

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 5, 2002  
6 to 9:30 p.m.**

**Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield**

**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgkin

Jeff Eggleston, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dave Davia, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Maureen Eldredge, Anne Fenerty, Shirley Garcia, Earl Gunia, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters / Steve Gunderson, Rick DiSalvo, Tim Rehder, Mark Sattelberg

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Suzanne Allen, Tom Gallegos, Victor Holm, Henrietta Jonas, Tom Marshall, Earl Sorrels / Dean Rundle

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Jim Fabian (citizen); Mike Brooks (ATSDR); Bill McNeill (Wildlife Refuge TRG); Glenn Tucker (ATSDR); Mary Chmielowiec (citizen); Kip Harward (RF); Alan Trenary (citizen); John Corsi (KH); Louise Janson (resident); Melissa Anderson (RFCLoG); Laura Rector (citizen); Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff); Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff); Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

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

**2003 WORK PLAN ISSUES AND TOPICS PRIORITIZATION:** In preparation for developing its annual work plan for 2003, the Board conducted an issues prioritization exercise. Candidate issues were posted on large pieces of paper in the room and each person attending the meeting was given five colored dots to vote for issues they feel are most important for the Board to address in the coming year. Different colored dots were given to Board members, representatives from the site and the regulatory agencies, and members of the public. The results of the prioritization will help the Board develop its work plan for the coming year. The vote totals are as follows.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Regulators</b>	<b>Staff/Audience</b>
Long-term Stewardship	21 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	8 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	4 (2 <sup>nd</sup> –tie)	9 (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Environmental Restoration	14 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	7 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	5 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	4 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Refuge planning	14 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	5	3 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	6 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Surface Water Protection	13	10 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	1	2
Building Decontamination/Demolition	13	7	4 (2 <sup>nd</sup> –tie)	2
End-State Planning	8	6	2	--
Environmental Monitoring	8	5	--	3
Old/New Process Waste Lines	6	3	1	2
Natural Resource Management	4	2	1	--
Post Cleanup Site Configuration	4	2	2	--

Worker Health and Safety	4	2	1	--
New Cleanup Technology	3	--	--	3
Waste Packaging/Shipping	2	2	--	--
Actinide Migration Studies	2	1	1	--
Nuclear Material Packaging/Shipping	2	--	--	2
Emergency Preparedness	0	--	--	--
Monitoring Budget/Performance	0	--	--	--

**END-STATE DISCUSSION – SURFACE SOIL REMEDIATION:** Rick DiSalvo of the Department of Energy began with an update on the status of the final report that DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment will release describing proposed changes to the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement. This report is expected by the end of September and will be available for a 60-day public comment period.

The main topic for the evening's discussion was on surface soil remediation and choice of cleanup level. Board members discussed a preliminary recommendation on these issues by focusing on three questions: 1) Is 50 picocuries per gram (pCi/g) an acceptable cleanup level for surface soil? 2) Assuming 50 pCi/g is adopted as the surface soil cleanup level, are there other considerations that should be made for areas below 50 pCi/g but greater than background and/or a  $10^{-6}$  risk level; 3) How should the issue of depth of contamination be factored in?

The Board could not reach consensus on the first question considered alone. Many members accepted the 50 pCi/g cleanup level, but others thought the Board should abide by a recommendation it passed last year calling for more stringent cleanup levels. Board members appeared to agree on the fact the budget would not allow cleanup to background levels at this time. But some asked the RFCA parties provide a justification for not achieving greater cleanup levels. They agreed a strong stewardship program, including institutional and engineered controls, would be necessary for any area of residual contamination. Board members also agreed that in all cases the surface water standard should be met.

The following preliminary recommendation language was developed. (Please note that this is draft language and does not represent the final position of the Board. The Board anticipates releasing final language on surface soil remediation and other end-state issues at its December meeting.)

RFCAB maintains its long-standing position that cleanup to background should be the ultimate end-state goal for the Site. However, the Board also recognizes that the Rocky Flats Closure Budget does not support cleanup to background at this time. Should the RFCA parties adopt a site-wide surface soil cleanup level of 50 pCi/g for plutonium, the Board believes the following conditions must apply:

1. As the Site approaches each individual cleanup project, it should examine whether cleanup to background can be achieved. If not, justification should be provided to the community.
2. The next level of analysis should assess the feasibility of cleanup to a  $10^{-6}$  risk level. Again, if this level cannot be achieved, the community wants to know why not.
3. There should be no arbitrary depth below which DOE would stop remediation. During a remediation project, if the site discovers contamination exceeding the 50 pCi/g cleanup level and it is accessible, such contamination should be removed regardless of depth.
4. In all soil cleanup projects, meeting the State of Colorado surface water standard of 0.15 pCi/L for plutonium must be a primary cleanup goal. RFCAB anticipates that for certain areas of the site, this

will mean a more rigorous soil cleanup than would be achieved solely by applying the 50 pCi/g soil cleanup level.

5. In order to achieve an eventual cleanup to background, the Site must develop a plan as part of its long-term stewardship program to continually explore new technologies and commit to applying promising technologies to improve the level of cleanup over time.
6. A strong stewardship program that includes institutional and engineered controls must be implemented for any areas of residual contamination exceeding a  $10^{-6}$  risk level.

In concluding its end-state discussions for the evening, the Board discussed its next steps. Staff identified outstanding issues and a path forward for addressing them.

- Refining the surface soil remediation language: Staff will polish the language and present to the Board when it meets for its annual planning retreat on September 14.
- Long-term stewardship: The Board will discuss long-term stewardship considerations that need to go in its end-state recommendation during its September 14 retreat.
- Subsurface soil remediation (including old process waste lines): The Board will discuss and develop draft recommendation language at its October 3 meeting.
- A path forward for other issues including surface water standards and comments on budget limitations and the necessity of having trade-offs between levels of surface and subsurface soil cleanup also will be addressed at the September 14 retreat.
- The Board also would like to schedule an educational workshop to learn more about risk and exposure pathways analyses that the site will use in making decisions about how much contamination needs to be removed in the subsurface. This workshop will likely take place in October.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Two members of the public asked questions, but no specific comments were received.

**COMMENTS ON THE 903 PAD REMEDIATION PROJECT:** The Environmental Restoration Committee presented, and the Board subsequently approved, comments on the 903 Pad ER RSOP Notification. This notification includes the plan for cleaning up the radionuclide-contaminated soil beneath the footprint of the asphalt pad. The contaminated soil spread over a large area to the east of the pad is beyond the scope of this project and will be addressed in a separate decision document to come later.

The Board's comments focused on two issues. First, the remedial goal specified by DOE for this project is to clean up the pad to the 1996 Tier I action level of 651 pCi/g for plutonium, whereas the centerpiece of DOE's end state proposal is a much more stringent plutonium cleanup goal of 50 pCi/g. RFCAB recommends that the 903 Pad cleanup goal be consistent with the end state proposal. Second, the notification defers a decision on the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that underlie the pad at depth. RFCAB urges DOE to perform an analysis of VOCs in the current remediation plan and before remediation of radionuclides begins to determine whether additional soil removal is warranted. RFCAB further expressed a preference for treatment or source removal of any concentrated source of VOC-contamination in soil.

**PREPARATION FOR BOARD RETREAT – AGENDA REVIEW:** The Board will meet for its annual planning retreat on September 14. The agenda will include three main discussions. The first will focus on Board administration, outreach, membership recruitment and other related operational issues. The second discussion will be on long-term stewardship with the goal of developing ideas that should be in an end-state issues recommendation to be completed this fall as well as developing ideas for future stewardship

conversations the Board will undertake next year. The Board also will examine its preliminary recommendation language on surface soil remediation, as well as plan for future end-state discussions. The final part of the retreat will focus on specifics for the Board's 2003 work plan.

**NEXT AGENDA:** During its next monthly meeting the Board will continue its end-state discussions, this time focusing on subsurface soil remediation issues. There also will be a discussion on site natural resource management issues, including an update from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on refuge planning as well as a report from the State Division of Wildlife which will report on testing of deer at Rocky Flats for chronic wasting disease. The Board also will have an opportunity to meet and talk with the new DOE site manager, Gene Schmitt.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Membership Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the addition of two new members:

- **Jim Fabian.** Jim is a retired former Rocky Flats worker, where he was involved in demolition and new construction at various areas of the site for 11 years. He also has experience at two other nuclear facilities: Oak Ridge and Hanford. Jim has a BS in Environmental Engineering from Kennedy Western University in Boise, Idaho. He lives in Westminster, and will serve as a community representative.
- **Kip Harward.** Kip is an environmental radiochemist working for a contractor at Rocky Flats. He has extensive experience in environmental radiochemistry, and has worked at the site for 13 years. At Rocky Flats, he wrote the statement of work being used by offsite labs to analyze environmental samples. Kip also worked at Idaho National Laboratory for four years. He is a resident of Arvada, and will serve as a Rocky Flats employee representative.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Date: October 3, 2002, 6 to 9:30 p.m.  
Location: Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield  
Agenda: Meet with new site manager, Gene Schmitt; update on natural resource management issues; end-state discussion – subsurface soil remediation

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:05 p.m. \***

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Shirley Garcia, 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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