

## ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

July 1, 1999

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Jim Kinsinger called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Barron, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Gerald DePoorter, Joe Downey, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, David Navarro, Linda Sikkema, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Joe Legare, Anna Martinez, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Bruce Dahm (Broomfield), Hank Stovall (Broomfield); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

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

**REGULATOR UPDATE (EPA):** Tim Rehder with EPA gave his quarterly update to the Board, discussing the following issues and projects:

- **Milestone/Target Setting for 2001 and Outyears.** EPA, CDPHE and DOE met to discuss the 2006 baseline and possible milestones. EPA and CDPHE will meet again to go over the milestones.
- **Validation of the 2006 Baseline.** EPA and CDPHE will participate in a group from the RFFO engineering program, reviewing the Kaiser-Hill Closure Project Baseline.
- **East Trenches Plume Passive Treatment System.** The trench is excavated and panels have been installed in about one-half of it. Groundwater remediation is underway. Some of the panels on the western edge of the trench were damaged due to slumping; they will be removed in July and panel installation will be completed after that.
- **Solar Ponds Plume Passive Treatment System.** Excavation began in mid-June. During excavation, the existing interceptor trench system (ITS) piping was

encountered. From this line, water is collected and sent to the ITS sump for transfer to modular storage tanks. When the line was uncovered, it was found to be a perforated pipe — the existing ITS had been allowing groundwater to leak downgradient.

- **Boulder Open Space Study — the effect of trails on the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse.** The Division of Wildlife is trapping mice in open space areas in south Boulder and along Boulder Creek to determine the effect trails have on their migration. This information could be used in future land use decisions at Rocky Flats. EPA is assisting with the project and may fund some statistical evaluation of the data.
- **Building 779 Demolition Plan.** Safely demolishing Building 779 depends on the final rad survey. If the survey is comprehensive and shows the structure has been decontaminated to free release limits, razing the building will be much simpler. EPA, CDPHE and DOE are working together with the verification contractor, MACTECH, to work out the details of the final rad survey.
- **Industrial Area Characterization Strategy.** EPA and CDPHE are reviewing the site's development of an Industrial Area Characterization Plan. A preliminary schedule of the documents that need to be developed to close the industrial area was prepared earlier in the week. The site also presented an estimate of the number of samples that need to be collected and analyzed to properly characterize the Industrial Area.

**APPROVE COMRAD CONTRACTOR SELECTION AND CONTRACT:** Proposals were received from five different firms to handle the ComRad program. The Evaluation Committee of the ComRad Oversight Panel selected three firms for interviews, and held those interviews on June 29. The firm selected by the Evaluation Committee was Merco, Inc. A draft contract was presented to the Board for its review. Since CAB will be functioning as the pass-through agent of grant funds for this program in the future, the Board must agree to both the selection of contractor and the contract language itself. The Board was informed that one of the applicant firms interviewed submitted a protest to the CAB office upon learning that they were not selected as the contractor. CAB staff has worked with the Board's attorney to prepare a process for dealing with that protest. However, the attorney advised that the protest would not hinder the Board's ability to approve the contractor selected. CAB approved both the selection of Merco, Inc. as contractor for the ComRad program and the final contract. A meeting will be held on July 20 to begin the project formally.

**APPROVE RFCAB WORK PLAN PROCESS:** The Board begins work each year on its annual work plan in mid-summer. Staff prepared an outline for a process similar to prior years, where CAB can begin to develop a work plan. DOE and the regulators will be asked for input into what issues the Board should address for the year 2000. In addition, surveys will be sent to Board members, DOE and site contractor representatives, regulator personnel, and members of the public — soliciting information on issues the Board should

address in the coming year. Summaries of the surveys will be prepared for the Board's review and a draft budget will be prepared. The Board will be asked to prioritize a list of topics for the work plan, and then at a retreat to be held in September, CAB will prepare its work plan and budget for final approval in October. The Board agreed to the process; staff will begin sending out information requests and surveys. A ballot will be sent out to Board members with the July 19 meeting packet, asking for their preferences for the date of the fall retreat.

**APPROVE LETTER TO JESSIE ROBERSON ON RFCAB STEWARDSHIP**

**INVOLVEMENT:** At this meeting, Board members approved a letter from CAB to Jessie Roberson stating that the Board was very interested in participating and planning for stewardship at the site, both during cleanup and after closure. This letter was in response to a letter from Jessie Roberson asking the Board to participate in convening a joint stewardship dialogue process with DOE and the newly formed Coalition of Local Governments.

The Coalition is interested in starting the stewardship dialogue process as soon as possible, and would like to schedule a meeting with CAB members in July to discuss how the two organizations can work together on this project. The Coalition has already scheduled two meetings — one on July 7<sup>th</sup> and another on July 22<sup>nd</sup> — to begin to outline how to move toward developing a stewardship program for Rocky Flats. The Board expressed some concerns about the Coalition setting up meetings before both CAB and Coalition members have an opportunity to discuss how they would like to co-convene this project. Staff will contact the executive director of the Coalition to discuss this issue, and to work out the details for both groups to meet and discuss a mutually acceptable plan for proceeding with the stewardship dialogue.

Board members were asked to volunteer to work on this important project, which will be a key element of CAB's work plan for next year. Several Board members did volunteer. CAB was also reminded that the Oak Ridge SSAB will host a stewardship conference in October with other SSAB members throughout the weapons complex; CAB will send four members as delegates to that conference.

**APPROVE FINAL LANGUAGE FOR LOW LEVEL WASTE CONTAINMENT**

**VISION STATEMENT:** The Board again reviewed its most recent version of the Draft Low Level Waste Containment Criteria vision statement. This statement was sent via email to Board members after the June Board meeting for review and comments. Two issues were raised about language in this draft. One concern raised was about the definition of "retrievable" and whether this definition implied the need for retrievability by today's technology or by an anticipated future technology. In addition, some Board members asked if technology development could be emphasized somehow in the vision statement. Staff noted that the statement as it is written now has a phrase in the introductory statement that urges DOE to develop better and safer waste management

technologies, and to periodically assess whether treatment or containment can be improved by new technologies. The comments about the definition of retrievability took some time for Board members to discuss. They agreed on a revised statement under the section "retrievable" which says:

*"The low level waste containment system will be designed and operated so that the low level waste shall be managed and/or removed if necessary in the event of loss of isolation. If new technologies for waste treatment become available, their application will be considered — based on an analysis by future decision-makers and stakeholders."*

Staff will revise the statement and present it in the draft Vision document.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Hank Stovall: I am a member of the Coalition of Local Governments. Regarding stewardship planning, the Coalition wants to be a cooperative unit in the local community. We represent governments. Most of you live in a city or a county, and this is a group of elected officials whose concern is with what happens at the site in the end. We're not trying to upstage anyone. Most of our members don't have the background that CAB has on this matter, so I view these early meetings as getting county commissioners and council people who have been involved up to speed. CAB shouldn't feel threatened by that process. You're welcome to come as individuals. Canceling the first meeting will create a rift immediately. We're there to work with you, for you, and to arrive at the same end point cooperatively.

**Comment:** John Barton: I received Kaiser-Hill's response to the concern that I raised at last month's Board meeting. I have prepared a rebuttal (which was distributed to CAB members and the audience). I take great issue with the way the pondcrete was shipped. It was a danger to us all. I have the reasons in my rebuttal. I'm also disappointed that a Department of Transportation expert ruled that this was a non-issue when he never even came out to the site. There are a couple more issues here. One was the metal "V" crates missing bolts, and the second was the re-worked plywood coffins. The plywood coffins were to hold the corresponding waste, scraps, or whatever was left over from shipping the pondcrete. They were cut into, braces and struts removed, and then sealed with only six nails. In normal procedure for shipping, they are nailed every three inches with about 84 nails; 93% of the nails were missing. More nails are required in the cleats of the lid; 100% of those were missing. I also take issue with Kaiser-Hill's response to the problems with shipment under one guiding regulation. Kaiser-Hill's responded that accident scenarios didn't apply. But I believe normal conditions of transportation apply, and a DOE Order states it would have had to be dropped four feet. Six bolts would not have held it. We are working with dangerous materials, and I want to present a little evidence for your review.

**Response: Jim Kinsinger:** CAB staff will follow-up with Kaiser-Hill and DOE representatives to see if any further investigation into this issue is necessary.

**DISCUSSION OF CLEANUP PHASES END-STATE DEFINITIONS:** In December, Board members began discussions on cleanup levels and phases of cleanup leading to closure of the Rocky Flats site. At that time, the Board chose to suspend discussions until they were further along in the development of the CAB Vision. At this meeting, the Board re-addressed the issue of cleanup levels during the period of regulatory cleanup and during a period of time following regulatory cleanup. In preparation for this discussion, staff assembled a list of options for each of those questions. Of the options prepared by staff, Board members altered and combined the ideas and came up with the following draft statements (which were compiled by the staff based on Board member comments):

- The site will specify a cleanup level, for the end of regulatory cleanup that will meet unrestricted use criteria and ensure the protection of surface water quality. This can be achieved by basing the cleanup level on the most conservative of the two criteria. Also, the site must perform an ALARA analysis to determine if further cleanup (i.e., levels approaching average Colorado Front Range background levels) can be accomplished with a net benefit to the public and the environment.
- The site steward, either the owner or those providing maintenance and monitoring onsite, will monitor and participate in the development of cleanup technologies. As new technologies are developed and demonstrated, the steward will perform an ALARA analysis to determine if the new cleanup technology, if deployed at the site, will result in a net benefit to the public and the environment.
- Some public entity will be formed or maintenance to provide input into technology use decisions and technology development goals.
- Some method will be chosen to ensure that funding is available for continued cleanup and technology development for application at RFETS.

At the next Board meeting, CAB members will receive a presentation on caps, and determine whether support exists for the use of caps at the site.

**DISCUSS RFCAB PARTICIPATION IN SSAB TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP:** CAB received a letter from the chair of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board announcing the formation of a national SSAB Transportation Working Group. The idea for this group came out of the Transportation Workshop held in Cincinnati in May. CAB was asked to delegate someone to participate in this working group and to send that representative to the TEC/WG meeting in Philadelphia later this month.

Board members approved sending a letter to James Bierer, chair of the Fernald SSAB, informing him that a representative would not be attending the TEC/WG meeting in Philadelphia. CAB did not budget for this trip and does not have enough funding available

to cover the costs. In addition, the Board believes that more discussion needs to take place between the SSABs before a commitment is made to establish a working group solely for transportation issues. CAB asked that this topic be placed on the agenda for the August 8 SSAB chairs conference call.

The merits of the work of the TEC/WG were discussed by some Board members, and CAB staff was asked to contact the organization asking for information on the group and requesting to be placed on the mailing list to receive information about future meetings. If there is interest, a Board member may attend TEC/WG meetings in the future, provided CAB is able to budget for those meetings.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** July 19, 6 - 9:30 p.m. (work session)

**Location:** College Hill Library, Front Range Community College, 3705 West 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Westminster

**Agenda:** TRU waste EA recommendations; presentation on proposed plans for closure caps at Rocky Flats; end-state definitions discussion; draft RFCAB Vision document

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Prepare and send out information requests and surveys regarding CAB 2000 work plan - Staff
2. Forward letter to Jessie Roberson regarding stewardship planning dialogue - Staff
3. Contact executive director of RFCOLG to discuss meeting planning issues - Ken Korkia
4. Revise Low Level Waste Containment Criteria vision statement - Erin Rogers
5. Follow-up with Kaiser-Hill and DOE site representatives regarding issues brought forth in public comment period (pondcrete shipment) - Brady Wilson
6. Prepare statements regarding cleanup issues for CAB vision, return to CAB for further input and revisions at August Board meeting - Brady Wilson
7. Forward letter to Fernald Citizens Advisory Board chair regarding CAB involvement in SSAB Transportation Working Group - Staff
8. Contact TEC/WG and ask to have CAB placed on mailing list for future meetings - Ken Korkia

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 P.M. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Mary Harlow, 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](#)

[Citizens Advisory Board Info](#) | [Rocky Flats Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Feedback & Questions](#)