

## ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

February 5, 1998

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Mary Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Aluisi, Tom Clark, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Bob Kanick, Jim Kinsinger, Beverly Lyne, David Navarro / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan Barron, Tom Davidson, Paul Grogger, Tom Marshall, Linda Sikkema

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Kenneth Werth (citizen); Jerry Anderson (citizen); Brady Wilson (citizen); J. Jones (citizen); Tom Stewart (CDPHE); Mariane Anderson (DOE); David Lower (DOE); Alan Trenary (citizen); Carl Sykes (DOE); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

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

**UPDATE BY EPA** (Tim Rehder, EPA): Tim reviewed a few of the issues EPA is monitoring at the site:

- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (which would regulate water discharged from the Industrial Area): There is a dispute on this issue, and he is not optimistic it will be resolved.
- Milestones: In January the Dispute Resolution Committee met to negotiate milestones for FY98 and FY99; a dispute remains over the removal of 40 gloveboxes from Building 779 - the dispute will be discussed with the executive directors of EPA and CDPHE, and Jessie Roberson.
- Trench T-1: The site will submit a sampling and analysis plan to EPA in mid-February. Final approval is expected in March, with work to begin in April.

- 903 Pad: A Sampling and analysis plan was approved, with sampling to begin the first week of February. The sampling will better define the amount of organic contamination in the area. The portion of the plan addressing radiological sampling has not yet been approved pending the resolution of data problems.
- Mound Ground Water Plume Cleanup: Construction of a system to treat ground water contamination will begin in March and should be completed by May.
- Rocky Flats Cost Estimating: EPA is helping DOE develop a Life Cycle Baseline for the Rocky Flats Field Office, which will help identify opportunities for saving money.

**FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON THE "STATE OF THE FLATS" MEETING:** As a follow-up to last week's first "State of the Flats" meeting, CAB members and the public participated in a discussion with DOE, Kaiser-Hill and regulators in order to submit comments on its perceptions and views of how things are going at the site. In a round-robin discussion, Board members, members of the public, and site and regulatory officials gave their points of view and perspectives. Comments will be forwarded to DOE for review. Highlights follow:

Positive perspectives:

- More work is being done and less planning; there is a link with the community and partnership; proactive discussions are occurring
- More openness, especially regarding environmental monitoring
- Good quality of work in Building 779, especially with radiological controls; good planning; real work being done
- Greater understanding of complexities of work
- DNFSB report shows less safety problems; hazards are down by an order of magnitude; completion of outyear work
- Plans for closure are better defined, with a better understanding of needs and costs
- Movement of waste points to closure; materials have been stabilized; community planning in D&D; groups are working together

Negative perspectives:

- More pressure on workers; stress levels are up; too much micromanagement
- The State of the Flats meeting did not meet expectations; milestones reflect shipping of waste under "cover of darkness" - wants an explanation from site on how it can ship and meet milestones
- Room for improvement with less complex/lower risk activities - incorporating broader input
- Need for better project-specific environmental monitoring, and reception of community input
- Could do a better job of explaining site activities to the public in news releases and outreach materials
- Cancellation of NCPP
- Flaws in the multiple contractor system - need M&O contract with performance based incentives
- Difficulties in coordination of multiple contractors
- Concerns about work culture (safety, competence); NRC regulation
- Need improved communications - more clear and open
- Loss of incentive fee (why was this not discussed at the meeting?)
- Concerned about worker/community safety (i.e., firefighters)
- Waste of \$20 million on NCPP
- Need more digestible and easy to understand information from the site
- Nuclear Waste Policy Act - applicability at RFETS

Comments from ex-officio representatives:

- DOE: Difference in opinions e.g. waste movements; will open environmental monitoring process; will work on communication of information; waste is leaving

the site (e.g. saltcrete); TRU waste - time of day for shipment will give consideration to safety; have less performance measures with cost accountability for each; DNFSB report shows there are less risks, brought in experts; integrated management contractors are not indemnified; subcontractors were brought in as experts

- CDPHE: State acknowledges risk reduction; there are problems, pressures to meet deadlines; numbers of shipments of materials are large, especially low level waste; waste containers designed specifically for higher level wastes, policies and procedures to determine safety of shipments; state has control over shipments to WIPP; security shipments are classified, use U.S. Marshals; 1) security 2) TRU 3) LLW
- DOE: Hears about complacency; believes Rocky Flats is dangerous, but are not complacent; sees acceleration not just to save money but to reduce risk; regarding communication: on the plus side - an expansion of interests beyond the "whats" to the "hows" i.e. implementation, on the negative side - need to demystify responses to community recommendations, comments etc.; regarding NCPP - \$20 million was not wasted, got D&D of the buildings, there was no guarantee for Stage III, each stage was independent, so Stage II not a waste but viewed as successful
- EPA: Regarding adverse environmental remediation trends, better planning in `97 with exception of Mound, not a health or environmental threat such as T3/T4; sees better planning for T1; sees need for cost efficiencies; is good to now see a plan (2006); Building 779 project plan is impressive, good staff; waste is leaving the site - not just legacy waste but newly generated waste, which reduces surveillance costs

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Kenneth Werth: In 1993, I received a DOE Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic EIS for storage and disposition of high-level nuclear waste. Nowhere in that report does it state that disposition of the nuclear waste is to be left up to another state to solve. I don't see anywhere that shipping offsite is to be considered. I would like to know why Rocky Flats feels it is in compliance when they are shipping all their nuclear waste offsite.

**Response:** Joe Legare: For clarity, we do not have high-level waste at Rocky Flats. DOE has many resources available to it. But these decisions were made holistically, considering the entire resources of DOE and not just the limited resources of Rocky Flats. That was factored into the decisions made about how to deal with and disposition this material.

**Comment:** Jack Hoopes: Bob Card spent time focusing on accomplishments, and we have a lot to be proud of with our progress. The things we have planned to do this coming year, just two years ago were five years' worth of work. That's an important benchmark to keep in mind. Bob also reported on areas where we feel we need to pay the penalty that DOE has imposed for the IAG tanks and T3/T4. We don't think we earned that fee and shouldn't accept it. There is a check being sent to DOE. A lot of energy has been directed to making sure the systems and management focus is in place to avoid the mistakes that happened in 1996. Regarding worker stress, you don't have to be a worker at Rocky Flats for long to feel that. There is a lot of energy needed to do what we're trying to do. From a management perspective, this is acknowledged as a significant issue to deal with. What we can do better is focus on clear direction, and putting all the means in place for people to be productive. Before Kaiser-Hill came, people were paid to do nothing and were waiting for clear direction. It takes time to shift those gears, and to have all the systems in place so they can do their work. Another thing mentioned at the site is the issue of safety versus productivity or performance - that earning fees takes priority over safety. That's not true. If we don't do work safely, we're not going to be around, and no one wants anyone to get hurt.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS** (Beverly Lyne):

Following up from the assessment of environmental monitoring performed in 1997 for CAB by Parker-Hall, Inc., the Health Issues Focus Group prepared: 1) a recommendation to DOE, and 2) compiled specific comments and recommendations made by Parker-Hall on the Integrated Monitoring Plan for Rocky Flats:

1) The recommendation asks DOE to enter into a collaborative discussion with the Board and community on how best to improve the presentation of information and data concerning environmental monitoring at the site. The goal is to develop readily understandable written reports to the community.

**Decision:** *Approve recommendation. No changes to the text were made. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS*

2) As part of its review of monitoring systems at the site, Parker-Hall, Inc. prepared specific comments and recommendations on the Integrated Monitoring Plan. The Health Issues Focus Group reviewed and compiled those comments and recommendations, which cover the groundwater, surface water, air, and project-specific monitoring programs in place. The Focus Group would like CAB to approve formally transmitting those comments and recommendations to DOE.

**Decision:** *Approve recommendation transmitting Parker-Hall, Inc.'s comments and recommendations to DOE, with minor changes to the text as suggested by Board members. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE RESIDUES EIS** (Mary Harlow): The Plutonium Issues Focus Group prepared revised comments and recommendations on the Residues EIS, which CAB was asked to review and approve at this meeting. Some of those comments include:

- The focus of the EIS is to prepare residues and scrub alloy for shipment to WIPP. Many of the residues currently are stored in such a way that they do not meet safety requirements required by DNFSB 94-1. There is a concern that delays in opening WIPP will occur and the residues will remain at RFETS for a long time. The recommendation asks DOE to consider supplementing the one-step treatment program to provide for maximum safety if long-term storage is necessary. Ideally CAB would like to see a treatment program developed that would meet WIPP criteria, 94-1 requirements, and provide maximum safety for storage at Rocky Flats.
- DOE should carefully weigh any plutonium separation treatment options, and only implement them if dramatic reductions in cost or worker exposure can be demonstrated.
- DOE expects to ship some residue forms and scrub alloy to other sites for treatment and plutonium separation. CAB believes offsite treatment options may not be feasible, and recommends DOE prepare back-up options.
- Finally, CAB questions why there was such a long delay in developing plans for treatment and disposition of the residues at Rocky Flats. The delay resulted in a lost opportunity to develop new and innovative treatment methods for the residues. The recommendation asks if DOE considered alternative treatment methods, such as Cold Ceramification, and the Glass Material Oxidation and Dissolution System.

***Decision:*** Approve recommendation. No changes to the text were made. **APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

### **\* Personnel Committee Report.**

1. The Board approved hiring Brady Wilson to serve as the Board's Program Specialist. Brady is a recent graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, with a BA in Biological Sciences, emphasis in Field Biology.
2. CAB approved bonuses of 2% of current salary for Ken Korkia and Deb Thompson as a merit for 1997 work.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Date: March 5, 1998, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

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

Agenda: \* *Presentation on the RFLII Reuse Task Force draft report; presentation on environmental restoration activities at Rocky Flats for 1998*

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Forward comments on "State of the Flats" meeting to DOE - Ken Korkia
2. Revise and forward environmental monitoring recommendations to DOE- Ken Korkia
3. Forward recommendations and comments on the Residues EIS to DOE - Ken Korkia

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 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.

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