

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2005
6 to 9 p.m.
College Hill Library, Front Range Community College
Westminster, Colorado

Board Chair Jerry DePoorter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Erin Hamby, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Bill McNeill, Andrew Ross, Hank Stovall / Dean Rundle (USFWS), Amy Thornburg (USFWS), Mark Aguilar (EPA), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM), Carl Spreng (CDPHE), Rich Schassburger (DOE-RFFO)

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Jerry DePoorter, Mike Maus, Phil Tomlinson / Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM), Mark Aguilar (EPA), Dave Kruchek (CDPHE)

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Bob Darr (DOE-RFPO), Glenn Fischer (GAO), Rob Henneke (EPA), Ralph Stephens (Denver), Ted Auker (Colorado Labor Trades Council), Brad Turner (Longmont Times-Call), James Horan (Denver), Bob Prucha (Integrated Hydro Systems) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:

During public comment, Ted Auker with the Colorado Labor Trades Council stated he found it pretty remarkable that the physical cleanup work at the site is nearing completion. He credited the workforce with having done a remarkable job at the site.

In new business, Ken Korkia raised the possibility of changing the date for the December Committee Night meeting from the currently scheduled December 21 to December 14. This change would avoid the busy week before Christmas. The Board approved the change.

UPDATE ON THE HOT SPOT REMOVAL:

Rich Schassburger of the U.S. Department of Energy said the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) has been performing independent verification for the site. In two 2,000 square-meter areas in the 903 Pad Lip Area, ORISE has performed discrete random sampling according to MARSSIM (Multi-Agency Radiological Site Survey Investigation Manual) and conducted FIDLER (Field Instrument Detection for Low Energy Radiation) scans. The FIDLER, which is akin to a Geiger counter, picked up several spots of potentially high radiation. Rich said ORISE returned to these spots to acquire samples. The samples were split with Kaiser-Hill. Thirteen "hot spots" with contamination greater than the standard of 50 picocuries per gram (pCi/g) were found.

Rich said Kaiser-Hill has remediated these areas. He said about 80 square meters of soil, amounting to about 14 cubic meters, were removed. Kaiser-Hill conducted further tests and determined all contaminated

soil was removed.

In response to a question, Rich said the risk assessors are getting together next week to do a calculation of the risk posed by the hot spots.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE UPDATED ROCKY FLATS SITE WIDE WATER BALANCE:

Bob Prucha of Integrated Hydro Systems, a Kaiser-Hill subcontractor, gave an update on the SWWB study. The SWWB analyzes the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater at the site in the wake of closure changes. The updated SWWB was compared to the previous model generated in May 2002, using Water Year 2000 water data.

The model takes into account different soils in the Industrial Area, vegetation, snowmelt, flow in the drainages, and runoff from paved areas. Bob said the SWWB update was limited to the Industrial Area and did not include the Present Landfill or modifications to Ponds B-1, B-2, or C-1.

Bob said a number of changes had taken place at the site since the original SWWB study was done. Those changes include:

- a regrading of the Industrial Area completed in July 2005,
- the installation of functional channels,
- construction of wetlands near functional channels No. 2 and 4,
- regrading of the Original Landfill area,
- removal of a portion of the South Interceptor ditch,
- removal of pavement,
- halting the importation of water to the site

The updated model also takes into account that the basements of Buildings 771, 991, 371, 881, and 776 will remain; that drains and trenches in the B771 area were reconfigured or removed; and that the Mound Plume Treatment System groundwater collection trench was installed. Footing drains near B771, which have been disrupted, had directed groundwater toward North Walnut Creek.

The resulting water model shows changes to groundwater depth (due to removal of the paved Industrial Area surface), evapotranspiration (due to the wetlands and removal of the paved area), groundwater flow, and groundwater flow direction. However, the model shows flow direction does not change dramatically except in the vicinity of localized building basements.

For surface water, the model predicts changes in flow on South Walnut Creek at GS-10, at the Functional Channel (FC) 2 wetlands, FC-1 at North Walnut Creek, and in the South Interceptor Ditch (SID).

Throughout most of the Industrial Area, the model showed an increase in groundwater elevation of between 3 to 10 feet. This was due mostly to pavement removal, deactivation of utilities, and removal or deactivation of footing drains. Footing drains shunted groundwater into the drainages.

Next, Bob looked at changes to surface water flows, first looking at Functional Channel (FC) 2, which runs between the former sites of B771 and B371. FC-2 takes the place of a natural drainage that ran between the two buildings. In 2002, the SWWB model predicted 24 million gallons a year would flow through the drainage. Under closure conditions, the model now predicts 180,000 gallons a year will flow through FC-2. The model predicts there will be no baseflow most of the year. Baseflow is groundwater that becomes surface water in the channel. The drop in the amount of water in FC-2 was primarily due to the construction of wetlands in the area. The wetlands increase the amount of evapotranspiration. In addition, the decrease is partially due to the severe reduction in imported water to the site.

In FC-4, the Water Year 2000 model predicted 37 million gallons a year to flow. Under closure conditions, the model predicts 170,000 gallons a year will flow down FC-4. Bob again attributed the flow reduction to wetlands in the area. In the South Interceptor Ditch, water flow is expected to drop to 700,000 gallons a year from 8 million gallons a year.

In summary, Bob said, groundwater levels in the Industrial Area will generally increase; the direction of groundwater flow is expected to remain the same except near building foundations; surface flows from the Industrial Area will be greatly reduced; soil compaction could contribute to lowering groundwater levels; and "rain on snow" events could lead to a large runoff that has not been calculated using the model.

A Board member asked about the credibility of the predictions from the model. Bob answered that the model has been calibrated against real life events and that calibration has increased confidence the model is correct. A Board member asked about the benefits of FC-5. That channel would be able to handle larger than normal precipitation events, Bob said.

An audience member asked about the reality of the vegetation model used in the SWWB. Bob answered that he had worked with Jody Nelson of Kaiser-Hill to develop a vegetation map of the site.

A Board member asked if the regrading of the site influenced surface water. Bob answered that if wetlands are included in the definition of "regrade," then surface water would be affected. Bob added that Woman Creek is largely unaffected by changes in the Industrial Area and most changes to surface water are in Walnut Creek. In answer to another question, Bob said that computer simulations have been done for a 100-year and 500-year precipitation event.

Bob was asked if there will be water in the Present Landfill. The SWWB did not take into account changes in the landfill. Bob said that he did not know but he believes the groundwater levels will drop. The Board member said the landfill was troublesome because waste is "sitting" in the water and leachate is coming out of it. He said the amounts and kinds of waste in the landfill are largely unknown.

In answer to another question, Bob said that it is likely that Pond B-5 would not have to be discharged into South Walnut Creek because water levels would be low. However, water will have to be discharged from Pond A-4, the last of the A Series ponds.

SLIDE SHOW ON SITE CLOSURE PROGRESS:

Bob Darr with DOE Communications showed the Board slides depicting the cleanup and closure progress. He began with a recent aerial photo of the site showing almost total removal of buildings, roads and other

infrastructure. This photo was contrasted with a past aerial photo from the same vantage point that put into perspective the incredible transformation of the site. Bob had other more close-up photos showing changes to the water drainages, the sites of former buildings and roads, and other dramatic changes to the landscape. The last photos showed the final train bearing wastes from the site. The rail tracks have now been removed. Among the final cleanup activities currently underway is some work to track the source of a recent discovery of volatile organic compound contamination near former Building 991.

REPORT ON THE EM SSAB CHAIRS MEETING:

Ken Korkia reported on the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs meeting that was held at the end of September in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The meeting included a tour of the Idaho National Laboratory. Ken reported that a tour included a visit to the waste area where much of the waste generated at Rocky Flats during the weapons production era was sent for disposal. There are concerns of groundwater contamination in this area since it sits above the Snake River aquifer, which supplies agricultural and domestic water use for a significant portion of the northern and central U.S. population. Another significant concern at Idaho is the future disposition of high level waste and spent nuclear fuel that someday is supposed to be sent to a deep geological repository, currently planned to be the Yucca Mountain site. Delays or potential denial in opening Yucca Mountain could have a significant impact on sites like the Idaho lab that store high level wastes and spent nuclear fuels. DOE currently has no contingency plans for these sites should major changes in Yucca Mountain planning or availability take place.

Ken stated that during the Chairs meeting, the Fernald Board reported it too has concerns about the establishment of a Local Stakeholder Organization for their site. Their Board, other local activists, and representatives of local governments are in agreement that they would like the Fernald LSO to become a Federal Advisory Committee. In conversations outside the meeting, the Fernald representatives confided that they believe that the legislation establishing LSOs at the DOE closure sites was crafted to meet the needs of a limited constituency at Rocky Flats and does not meet their needs. The Fernald community is engaging the two senators from Ohio to help them establish an LSO that meets their needs.

The major focus of the presentations and discussion at the Chairs meeting was on waste management issues. Based on their discussions, the Chairs developed and approved a draft letter to DOE Assistant Secretary James Rispoli concerning waste management issues. The Chairs forwarded the letter to each of the local board for their consideration. Issues addressed in the letter include the following:

- The Chairs hope to facilitate public involvement in upcoming DOE decisions regarding low-level and mixed low-level wastes.
- The local Boards will consider offering expressions of support to the New Mexico Environment Department concerning Waste Isolation Pilot Plan (WIPP) permit modifications for remote handled transuranic waste.
- The local Boards will seek to assist DOE by providing support for pending Environmental Protection Agency standards regarding the federal high-level waste repository.
- The Chairs expressed concerns about pre-1970 transuranic waste in that no consistent national policy exists to address these wastes. The Chairs would like to assist DOE in developing such a policy.

Members of the Rocky Flats Board considered the letter and approved it by unanimous consent.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2006 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET:

The Board discussed the draft 2006 Work Plan that staff prepared based on the conversation at the Board's annual planning retreat held in late August. The Work Plan identifies work scope focus areas in the following areas:

- **Regulatory Closure:** The Board will track development of and comment appropriately on the final Corrective Action Decision / Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) for the site. Interim documents preceding the CAD/ROD include the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study, the Comprehensive Risk Assessment, and the Proposed Plan. The Board will review and comment on these documents as necessary. Other regulatory closure activities the Board will examine include the post-closure regulatory agreement and the Superfund National Priorities List delisting process.
- **Site Transition:** The Board will follow the progress of the site's transfer in responsibility from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to the Office of Legacy Management. A document of particular interest to the Board will be the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan. The Board also will pay close attention to any developments or activities associated with the transfer of property from the Department of Energy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. An important issue for consideration will be the resolution of mineral rights issues.
- **Public Involvement:** The Board will continue its normal public involvement activities including offering a public forum for addressing site issues, maintaining a web site and speaker's bureau and producing an annual report. The Board will monitor the establishment and operation of the Local Stakeholder Organization and will step in where it deems necessary to ensure a viable role for future citizen stakeholders. The Board also will review its own participation over the past decade and develop a set of lessons learned and recommendations to help guide future public participation. Also, the Board will seek the services of an outside consultant to help develop a risk communication strategy and program to help explain to the general public the residual risk that remains at Rocky Flats. The Board proposes to publish a written report and sponsor a public meeting where this information can be shared.
- **National Participation:** As part of the national Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board, the Board will continue to interact with local boards at other Department of Energy sites. The Board will send representatives to national meetings and workshops when they are held.
- **Board Legacy Project:** The Board will develop a final report to the community outlining the history of its involvement and providing recommendations on future public participation and areas of continuing site concern, such as long-term stewardship.
- **Board Closure:** With the Board's DOE mission slated to end in September 2006, there will be activities necessary to shut down the 501 (c)(3) corporation under which the Board is organized operationally.

The Board made minor modifications to the draft Work Plan presented to them and then approved it by unanimous consent.

Ken Korkia reviewed the proposed 2006 budget for the Board. The budget is for nine months and includes a severance package for the staff that remain until the end of the Board's existence. The budget totals just

under \$190K. Ken estimated the Board's carryover from 2005 at about \$26K, meaning that the total request in new funding from DOE would be approximately \$164K. The Board will seek additional funding in a separate request to hire an independent consultant to assist the Board in developing a risk communication strategy and program. The funding would include professional consultation, the writing, design and production of a short report, and planning and support for a public educational meeting.

The Board approved the budget request by unanimous consent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

In the discussion regarding planning for future meetings, member Bill McNeill raised concerns he has about the potential for future water contamination problems arising from the Present Landfill. Bill would like site representatives to address his concerns. He agreed to develop a memorandum outlining his concerns that would be shared with the Board, DOE and the regulators. The Board will schedule a time at a future meeting where DOE can address Bill's concerns.

PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

At the October 19 Committee Night meeting, the Board will review the proposal by Sigler Communications concerning the risk communication project. They also will have a presentation on the pre-decisional draft of the Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan. Finally, the members will consider what further actions, if any, they wish to pursue concerning the Coalition of Local Government's activities to establish the future Local Stakeholder Organization.

At the November 3 monthly meeting, the Board will formally consider and approve potential recommendations or proposals on the risk communication project and on the Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan. Time permitting, the Board will also schedule a presentation and discussion on future site monitoring. Bill McNeill's concerns related to the Present Landfill would be folded into this discussion. Depending on the availability and timing of the formal public comment draft of the Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan, this topic would take precedence and push back the topic of future site monitoring and the Present Landfill to the December meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: November 3, 2005 6 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: College Hill Library, Room L-107, Front Range Community College

- Agenda:*
- *Presentation and discussion on the Rocky Flats Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan*
 - *Consideration of proposal to hire consultant for risk communication*
 - *Board officer elections*
 - *Rocky Flats monitoring / concerns with groundwater contamination at the Present Landfill*
 - *Other items as necessary*

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

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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