

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 5, 2004  
6 to 9 p.m.  
College Hill Library, Room L268  
Front Range Community College, Westminster**

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

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Erin Hamby, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Bill McNeill, Phil Tomlinson / Rich Schassburger (DOE - RFPO), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM)

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Suzanne Allen, Mike Maus, Sean Rea, Andrew Ross, Vanessa Safonovs / Mark Aguilar (EPA), John Rampe (DOE), Dean Rundle (USFWS)

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Alan Trenary (Westminster resident), Rob Henneke (EPA), Ralph Stephens (Denver), Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Doug Parker (Arvada), Norma Castaneda (DOE), Bob Davis (Kaiser-Hill), Karen Weimelt (Kaiser-Hill), Audrey Berry (DOE-LM), Lee Norland (Kaiser-Hill), Tammy Ottmer (CDPHE), Ray Geimer (Kaiser-Hill), Greg Felt (Colorado Motor Carriers Association) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

**PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:**

- Alan Trenary, Westminster resident: Alan thanked the Board for its work and for providing information in a way that is easily understood. He expressed concern about knocking everything down at Rocky Flats and not leaving any reminders of the former weapons production mission, besides the contamination that will be left. He provided a brief background on his history of involvement in Rocky Flats. Alan also noted that he would like to see hemp mats used as an erosion control at the site.
- Scott Surovchak, DOE-Legacy Management: Scott asked the Board to meet with the contractor who is preparing a study on the future of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. DOE must submit a report to Congress on the museum by the end of the year. The contractor will have a draft report prepared by October. Scott and interested Board members agreed to meet on Tuesday, August 10, 4:00 p.m. at the Mountain View office with the contractor. Members stating they would attend include Mary Mattson, Victor Holm and Joe Downey. Ken Korkia will send out an email on Monday once the exact location for the meeting is known.
- Ken Korkia asked the Board if they would prefer to move their single meeting in October to the middle of the month. The Site Specific Advisory Board chairs' meeting is being held in Richland, Washington, on October 7, when the Board normally would meet. At last month's meeting, the Board decided to hold only

one meeting in October and agreed to use the date previously set for Committee Night on October 21. Ken pointed out that this would leave only two weeks until the November meeting. The Board agreed to move the October meeting date to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Victor Holm stated that he would not be able to attend the chair's meeting in October. He would like to see at least two members attend who are interested in serving as officers next year. Members were asked to contact Victor if they were interested in attending. Jerry DePoorter stated he might be interested if the Board cannot find someone to attend the mid-week meeting.

### **UPDATE ON SITE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECTS AND THE COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT:**

Karen Wiemelt of Kaiser-Hill gave an update on environmental restoration activities at the site.

She said remediation of the 903 Pad Lip Area was about 68 percent complete in the middle of July. Erosion control is ongoing to prevent contaminated dirt from running off the hillside into the surface waters of Woman Creek.

Karen said that on Saturday workers would begin digging out the Hazardous Disposal Area, which may contain canisters of nickel carbonyl, a highly explosive substance. The Hazardous Disposal Area is in the southeast corner of the 903 Pad Inner Lip Area. Karen said it is not known if the canisters are actually in the soil, but she said the work would proceed as if the nickel carbonyl were present. Heavy equipment operators will wear protective gear and have shields to protect them against a possible explosion. Karen said the work would proceed slowly and methodically, with dirt being taken off in one-foot lifts. Personnel who are not essential to the operation will be required to stay outside a 2,100-foot perimeter established around the work area. Soil in the Hazardous Disposal Area will be removed because it contains elevated levels of plutonium and americium.

Karen said remediation of the Building 779 slab began in January and was complete by May. The slab has been removed and about 150 cubic yards of contaminated soil were taken out. About 17 cubic yards of soil contaminated with radionuclides was removed from around two sections of Original Process Waste Lines (OPWLs). Eighty-one cubic yards of soil contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) was taken out, as well. Radionuclide hot spots were also discovered and removed.

A board member asked about erosion control in the area, as surface water exceedances on North Walnut Creek have been partially blamed on surface soil disturbance in the area where Building 779 once stood. Karen said workers did a good job of controlling erosion in the immediate remediation area. However, she said, erosion of areas outside the slab were not well controlled. She said it was a lesson learned and that they have now taken erosion control measures in the areas around the remediated area.

Remediation of OPWLs began last December. The waste lines carried radioactive and hazardous fluids. About 33,000 feet of pipe exists at the site. OPWLs less than 3 feet below grade, about 17,600 feet in all, will be removed. About 11,250 feet have been removed so far. The site is grouting the remaining lines. Karen said the lines are being sampled where there have been suspected leaks. Steve Gunderson said there has been a lot less contamination than was expected. As part of the OPWL Project, manways and valve vaults are being removed, as well. Steve said there was not as much contamination found in the

vaults as the site expected.

With respect to other ER activities, sampling in the East Trenches, east of the Industrial Area, indicated elevated levels of plutonium and americium in Trenches 6 and 8. Soil in those trenches has been removed. The state has required further characterization of the trenches.

Karen said the Site plans to remove the source of carbon tetrachloride contamination under Building 730. Building 730 is little more than a hallway with underground tanks. Karen said they would have to dig 20 feet down to remove the carbon tetrachloride. They will also use bioremediation in the groundwater to encourage growth of bacteria that will help break down the carbon tet in the groundwater plume.

With respect to site characterization, Karen said they have completed characterization at many places in the 400 and 700 Areas onsite. Other areas of the site have been targeted for characterization, as well.

Next, Bob Davis of Kaiser-Hill gave an update on the status of several projects. He said the final Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA) for the 900-11 group, which includes the 903 Pad Lip Area, is planned for August.

With respect to the Present Landfill, discussions with the EPA and CDPHE are ongoing and are centered on the text of the final Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA). Ninety-five percent of the design of the cover and remediation project has been reviewed by the regulators. Remediation design will be available for stakeholders after review by the regulators. Construction bids have been received for the project. Approval of the IM/IRA and the start of project construction are expected in August.

The formal draft of the IM/IRA for the Original Landfill is expected in August. Bob said the informal draft of the IM/IRA proposed a graded surface, soil cover, and a monitoring program after remediation is complete. Preliminary geotechnical investigations indicate the landfill also will need a buttress fill at the toe. The buttress would consist of compacted soil. Additional geotechnical investigations are underway to help with the grading and design of the landfill cover. Bob said four uranium hot spots on the landfill have been removed. Sampling indicated the spots went down only about one foot.

Lee Norland of Kaiser-Hill spoke on the Comprehensive Risk Assessment (CRA). The risk assessment is being done to assess the risks of residual contamination to humans and animals.

Lee said sampling in the Buffer Zone is complete. The sampling was done as a result of a data adequacy analysis by the Comprehensive Risk Assessment Working Group (RAWG). To do the sampling, the buffer zone was divided into a grid of 30-acre cells. Sampling was done for a suite of 31 metals, as well as plutonium and americium. Five samples were taken from each cell, one from each corner and the center, and then composited. The samples were sent to a lab for analysis. The data have been validated.

Lee said that for metals, the majority of the detections were below background levels. Sixteen of the 31 metals were detected above background in at least one sample. Plutonium was detected in 27 percent of the samples. While several samples were above background levels for plutonium, none were above the so-called wildlife refuge worker action level of 50 pCi/g. One sample in the Rock Creek Drainage came back at 7.25 picocuries per gram (pCi/g), well above background concentrations of 0.067 pCi/g. A re-analysis of the soil came back at 2.56 pCi/g for Pu. The EPA also plans on sampling in the same area. Another

noteworthy sample was a high arsenic hit on the west side of the site, Lee said.

The final CRA methodology is expected soon and is pending completion of the review of ecological screening levels by EPA and CDPHE. A data adequacy review is in progress. A risk area of the first exposure unit is in progress.

Lee said that for the CRA, the site has been divided into 12 areas called "Exposure Units" (EUs). A thirteenth EU has also been proposed. A risk assessment will be done for each of the EUs. Cancer and other health risks from residual contamination will be calculated for humans. The risks will be calculated for contamination in the water, soil and air for radionuclides, chemicals, and metals. Animal species that have been chosen are based on habitats and animals at the site. Chosen animals include deer, coyotes, American kestrel hawk, deer mice, and aquatic species.

In other ER news, Karen Wiemelt said the Environmental Restoration/Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement Standard Operating Protocol for Routine Soil Remediation for the B-series ponds would be sent to the regulators next month. She also said the sewage treatment plant would be shut down at the same time.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE RAIL TRANSPORT PROPOSAL:**

Ray Geimer with materials stewardship said the site is considering building a rail spur to Building 776 to railhaul contaminated demolition waste from Building 776 and soil from the 903 Pad Lip Area to Envirocare in Utah. Shipments would go north to Wyoming from the Denver rail yard and then travel across the southern portion of Wyoming to Envirocare in Clive, Utah. Waste from Rocky Flats is now transported by truck.

Waste volumes are expected to significantly increase as demolition activities increase. Ray said rail shipping would increase the efficiency and safety of transporting the waste.

Waste will be packaged into gondola-style railcars on site, with each railcar holding about 2,700 cubic feet of waste, which would weigh between 90 and 100 tons. Railcars will have rigid fiberglass protective covers bolted to the cars. They expect initially to ship between 2 to 5 railcars a week and increase that to between 20 and 40 cars per week when B776 demolition begins. The site estimates between 300 and 500 railcars will be used to ship the waste. Contaminated dirt from the 903 Pad Lip Area is currently being packaged into huge bag-like containers in anticipation of using railcars for shipment.

Ray said Rocky Flats would prefer to use "unit trains," which would be comprised solely of Rocky Flats shipments. However, Union Pacific has not yet agreed to that proposal. If unit trains are not possible, the waste would be shipped on a "manifest" basis. That would entail having the rail cars with Rocky Flats waste combined with other shipments to form the train. Union Pacific would pick up the cars at Rocky Flats and assemble the cars into a train at the rail yard north of Denver.

In answer to a question, Ray said the railroad has a way of tracking each railcar in a shipment. Rob Henneke of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said more than 1,000 cars filled with hazardous material from the Shattuck site in Denver have been sent to U.S. Ecology in Idaho via rail, and there have been no problems with the rail shipments.

Ray said initial shipments would begin in August and be completed by next June. Ray said the benefits of using rail are that one gondola car contains as much material as five to seven trucks. Rail shipments could take a maximum of 2,500 to 3,000 trucks off the road. Rail shipping would cost half as much as shipping by truck, with projected savings of \$7 to \$16 million over truck transport. Worker safety would also be improved because loading rail cars is faster and easier than loading the waste onto trucks. He also said the rail project would reduce the time that waste piles are exposed to the environment. They expect to ship between 17,500 and 20,000 tons, but shipments could total a maximum quantity of 44,000 tons.

A Board Member asked if there were any precautions so that radionuclide-contaminated waste will not be placed on a train that may be carrying explosives or other hazardous material. Ray said he did not know but would check into it.

An audience member, who represents the Colorado Motor Carriers Association, was concerned that Rocky Flats waste would get high priority for shipments on the train and other shippers, with time-sensitive shipments, may be bumped off the trains.

Steve Gunderson of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said his department favors the idea of moving the waste by rail.

#### **DISCUSSION ON INDEPENDENT VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION (IVV):**

Victor Holm raised the issue that the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments was floating at least two proposals on a process for independent validation and verification of cleanup at Rocky Flats. One proposal would focus more on reviewing the work that had been done and the data collected. The other proposal would go further in actually having independent soil sampling and analysis. Victor also noted that he has been participating in meetings to plan the Comprehensive Risk Assessment (CRA). He believes that possibly augmenting the CRA process by adding more public participation may be a way to satisfy the questions and concerns of the public that they hope to address by conducting an IVV.

Erin Hamby stated that the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center has applied for a grant from RESOLVE that would allow them to hire local scientists to conduct a study similar to an IVV. Her organization believes it is important to have a third set of eyes reviewing the work of DOE's contractors and the regulators.

Victor proposed, and the Board agreed, that he contact David Abelson with the Coalition to inform him that the Board is interested in discussing the IVV process. Members who would like to participate in the discussions include Bill McNeill, Erin Hamby, Phil Tomlinson and Victor Holm.

#### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ROCKY FLATS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN:**

The Board approved a letter to Karen Lutz, with DOE Communications, on a draft of the Rocky Flats Public Involvement Plan. The Board notes in its letter that it will provide additional comments as later drafts of the plan are prepared. For this early draft, the Board asks for clarification of the plan's purpose and how it ties in with the post closure involvement strategy. The letter also supplies revised language for how the plan should describe the Board. It also asks that more detail be supplied concerning future public involvement in the regulatory closure process, complete with a timeline and calendar that will assist in

coordinating when documents are released and when public comment opportunities will be held. The letter concludes by thanking DOE for recognizing the continued importance of involving the citizen stakeholder in this plan and asks that such recognition continue in future post-closure plans.

### **DISCUSSION ON FUTURE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:**

The Board discussed an email they received from David Abelson asking for members to participate in the Coalition of Local Governments September meeting, where they will discuss the future Local Stakeholder Organization. Members questioned why the Coalition was taking on this responsibility for the community and expressed a desire to have a more inclusive community discussion and process for establishing a future stakeholder group. Members also noted that no one from the Coalition attended the Community Workshop on Future Public Participation hosted by the Board in July. The Board will further discuss its response to the Coalition's invitation at Committee Night on August 19. Meanwhile, Earl Gunia will forward to the Board a draft response he has prepared.

### **RETREAT PLANNING:**

Ken Korkia reminded the Board of the retreat scheduled for August 28. He asked the Executive Committee members and other interested Board members to meet sometime in the next two weeks to go over the draft 2005 budget and work plan. The goal is to have most of the work done on these two items before the retreat, so that more time can be reserved for other discussions of interest to the Board. Ken will work to set up a meeting date and time to discuss the budget and work plan.

### **PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

At Committee Night on August 19, the Board will discuss future public involvement. Related to this discussion, they will develop a response to the Coalition of Local Governments on the invitation to the September 13 meeting. Members also will discuss their views on possibilities for the future Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. They also will make final plans for the August 28 retreat.

For the September Board meeting, Ken Korkia noted the Board had scheduled a presentation by a representative with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to discuss the Rocky Flats Public Health Assessment. Ken contacted the representative this past week, and he indicated that release of the report is delayed, so he may not be ready for a presentation in September. Should the presentation be postponed, the Board agreed that it could schedule a presentation on the Original Landfill remediation, assuming the plan is ready for public comment. Members also are interested in having a more in-depth presentation and discussion on the Comprehensive Risk Assessment. A final decision on the September agenda will be made at Committee Night.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

*Date: September 9, 6 to 9:00 p.m.*

*Location: College Hill Library, Room L268, Front Range Community College*

- Agenda:**
- *Presentation on the Rocky Flats Public Health Assessment (tentative)*
  - *Presentation on the Original Landfill Remediation Plan (tentative)*
  - *Presentation and Discussion on the Comprehensive Risk Assessment (tentative)*

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Bill Kossack, 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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