

**ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION**

**October 5, 2000  
6 — 9:30 p.m.**

**College Hill Library, Front Range Community College  
3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, Colorado**

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgkin

Gerald DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ray Betts, Robin Byrnes, Eugene DeMayo, Jerry DePoorter, Jeff Eggleston, Tom Gallegos, Victor Holm, Paul Jurasin, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, LeRoy Moore, Bill Petersen, Markuené Sumler, Bryan Taylor, Curt Watts / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joe Downey, Mary Harlow, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Darryl Todd (citizen); Tom Stewart (citizen); John Marler (Coalition); Bob Fraser (citizen); John Coffman (citizen); Roman Kohler (citizen); Shirley Garcia (Broomfield); Carl Spreng (CDPHE); Jack Hanson (citizen); Ann Lockhart (CDPHE); Regina Wicks (citizen); Louise Janson (citizen); Alan Trenary (citizen); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Jerry DePoorter: I would like to thank Jeremy, Joe, Anna, and all of the DOE people for the arrangements they made for the tour of Building 771 last month. Those of us who went on the tour got a very good insight and view of what is going on, what the problems are, and what things they have to deal with. I know DOE went to considerable effort to set up that tour.

**REGULATOR UPDATE — COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT:** Steve Gunderson with CDPHE presented his quarterly report on the status of Rocky Flats issues.

- Missed FY00 RFCA Milestone. CDPHE and EPA issued a Notice of Violation to DOE for missing the RFCA milestone of storing transuranic waste in Building 906. This milestone was to be completed by September 1; however, waste was stored in the building beginning on September 22. The penalty as stated in the letter is \$60,000. DOE has 15 days to dispute whether the violation did occur, and the number of days the violation continued.
- Other FY00 RFCA Milestones. The site did meet milestones for the number of D&D work sets completed, the volume of low level waste shipped, and the demolition of Building 779. The milestone for completing 86 transuranic waste shipments to WIPP during FY00 was not met, but the cause for failing to meet the milestone is not within the site's control.
- FY01 RFCA Milestones. RFCA parties are close to an agreement on a basis for establishing FY01 milestones based on measuring earned value. This method will allow the site flexibility to be efficient with resources and yet keep the site to a schedule for completing work.
- RSOPs. The regulators will approve the Facility Disposition RSOP. The Component Removal RSOP is currently out for formal public comment.
- Building 771 DOP. A major modification to the 771 DOP is available for informal review and comment. Once comments are received and incorporated, the modification will be sent out for formal public comment. One part of the modification concerns using limited explosives at the foundation of the Building 771 stack so that the stack drops where it should.
- Building 707 DOP. This document will be out for formal 45-day public comment shortly.
- Plasma Arc Cutting in Building 771. Using this method of size reduction should begin this month.
- Plutonium Packaging System. The system startup has been delayed again. It was originally scheduled to be operational September 30, 1998. A new RFCA target was established to get a modified system operational by March 2000. This target was missed. The latest schedule was to get the system operational in October. That date has been moved to after the first of January. At this point, every month delay in system startup will result in a month's delay in closing the Protected Area.
- Building 111 D&D. Kaiser-Hill hopes to demolish this old office building this fiscal year.
- Industrial Area SAP. The regulators expect to receive a draft SAP very shortly and it will be made available to the public.

**PANEL PRESENTATION ON RSAL ISSUES BY THE RFCA PRINCIPALS:** Joe Legare (DOE), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), and Tim Rehder (EPA) discussed with the Board issues related to the ongoing review of the Radionuclide Soil Action Levels for Rocky Flats.

First, Joe Legare with DOE distributed a copy of the proposed public process for RSAL

review. The public process for RSALs will generally go through the RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group. A great deal of time will be allotted for this topic on the Focus Group's agenda, beginning in November and continuing through May 2001. Every year, the RFCA parties are required to look at new information that may influence what Soil Action Levels are instituted and adhered to at the site. This year the review is more significant because the site is getting closer to making major remedial decisions that are impacted by the Soil Action Level number — most notably with the 903 Pad. The RSAL Oversight Panel, and its contractor, came up with a new, recommended Soil Action Level earlier this year. That recommendation is also impacting the review this year. The document Joe Legare distributed is a draft general plan and schedule for the review being coordinated between DOE, EPA, and CDPHE over the next six months or so. Tim Rehder with EPA noted that the current RSAL number was based on an EPA rule that was a draft rule at the time for cleaning up radiation sites. That rule said that a site would be cleaned up so that residual contamination would not result in more than a 15 millirem radiation dose in a year to anyone using that site. The rule also said that if some type of institutional control was used, there must be assurances that if the institutional control no longer existed or failed at some point in the future, a member of the public would then not receive more than 85 millirem radiation dose in any given year. That EPA rule was never finalized. The NRC then followed up with a cleanup standard of its own. The question now is to determine what information and factors to base the RSAL number on. EPA hopes to have a discussion paper on this issue by the end of the month. That issue document (Action 1, Regulatory Analysis) will be the topic of discussion before the RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group on November 8. Steve Gunderson with CDPHE stated he expected the regulatory analysis document produced by EPA to list specifically the pros and cons of each of the factors to be dealt with — whether risk or dose based calculations are used, restricted use versus unrestricted use, etc.

The next important decision, Action 2 of the proposed schedule for RSAL review, is Model Evaluation. All the models that can be used to assist in making a decision like this will be reviewed — focusing on the positive and negative attributes of the models. Russell McCallister will get some training on the RESRAD model, which is the model that is currently favored, and another model that was developed by Pacific Northwestern Labs at Hanford (MEPAS). A paper will be written on this issue, due to be discussed at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group. Other reviews and issue papers will be discussed at future Focus Group meetings, which include Parameter Evaluation, New Scientific Information, and Cleanup Levels at Other Sites. A draft RSAL document is scheduled to be released — outline and table of contents only — on March 15, 2001. The draft RFCA report is due on April 25, and will be discussed by the Focus Group on May 2. Public comment on the document is scheduled to begin May 16, 2001, and end July 16.

**BOARD DISCUSSION OF RSAL ISSUES:** Based on the information provided during the RSAL panel presentation, the Board then discussed outstanding issues and began to

think about a path forward for addressing those issues. The Environmental Restoration Committee asked for input and guidance on how the Board would like to see that committee address RSAL issues. Board members expressed concerns about different aspects of the RSAL review, and as well as the impacts of changing the Soil Action Levels. Ken Korkia wrote out a draft model showing a proposed process for the Board's involvement. He noted that many of the issues to be discussed are quite technical issues that could make significant changes to the RSALs. Some Board members and others have time to devote to the RSAL issues, and could be considered the technical team on behalf of the Board. That team could report to the Environmental Restoration Committee, whose function would be to hear reports on the draft five Action reports. The technical team members could bring the committee up to speed on the most current issues. Then the committee would draft recommendations and bring those back to the Board for review and approval. Final presentations on the Action Items during the RSAL review could also be brought to the Board meetings. Other methods of communication, such as the Weekly Update and memoranda from the technical team or committee members, could be used in between to keep everyone on the Board apprised of the issues. Some members of the proposed technical team and the Environmental Restoration Committee are already active with the RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group, where the RSAL information will first be released. The Board was interested in this idea, but felt it was necessary to spend more time at the November Board meeting finalizing the details of this process.

**PRESENTATION ON CERIUM NITRATE REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGY:** Joe Majestyk with Kaiser-Hill gave a presentation on this technology, to be used in the D&D of Building 371. Building 371 opened in 1980 as a replacement for Building 771/774. Its functions were plutonium residue recovery and waste operations, plutonium recovery from stockpile returns, and plutonium storage. The building was never fully operational and ceased operations in 1989. The building is now slated for closure, with the following schedule: risk reduction completed by 2002; SNM consolidation, storage and shipment completed by 2002; deactivation completed by 2003; decommissioning and demolition completed by October 2006. However, there are some unique challenges involved with this project. Building 371 is four stories high. It has similar processes and equipment as other plutonium facilities, but on a larger scale. Over 70% of the gloveboxes and tanks will have to be size reduced in place or decontaminated to meet Department of Transportation low level waste shipping criteria for surface contaminated objects, if they are shipped whole.

Cerium nitrate decontamination is a process to reduce external/internal exposure during decommissioning. This process will help achieve low level waste surface contamination object criteria, and may help eliminate or reduce size reduction and reduce shipping disposal costs. The first step in the process is to deactivate the tanks. In this step, first you purge and drain the tanks to assure safe hydrogen levels and complete removal of liquids, then fog the tanks, which reduces airborne contamination. Then the Raschig rings and sludge are removed, which removes special nuclear material as well as nuclear and

criticality hazards. The second step in the process is decommissioning, which involves the following:

- Introduce cerium nitrate with steam (3-4 minute contact time) — the objective is to remove 3-5 microns of stainless steel and eliminate fixed contamination.
- Add ferrous sulfate to reduce cerium — the objective is to stop the reaction and render the liquid compatible with Caustic Waste Treatment System (CWTS).
- Drain to caustic waste treatment system — the objective is to precipitate solids for offsite shipment (liquids are now compatible with 374 low-level liquid treatment process).
- Rinse tank and drain to caustic waste treatment system — the objective is final removal of potential residue from cerium nitrate decontamination.
- Finally, evaluate for disposal as low level waste surface contaminated object.

Decontamination and component removal will be initiated in Building 371 once the Decommissioning Operations Plan is approved, which is scheduled for March 2001.

**UPDATE ON THE SSAB STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP:** Ken Korkia and Deb Thompson gave the Board an update on the status of planning for this workshop. On Friday, October 6, RFCAB staff — along with Anna Martinez and Mariane Anderson — will put together and mail out a "resource materials" book to all registered participants in the workshop. A sample copy of the book was available for the Board to see. This book has information about the prior workshop on stewardship (held October 1999 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee), as well as background materials on each one of the SSAB sites, plus additional resource information from the internet, DOE-Headquarters, the Energy Communities Alliance, and the National Research Council. Around 75 individuals from out-of-state have registered to attend the workshop, and another 15-20 local participants — including RFCAB members — are registered. More are expected to register before the workshop begins on October 25. Board members were again urged to participate in as many activities as possible, to help serve as hosts for this event.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** November 2, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

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

**Agenda:** Quarterly update by the EPA; continuing discussion of Board role in RSAL review; EPA regulatory analysis of RSALs; DOE response to Kaiser-Hill Closure Project Baseline; update on SSAB Stewardship Workshop

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

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15 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.

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