will begin with the November 7 meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: November 7, 1996, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Westminster City Hall, lower-level Multi-Purpose Room, 4800 West 92nd Avenue, Westminster

Agenda: Presentation on Kaiser-Hill FY97 performance measures; comments on Ten Year Plan; review of attachments to Soil Action Levels recommendation

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

- 1) Revise and forward recommendation on Soil Action Levels - Staff
- 2) Revise and forward letter regarding technology development - Staff

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:15 P.M. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

David Navarro, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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