

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2001

6 to 9:30 p.m.



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

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins

Jerry DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Allen, Suzanne Allen, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Maureen Eldredge, Shirley Garcia, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Markuené Sumler, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Byrnes, Tom Gallegos, Jim Kinsinger, Nancy Peters, Bill Petersen, Earl Sorrels

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Ray Davey (DOE-Headquarters); Dave Shelton (K-H); John Corsi (K-H); Anna Martinez (DOE-RFFO); Rob Henneke (EPA); Tami Moore (DOE-RFFO); Norma Castaneda (DOE-RFFO); Lee Norland (K-H); Lane Butler (K-H); Irving Williams (COGEMA); Carl Spreng (CDPHE); Alan Parker (K-H); Barbara Mazurowski (DOE-RFFO); Jerry Henderson (CAB staff); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Noelle Stenger (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

REGULATOR UPDATE (EPA): Tim Rehder with EPA gave a quarterly update on the status of Rocky Flats issues.

- RSALs. The RSAL review is nearly complete. The working group has reached agreement on input parameters and will perform calculations over the next few weeks. Results will be presented at the RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group meeting on July 11. This will be the start of informal discussion regarding the RSAL number selected. Formal public comment period on the proposed new RSAL should begin around October 1.

- Xcel transmission line. Xcel Energy intends to install a new transmission line across Rocky Flats to meet needs in the northern suburbs. The new line will run east from the existing north-south line. Four corridors are under consideration. Sampling locations show a variance in plutonium concentrations. However, according to EPA, contamination levels should not pose a problem if adequate dust suppression and storm water management practices are used.
- Old landfill and ash pits. EPA and CDPHE recently toured the area of the Woman Creek drainage south of the Industrial Area where ash pits and the Original Landfill are located. The ash pits contain uranium at levels greater than action levels and will need to be excavated. One obstacle to cleanup is proximity to Preble's mouse habitat. The Original Landfill is on a slumping hillside, which makes it a poor candidate for capping in place.
- Upcoming documents for review include the Environmental Restoration RFCA Standard Operating Protocol (RSOP); and the Buffer Zone Sampling and Analysis Plan, which is the plan for characterizing the areas of the Buffer Zone that have not yet been sampled.

SITE SAFETY DISCUSSION: Barbara Mazurowski and Alan Parker were at the Board meeting to discuss safety issues, particularly the Site Safety Improvement Plan (SSIP) developed by Kaiser-Hill, and an independent safety report recently released by the DOE-Headquarters Office of Environment, Safety and Health Independent Oversight (EH). This independent review of safety management at Rocky Flats was conducted at the request of Ms. Mazurowski, and discusses general safety issues as well as the internal exposures that occurred among Building 771 personnel.

First, Mr. Parker talked about the SSIP, which outlines specific corrective actions to address safety improvement. This plan does address most of the issues brought up in the EH independent report. The plan is a continuous improvement plan, and does have the capacity to integrate public comment and other issues as they arise. Because of the transition from nuclear operations to D&D activities, a very different and dynamic environment has occurred. The increasing amount of D&D work means that work and activities change on a daily basis. Mr. Parker noted that the perceived message — that the accelerated schedule is more important than safety to managers — was unintentional, but he did recognize its existence. A change in that message is now being communicated to the work force to help improve focus on the quality of each work task rather than the schedule. Other changes include:

- Improving tools provided to support first-line supervisors by finding ways to minimize administrative burdens so that more time can be focused on the work crews.
- Improving pre-evolution briefings to aid in more effective work planning and better outline the task, the scope, the hazards, and the controls.
- Improving corrective action and lessons learned processes by creating a Safety Assessment Center that focuses on fact-finding, lessons learned, and analyzing repeat events.
- Improving self-assessment and independent oversight processes by implementing an improved self-assessment program, and commissioning a team of nuclear industry experts

to provide review and oversight of the closure project performance. Another aspect of this is to partner with DOE to define safety, how it is to be measured, and to establish clear safety goals for the site.

Next, Ms. Mazurowski gave an overview of the EH independent report. She asked DOE-Headquarters to look at implementation of the Integrated Work Control Process (IWCP), line management oversight, and specifically the doses workers received in Building 771. Along with the identification of some noteworthy practices, the review identified six safety issues:

- IWCP implementation is not always adequate;
- Some training program requirements and other institutional safety requirements and responsibilities are not being adequately implemented;
- Some feedback and improvement mechanisms have not been clearly defined and rigorously implemented;
- RFFO's line management oversight program does not always conform to DOE policy requirements;
- Weaknesses in identifying and characterizing radiological conditions led to the closure project not keeping worker exposures as low as reasonably achievable; and
- Insufficient planning and consideration of the degradation in Building 771 placed a burden on the ventilation system's ability to confine plutonium as required by DOE orders on facility safety, and temporary ventilation systems have not minimized the potential for plutonium intakes.

Through its SSIP, measures are being implemented by Kaiser-Hill to begin corrective actions. A separate action plan is being developed for the Building 771 ventilation issue. Some of the new measures allow schedule issues to be invisible to workers. Although the workers now are performing their work solely based on safety, they are still maintaining the schedule progression without being faced with the schedule pressures encountered in the past. Processes have been simplified and are more straightforward now. Ms. Mazurowski also noted that work in the D&D environment is different than has been experienced anywhere else, and a lot of the work is being invented as they go along. Unfortunately, there were no controls to address the dynamic nature of the D&D work environment.

Following the discussion was a period of time set aside to make comments and ask questions of Ms. Mazurowski and Mr. Parker. Some of the issues raised by the Board and others present covered a range from consideration of work slowdown in order to take time for lessons learned; what would be the impact of the reduction in work force; how effective and efficient is the data collection and analysis in the Safety Assessment Center; the effect of long hours and fatigue on work; penalties and/or financial incentives for safety goals; and the evaluation process involved in identifying the six key areas needing improvement. A few members did note the marked improvement in the site's safety culture.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Board Treasurer** Bryan Taylor is resigning from the Board effective in July. The Executive Committee asked for volunteers from the Board to fill the Treasurer vacancy. Two individuals volunteered to serve: Suzanne Allen and Tom Gallegos. A vote was held and Suzanne Allen was elected Treasurer. She will begin her term of office as Treasurer in July.
- **DOE Long-Term Stewardship Workshop:** DOE will sponsor its fourth annual Long-Term Stewardship Workshop July 30 to August 2 in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Board will send two Board members and one staff member to the workshop. Joe Downey and Jerry DePoorter will attend, along with one RFCAB staff member.
- **Environmental Restoration Committee Co-Chair** Markuené Sumler has stepped down as co-chair. Two individuals from the committee have volunteered to serve as co-chair: Shirley Garcia and Earl Sorrels. Shirley Garcia captured the most votes to become the new co-chair for the committee, effective immediately.

PRESENTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION RSOP: Lee Norland with Kaiser-Hill attended the meeting to give a briefing on the Environmental Restoration Soil Remediation (ER) RSOP currently in draft form. There are more than 200 potential contaminant release sites that need some form of disposition. The ER RSOP document helps to organize those needs while meeting RFCA cleanup goals. The site has defined two categories of contaminant release sites. Special sites are those that have unique site characteristics and issues and would require some type of special engineering. Included under "special sites" are the Present and Original Landfills, the Solar Pond Area, the 903 Lip Area, and groundwater plumes. Routine sites are those that have similar potential contaminants of concern, limited remediation options, and no special needs. Routine sites are all other release sites such as process waste lines, sanitary sewer lines, pond sediments, building slabs, roads and parking lots, and the 903 Pad. These sites all have soil and associated debris, contaminated soil in any number of configurations, and levels of contamination that vary.

The ER RSOP addresses 222 potential release sites in the Industrial Area and Buffer Zone. Some of the sites most likely will require no further action but will be remediated if sampling shows it is necessary. The ER RSOP also addresses recyclable asphalt and concrete. This RSOP was prepared to address primarily the routine sites, and does not cover the present and original landfills, the Solar Ponds, the 903 Lip Area and americium zone, and the Industrial Area groundwater plume.

Subcontracts for sampling and remediation will be awarded by October 2001. These will be under separate contracts of a five-year duration. Kaiser-Hill will prepare sampling addenda annually. The implementation process will start with sampling, interpretation of data, then preparation of remediation maps. The remediation for routine contaminated soil sites will be excavation and offsite disposal. Some onsite treatment may be used (such as thermal desorption) to meet disposal site waste acceptance criteria. Onsite treatment could also be used to return soil

to the excavation if possible. Process and sewer lines, footing and storm drains will be remediated as necessary. Confirmation samples will be sent to offsite laboratories to help demonstrate when remediation goals are achieved. Kaiser-Hill will consult with CDPHE and EPA during the sampling and remediation process. Excavation areas will then be backfilled and stabilized following erosion control procedures, and closeout will then occur.

The working draft of this document was distributed on May 24. The public comment period on the Draft ER RSOP begins on July 23, with the draft final distributed to the agencies on September 28. Final approval should happen in October.

COMMENTS on the RSOP FOR ASPHALT AND SOIL MANAGEMENT: The Environmental Restoration Committee prepared comments on the RSOP for Asphalt and Soil Management for the Board's review and consideration. After discussion, the Board approved the recommendations as drafted by the committee, with the inclusion of new language regarding making a distinction between current and historical soils and any "grand fathering" issues, and addition of language clarifying the distinction between surface and subsurface soils. Staff will prepare the new language for the Board's consideration and approval via email. The other concerns addressed in the recommendation are:

- The RSOP appears to circumvent RCRA land disposal restriction rules requiring the treatment of remediation soils to reduce concentrations before the soils can be placed into the environment.
- Commingling of soils is a concern. Movement of soils with concentrations below Tier II levels to areas with contaminants of higher concentrations could result in diluting the contaminated soils.
- The Board requests language in the RSOP limiting the use of options to transport soils with concentrations less than Tier I levels from one area of contamination to another.
- The recommendation expresses concern about the procedures for managing stockpiles. The Board requests language describing how stockpiles will be managed to protect the environment through the use of controls, covers, liners, etc.

PROPOSAL FOR BOARD RSAL REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

DEVELOPMENT: The Environmental Restoration Committee came to the meeting with a proposal for disseminating information on the Parameter Evaluation Report, Task 3 of the RSAL review. The committee's proposal included a request to hire technical reviewers for the Parameter Evaluation Report, and suggested that the Board convene a special work session. After discussion, Board members did not agree that it would be necessary or useful to hire a technical reviewer. However, the members present agreed that a special work session would be helpful and agreed to focus the Board's efforts on the RSAL review over the next few months. RFCAB staff will provide information and presentations to the Board at its special work session. At that work session, the Board will also provide input to aid the committee in drafting a recommendation on key parameters. The draft Parameter Evaluation Report is expected in late June. At the Board's July work session, there will be a presentation from the RFCAB RSAL Working Group on the

draft report. The date of the special work session will be determined later. The Board's recommendation will be crafted over the next few months and should be approved in October.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: The Membership Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the addition of a new Board member, Jason Krupar. Jason currently serves as adjunct professor for Metropolitan State College in Denver, and also works as a policy analyst for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. He has also taught at the University of Denver Graduate School of International Studies, and was a teaching assistant at Case Western Reserve University. Jason has a Ph.D. in U.S. Social History and Policy and an MA in U.S. History, both from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, as well as a BA in History from CU-Denver. He lives in Denver. Jason will serve as an academic institution representative, replacing Board member Bryan Taylor.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: July 12, 2001, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Broomfield City Hall, One DesCombes Drive, Broomfield

Agenda: Update by DNFSB; recommendation on Environmental Restoration RSOP; presentation and discussion on RSAL review sensitivity analysis for identifying parameters

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 p.m. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jeffrey Eggleston, 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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