



Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2001
6 to 8:30 p.m.

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

FACILITATOR: None

Outgoing chair, Jerry DePoorter, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and handed off to new chair, Jeff Eggleston. Jeff presented Jerry with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the Board as chair for two years.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Byrnes, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Tom Gallegos, Shirley Garcia, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters, Earl Sorrels / Steve Gunderson

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Maureen Eldredge, Jim Kinsinger / Jeremy Karpatkin, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: David French (citizen); Gary Thompson (former RFCAB member); Jim Kelly (retired RF union); Carol Lyons (Rocky Flats Cold War Museum); Pat Buffer (K-H); Greta Thomsen (K-H); Roman Kohler (RF Homesteaders); Don Rohlf (RFCWM Board); Mike Shannon (RF retired); David and Doris DePenning (citizens); Max Haug (Jefferson County Historical Commission); Dave Shelton (K-H); Allen Schubert (K-H); Bob Nininger (K-H); Mark Sattelberg (USFWS); Louise Janson (citizen); Melissa Anderson (RFCLoG); Ken Brakken (DOE-RFFO); Ann Lockhart (CDPHE); Dean Rundle (USFWS); Ed Wolfrum (RFCWM); Meg Van Ness (CHS); Bini Abbott (citizen); K. A. Rutherford (CDPHE); Rick Warner (citizen); Don Owen (DNFSB); Len Ackland (RFCWM); Tom Stewart (CDPHE); Carl Spreng (CDPHE); Alan Trenary (citizen); Larry Hankins (stakeholder); Neil Hart (stakeholder); John Corsi (K-H); Kyla DePoorter (citizen); Beverly Lyne (former RFCAB member); Anna Martinez (DOE-RFFO); Jan Pilcher (citizen); Darrel Cornell (MERCOS); Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff); Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff); Michelle Kump (RFCAB staff); Deb Thompson (RFCAB staff)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Letter to DOE. The Board approved a letter to DOE regarding recommendation 2001-3 on the Environmental Restoration RFCA Standing Operating Protocol for Routine Soil Remediation (ER RSOP). One point in the recommendation requested regular updates to the Board on environmental restoration projects, as well as "user-friendly summaries of documentation required by RFCA." Some members of the ER Committee felt the lack of a response by DOE on this second point was understandable, given the ambiguity of the request. The letter clarifies the Board's original request in that recommendation and asks whether DOE plans to honor it.
- Reminder of deadline. The committee wanted to remind Board members that RFCAB is collecting questions and comments on the Task 3 Report of the RSAL Review. After all questions and comments are gathered, staff will transmit them to the agencies as individual comments, not as a consensus recommendation. Board members were encouraged to submit comments to staff as soon as possible.

BOARD BUSINESS:

- Co-Chairs. The Board approved the nominations of co-chairs for the following committees: Outreach Committee, co-chairs Shirley Garcia and Nancy Peters; and End-State Steering Committee, co-chairs Shirley Garcia and Tom Marshall.
- RF CAB acknowledgement: Board chair Jeff Eggleston presented a gift certificate to David French, who was responsible for creating the design of the Board's new logo and letterhead. The Board acknowledged his work, which was done pro bono, and thanked him for his assistance.

ROCKY FLATS COLD WAR MUSEUM PRESENTATION: Giving an overview of the museum project was Carol Lyons, president of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. Carol started with some background on the history project, the mission being to document historical, environmental, and scientific aspects of Rocky Flats, and educating the public about Rocky Flats and the Cold War. Preservation of artifacts, collecting stories from the current and former work force, and serving as a repository for information and data about contamination at the site are key activities of the museum Board. Initial funding in the form of a planning grant has been received from Kaiser-Hill, and the Board is working on preparing job descriptions in anticipation of hiring museum staff, beginning with the hiring of a director and a curator. Over the last year, the museum has become a formal organization and is now recognized as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation in the State of Colorado.

Next, four members of the Rocky Flats community participated in a living history:

- Jim Kelly came to Rocky Flats in 1956 after four years in the Navy. Jim served as president of the Steelworkers Union for 14 of the 36 years he was a member, retiring in 1991. He worked as a chemical operator, radiation monitor, and experimental operator. Jim was witness to the 1957 and 1969 fires. Jim's talk focused mainly on those fires, the

resulting cleanup, and his views on the excessive contamination and the efforts made by workers to turn things around and get the buildings back in operation. Jim said he is still haunted by those fires and some of the things that happened afterward, such as covering up the contamination with paint. He noted it was the best group of people he has ever worked with in his life.

- Bini Abbott has been a neighbor of Rocky Flats for 41 years, owning 85 acres west of Standley Lake. Former Governor Romer appointed Bini as the citizen representative to the Rocky Flats Health Advisory Panel in 1990. In 1992, she was named Arvada Woman of the Year for her activism in the community, especially on environmental issues. Bini said she and her husband originally bought 18 acres, and at that time they had no idea what existed in their neighbor to the northwest, Rocky Flats. She did note that some of the horses they raised were born with anomalies, although they are still not sure why. In the 1960s, other Rocky Flats neighbors raised questions about problems with livestock possibly being caused by Rocky Flats. Bini became an activist soon after that, although she considers herself a more moderate activist. Despite some of her concerns about Rocky Flats, Bini noted that the existence of Rocky Flats and the fear it may have caused has helped keep much of the area surrounding it safe from development, at least so far.
- Mike Shannon began his career at Rocky Flats in 1956, working for each major contractor of the site. He held director positions in the budget and finance departments at Dow Chemical, Rockwell International, and EG&G until his retirement in 1991. He still works on a contractual basis for the site. Mike also served as president of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce for 10 years. Mike talked about some of the tactics behind the management style and operational aspects of the plant, from its site selection and oversight by the AEC to its closure and the beginnings of cleanup. He said the mission of the plant didn't change much over the years, with the notable exception that environmental management became more of a factor eventually. Schedule and production issues were paramount in the early years, but he always felt that safety was a major focus. Cost issues eventually became important too, although during the major production years there was a lot of emphasis on schedule and quality, but not much concern about the costs involved with what was being produced.
- Jan Pilcher is a peace and environmental activist who was influential in the 1970s and 1980s on Rocky Flats issues. She was integral to the Rocky Flats Action Group and the American Friends Service Committee. In 1987, Jan founded Citizens Against Rocky Flats Contamination, which led the successful effort to halt plans for an incinerator at Rocky Flats. Jan focused her talk on what it means to be an activist, how meaningful and empowering the work can be, and how rewarding it can be for one person to become part of something bigger and help make a change. She believes the nuclear age has touched everyone's lives for the last 50 years and continues to shape the history of this country. Jan talked about the work of the Citizens Against Rocky Flats Contamination, and how that group worked hard to get citizens involved and were successful in their fight against plans for the fluidized bed incinerator at Rocky Flats. Three major lessons she learned from her activism are that: (1) a strong national defense must begin with healthy communities, not weapons; (2) our right of free speech is precious and continually needs

to be fought for; and (3) democracy begins with the power of one.

Finally, Michelle Kump, RFCAB staff member and a member of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum Board of Directors, presented the group of storytellers with a thank-you gift from the museum Board. She urged everyone present to submit suggestions and ideas to the museum Board of Directors.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: January 10, 2002, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room,
11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

Agenda: Update by CDPHE; update on worker safety issues; presentation on review of risk calculations for RSALs; conversation regarding the Board's RSAL recommendation and DOE's response; discussion of path forward on end-state discussions

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 p.m. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Shirley Garcia, 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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