

## ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

September 4, 1997

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Tom Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Aluisi, Susan Barron, Jan Burda, Tom Clark, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Paul Grogger, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Susan Johnson, Bob Kanick, Jim Kinsinger, Beverly Lyne, Tom Marshall, Linda Sikkema / Jeremy Karpatkin, Frazer Lockhart, Tim Rehder, Steve Tarlton

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sasa Jovic, David Navarro, Gary Thompson

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Kenneth Werth (citizen); Tom Stewart (citizen); Mariane Anderson (DOE); Michael Wagner (citizen); Jason Burton (citizen); Steve Anderson (citizen); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Chris Millsaps (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

**DISCUSSION WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON CAB'S 1998 WORK PLAN** (Ken Korkia): During the summer, CAB's committees worked on preparing a list of issues and topics for its 1998 work plan. At this meeting, Ken Korkia reviewed what topics had been identified, and asked Board members, DOE and the regulators, and the public to fill out a form indicating which issues had the highest priority - in order to assist the Board in prioritizing its work. New issues identified included the cost of Rocky Flats closure, and a public involvement process. Ken will tabulate the responses received; CAB will finalize its work plan at the retreat to be held on September 14.

**REPORT ON UPCOMING D&D PLANNING ACTIVITIES** (Chris Millsaps): The site has been holding D&D "pizza" meetings since late spring. Through these meetings RFETS has asked the public for input and direction for D&D issues. Chris Millsaps staffs CAB's D&D Committee. At its meeting last month, CAB's committee co-chairs asked Chris for a presentation to clarify the current status of D&D issues.

Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) is the process for taking down buildings, and

reducing risk and mortgage costs. The 2006 Plan estimates D&D costs to be \$600 million. Deactivation is the process of placing buildings in a stable condition (including removing special nuclear material); while decommissioning comprises all the activities that occur following deactivation, to retire a building from service (e.g., surveillance, maintenance, decontamination, dismantlement). Documents to address D&D issues include RFCA (Attachment 9), the Decommissioning Program Plan (DPP), Decommissioning Operations Plan (DOP), and the Building Radiation Closure Standards Document. RFCA Attachment 9 defines how building disposition will be handled, through characterization, a disposition baseline, developing general procedures, an operations plan, and standards.

- The DPP sets general practices and procedures for D&D of buildings that are determined to be contaminated, but not to a great extent. The plan will not be building specific, but will cover day-to-day procedures for decommissioning. This document should be released in early October.
- The DOP is a building specific plan for those facilities with significant contamination, such as Buildings 707, 771, 776, 777, 779, 991, and 371. The plan will present specifics for dealing with identified contamination. This document is also scheduled for release sometime in October.
- The Building Radiation Closure Standards Document will establish contamination levels for building cleanup. Below these levels, debris could be disposed of as non-radioactive waste. A release date for this document has not been established.

The site is hoping for public input to help it address some issues, such as what to do with certain types of building debris - should it be disposed as low-level waste, buried onsite as backfill, or disposed offsite at an industrial landfill? CAB members and those participating with the D&D working group will work with the site on making decisions on those and other issues, as plans are developed in the future.

#### **LETTER TO AGENCIES CONCERNING NUCLEAR REGULATORY**

**COMMISSION CLEANUP STANDARDS** (Bob Kanick): CAB reviewed a draft letter to be sent to DOE-HQ, DOE-RFFO, local EPA and CDPHE discussing NRC's recently-issued cleanup standards. The letter notes that CAB still has concerns about the protectiveness of proposed cleanup standards for Rocky Flats, and has issued a recommendation asking for a review of those standards. CAB stated it that it would not condone using any standards that would lessen the protectiveness of cleanup at the site. If new standards are proposed for Rocky Flats cleanup based on NRC's rule, those standards should also be subject to an outside independent review to ensure their adequacy.

***Decision:*** Approve letter (one Board member abstention). **APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.**

**ACTINIDE MIGRATION STUDY RECOMMENDATION** (Tom Marshall): The Site Wide Issues Committee put forth a draft recommendation asking the site to consider restructuring the Actinide Migration Panel, and placing its work on hold until that had happened. Some Board members were concerned about sending out this recommendation before examining the work of the group. The Board decided to gather more information on the status of the panel's work, and its proposed activities for the future. CAB will ask panel members to give a presentation to the Board at a future meeting, possibly in November. The recommendation will be tabled until after CAB receives a presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No comments were received.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES RECOMMENDATION** (Eugene DeMayo): The National Issues Committee has researched and reviewed plans for transportation of radioactive waste to the proposed Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Following its studies, the committee prepared a recommendation for CAB's consideration. The recommendation asks DOE to take steps to decrease the risks inherent in the transportation of wastes. Specifically, the Board asked that DOE:

- Consider adding potential truck parking areas in the event of emergency, in addition to the three sites already designated (Rocky Flats, Fort Carson Army Reservation, and the Pueblo Army Depot). Publicly accessible areas such as rest areas and police station parking areas should not be considered.
- Ensure that emergency medical personnel and facilities exist along transportation routes, and that they have agreed to help respond to accidents, receive adequate training, have appropriate vehicles to transport contaminated victims, have proper decontamination equipment, and make available contained and isolated treatment areas.
- Develop and implement an anti-terrorism plan, and a terrorist response plan, prior to beginning any shipment of waste.
- Make available for public review any information on past waste shipment accidents or mishaps, and develop protocols for reporting future incidents.
- Test TRUPACT-II shipping containers in full-scale tests to determine how much beyond minimum requirements those containers can last. This would include developing a realistic crush test for the containers. Also, DOE should develop and implement an inspection and maintenance plan to determine the containers' structural integrity, and to retire containers before there is any risk of failure.
- Reconsider escorting waste shipments.

- Use small caravans for truck shipments, and multiple-car shipments by rail, to increase safety.
- Continue evaluating the feasibility and safety estimates of rail transportation.

*Decision: Approve revised recommendation, incorporating changes made by Board.  
APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**2006 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS** (Tom Marshall): The Site Wide Issues Committee reviewed the discussion drafts of both the national and Rocky Flats versions of the 2006 Plan, and offered specific comments in a draft recommendation for CAB's approval, including the following comments:

- **2006 Plan End-State:** Provide greater detail on the 2006 Plan end-state proposed for Rocky Flats. Include details such as estimated quantity of plutonium remaining in soils, ground and surface water, nature of materials left onsite, state of the ecosystem after remediation, and conditions of facilities left for reuse.
- **Technology Development:** Pursue a technology program focusing on a cost-effective cleanup to background levels.
- **DOE Decision-Making Processes:** 1) CAB would like to see a national stakeholder process centered on the acceptability of the accelerated cleanup approach and its assumptions. CAB would like to participate in the development of a public involvement plan to address these issues. 2) The 2006 Plan should provide information on DOE's conception of and plans for the National Dialogue on Waste and Materials Disposition. 3) CAB urged caution with DOE's budget development processes until comments on and finalized versions of the 2006 Plan were prepared; budget and planning activities should be combined. 4) Annual reviews of the 2006 Plan should include identification of areas where stakeholder comments and recommendations have been incorporated.
- **Assumptions in the 2006 Plan:** DOE should develop well-conceived and readily-implementable contingencies for its key assumptions, and prepare specific decisions dates for when contingencies will need to be acted upon.
- **Cleanup Levels:** Strive to improve cleanup beyond standards, using as low as reasonably achievable criteria.
- **Privatization:** Refer to CAB's previous recommendation on privatization issues when planning for privatization projects throughout the 2006 Plan.

- **Productivity Goals:** DOE should provide details regarding proposed productivity improvements. Also, caution should be used when considering reduction of support costs so that safeguards and security, or health and safety are not compromised. Annual reviews of the productivity goals and performances should be conducted by an outside, independent agency.
- **Risk Reduction:** Make available information developed on proposed incremental reduction of risks.
- **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Oversight:** Analyze any impacts from a proposed change in oversight for cleanup programs at Rocky Flats, and across the complex.
- **Prioritization:** Reducing risk and full compliance with regulatory agreements should be the top priorities, and reducing imminent health and safety risks should be key activities. Mortgage reduction and achieving cost savings should be done only if it protects the health and safety of the workers, the public, and the environment.
- **Complex-wide EM Integration Report:** The Integration Report and recommendations developed as a result of this report should also be subject to stakeholder input.

Finally, CAB reminded DOE of commitments made by Assistant Secretary Al Alm in October 1996. Those commitments included: DOE's agreement not to dispose waste at Rocky Flats; DOE will set firm commitment dates for when contingencies are to be enacted; DOE will emphasize the principal of ALARA in cleaning areas of contamination; DOE commits to review the Soil Action Levels on a regular basis; DOE will allow stakeholder input into cleanup and monitoring issues beyond the ten-year timeframe; DOE will get workers involved in safety management; and DOE will make the decontamination and decommissioning of Buildings 779 and 771 models for future Rocky Flats work.

***Decision:** Approve revised recommendation, incorporating changes made by Board.  
APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

### **LETTER TO DOE CONCERNING SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY ISSUES**

(Mary Harlow): The Board's Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee sponsored a panel discussion in July to review safeguards and security issues at the site. Based on that discussion, and a review of a followup letter from Keith Klein, CAB members reviewed a draft letter recommending the following:

- The site give greater attention to the maintenance backlog for safeguards and security systems; RFETS should consider hiring a Safeguards System Engineer or other point person to oversee this work.
- CAB requests that DOE provide adequate oversight of safeguards and security at the site.
- CAB expressed concern that the site consider upgrades to security systems in buildings slated for D&D to be a lesser priority. Adequate and reliable systems should remain in all buildings until holdup material in either piping or ventilation systems is removed.
- The Board encouraged DOE to work as a united team in addressing safeguards and security, and asked that it end the apparent quarrel or lack of trust between DOE-HQ and the Rocky Flats office regarding these issues.

**Decision:** *Approve revised letter, incorporating changes made by Board. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

*Personnel Committee Report.* Tom Davidson and Mary Harlow finalized Ken Korkia's staff evaluation. A salary increase was approved for Ken, along with a one-time retroactive pay increase back to July 1, 1997.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Date: October 9, 1997, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard, Arvada

Agenda: Presentation on environmental monitoring systems review; discussion with DOE concerning CAB funding for national dialogue and 2006 Plan participation; finalize CAB work plan and budget; review letter to DOE concerning retaliation toward workers

### **ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Tabulate comments received; prepared revised work plan information for September 14 Board retreat - Ken Korkia

2. Finalize letter regarding NRC cleanup standards and send out - Chris Millsaps
3. Talk to Actinide Migration Study panel members; ask for update on the panel's activities at a future Board meeting - Tom Marshall
4. Revise and forward recommendation on transportation issues - Ken Korkia
5. Revise and forward recommendation on 2006 Plan - Ken Korkia
6. Revise and forward letter on safeguards and security issues - Ken Korkia

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:00 P.M. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Tom Gallegos, Secretary  
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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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.

[Top of Page](#) | [Index of Meeting Minutes](#) | [Home](#)

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