

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2003
6 to 9:30 p.m.**

Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgkin

Victor Holm, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Davia, Maureen Eldredge, Jim Fabian, Anne Fenerty, Tom Gallegos, Shirley Garcia, Kip Harward, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Alliyah Mirza, LeRoy Moore, Andrew Ross / Rick DiSalvo, Steve Gunderson, Tim Rehder, Mark Sattelberg

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Henri Jonas, Mary Mattson, Nancy Peters

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Patrick Etchart (DOE-RFFO); Anna Martinez (DOE-RFFO); Nathan and Becka Larson (citizens); Jim Jenkins (citizen); Deb French (RFCAB staff); Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff); Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff); Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON PROPOSED RFCA

MODIFICATIONS: The entire meeting was devoted to finalizing and approving the Board's recommendation on proposed changes to the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement. At its last meeting on January 9, the Board agreed to discuss a few remaining issues via email in an attempt to iron out their concerns and to develop compromise language as a result of those discussions. In its packet, the Board was provided a transcript of the email discussion. A few Board members had proposed alternative language and much of the discussion at this meeting focused on those proposed changes.

The recommendations that had not yet been agreed upon addressed surface and subsurface soil remediation: the depth to be considered as surface soil and cleanup levels for both surface and subsurface soil. Board members had previously been unable to agree on whether to recommend that surface soil cleanup be completed to three feet or to six feet. Some members feel that controls in place when the site becomes a wildlife refuge would make surface cleanup to three feet an adequate number. Others expressed concerns over the rationale being used to select three feet, that conditions and controls may change in the future, and that recommending a surface cleanup to six feet is the best use of the ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) principle. There was some discussion between members and regulators about problems already occurring with cleanup of the 903 Pad. Board members ultimately agreed on language in Recommendation 5 that states, in part: "... DOE should remove all contamination in excess of 50 pCi/g in the top six feet of soil from the present grade, unless a different cleanup level is established for the three-to-six-foot layer below grade in formal consultation with the regulators and stakeholders."

The other recommendation that caused disagreement, Recommendation 11, deals with subsurface soil remediation. In the proposed modifications to RFCA, regulators suggest that cleanup in the subsurface – which they have defined as between three and six feet – be done to a level of 3,000 pCi/g. All Board members agreed this number is too high, but could not agree on an alternative number to recommend. After much discussion, the Board agreed to accept alternative language proposed by one member that states: “RFCAB finds the proposed subsurface cleanup levels are far too high and cleanup depth is too shallow. DOE should work with the regulators and stakeholders to establish a limit on subsurface contamination that would apply regardless of depth or size of the contaminated area.”

Some minor changes to the overall recommendation were made to the long-term stewardship section; to refine language in other sections; and to delete statements that seemed inconsistent. The recommendation consists of three parts. Part 1 provides a context for the Board’s recommendation on proposed RFCA changes. Part 2 contains comments and recommendations specific to the RFCA document. Part 3 addresses long-term stewardship considerations. There is also an appendix to the recommendation that contains specific questions addressed to the RFCA agencies as well as requests for additional information.

Complete text of the Board’s final recommendation can be found on the RFCAB web site at: <http://www.rfcab.org/Recommendations/2003-1.htm>.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: March 6, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

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

Agenda: Update on site closure activities; conversation with Gene Schmitt; review and approve EMSSAB Transuranic Waste Workshop recommendations; review and approve Wildlife Refuge Technical Review Group recommendation on the purchase of mineral rights at Rocky Flats

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 p.m. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joe Downey, 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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