

# ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2006

7 to 9:00 p.m.

College Hill Library, Room L-211  
Front Range Community College, Westminster

Board Chair Jerry DePoorter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Suzanne Allen, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Mike Maus, Hank Stovall / Frazer Lockhart (DOE-RFFO), Dean Rundle (USFWS), Larry Kimmel (EPA), Carl Spreng (CDPHE)

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Erin Hamby, Bill McNeill, Phil Tomlinson / Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM)

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Bob Darr (DOE-RFPO), James Campbell (Arvada), Sam Garcia (EPA), Rob Henneke (EPA), Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Ralph Stephens (Denver), James Horan (Denver), Jeff Eggleston (former Board member), Gary Thompson (former Board member), Amy Thornburg (USFWS), Doug Parker (Arvada), Jeanette Alberg (Senator Allard), Steve Gunderson (former CDPHE ex officio member), Gale Biggs (former Board member), Suzanne Biggs (Boulder), Beverly Lyne (former Board member), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS), Janet Burda (former Board member), Jerry Henderson (former staff member), Joe Tempel (former Board member), William Allen (Westminster), Barbara Mazurowski (S.M. Stoller, former Rocky Flats DOE Site Manager), Erin Minks (Senator Salazar), Bryan Taylor (former Board member), Kimberly Lohr (former RFCLOG staff member), Alan Trenary (Westminster), David Abelson (Rocky Flats Stewardship Council), Deborah French (former staff member), David French (Westminster), Joe Legare (former DOE ex officio member), LeRoy Moore (former Board member)/ Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff)

## **PRESENTATION OF THE BOARD'S LEGACY REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY:**

For the past several months the Board has been working on its Legacy Report to the Community. The report summarizes the Board's efforts during the past thirteen years and offers some final thoughts, lessons learned, and recommendations for the future.

Board member Mike Maus provided a summary of the report in officially presenting it to the community. Mike began by noting that independence was a key feature of the Board's operations. He next recited a brief history of Rocky Flats leading up to the creation of the Citizens Advisory Board in 1993. Mike pointed out that the Board was both a non-profit corporation and a federal advisory committee. Members on the Board were chosen for their diversity of interests and included *ex officio* representatives from the Department of Energy and the regulatory agencies. The Board produced 117 consensus-based recommendations during its years of operation. Most of these recommendations were accepted by the Department of Energy, but Mike noted that there were several exceptions. One area of concern that Board always had was the establishment of cleanup levels for the site. The Board always maintained a goal of cleanup to background levels of contamination, but was not successful in seeing this goal adopted as a long-term strategy for the cleanup at Rocky Flats.

The cleanup at Rocky Flats was originally estimated to take upwards of 70 years at a cost of \$23 billion. On October 13, 2005, cleanup was officially declared complete, taking just over ten years at a cost of \$7 billion. While the Board supported the accelerated cleanup program, it was most concerned about safety. Despite the many hazards and unknowns in cleaning up a facility such as Rocky Flats, fortunately no lives were lost and no major accidents occurred.

Regarding future use of the site, the Board was always concerned that the site remain under federal government control. This goal was realized when Congress approved the creation of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in 2001.

Long-term stewardship was one of the Board's major areas of focus during cleanup planning. As it looks to the future, the Board is concerned about effective public participation in site stewardship activities. Mike noted the Board's disappointment in the creation and make-up of the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council primarily because individuals and non-governmental organizations have only limited representation.

In discussing lessons learned by the Board in its thirteen years, Mike stated the following:

- Early public participation in reviewing cleanup plans was useful
- Ex officio participants were important in providing their input during the Board's deliberations
- The open door policy of DOE, its contractors, and the regulators allowed for a more cooperative environment
- The Board's ability to hire its own experts gave the Board access to helpful independent expertise
- Site visits and tours were helpful to the Board to understand the site cleanup challenges

For the future, the Board recommends that the community remain interested and involved in what happens at Rocky Flats. Most importantly, the community needs to pay attention to the surface water monitoring program as it will indicate whether the cleanup has been a success. The public must demand that future Rocky Flats meetings be held in the evenings or weekends when they can attend.

In closing, Mike noted there are many legacies associated with Rocky Flats. These legacies include the need to always remember the former nuclear weapons mission at the site. Another important legacy is the efforts of the citizens who volunteered their services to the Board to learn about the cleanup and, through recommendations, to shape it. A final legacy is the efforts of the dedicated site workforce who accepted and accomplished the dangerous task of cleaning up, demolishing and disposing of this former nuclear weapons plant.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The majority of the meeting was open for anyone who wished to make any final comments.

Ken Korkia began by reading a letter sent by Senator Wayne Allard. Mr. Allard wrote that this evening's meeting was a landmark event to celebrate and honor the hard work, dedication, and many successes of the Board. The Senator also described some of the Board's major activities including its work on the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, the radionuclide soil action levels, the Plutonium Vulnerability Assessment, and the Ten Year Plan. Mr. Allard closed by congratulating the members for helping to make the cleanup of Rocky Flats a success.

Rocky Flats retiree and member of the Rocky Flats Homesteaders, Roman Kohler, thanked the Board on behalf of the retirees and former workers for its support of the workers, particularly in the areas of safety and worker health benefits.

DOE Site Manager Frazer Lockhart next read a letter from DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman. Mr. Bodman congratulated the Board for their service to the Environmental Management program and on behalf of the President and the Department of Energy thanked the members, both past and present, for their service to the Department. Mr. Bodman noted the Board's contributions in the areas of cleanup standards and environmental restoration, waste management and disposition, stabilization and disposition of stockpile nuclear materials, excess facilities, future land use, long term stewardship, risk assessment and management, and science and technology activities. The successful closure of the site would not have been possible without the Board's efforts. The cooperation between DOE and the Board stands as an example for other similar projects across the country. As citizen volunteers, the members demonstrate the best traditions of the American spirit. Frazer next presented a plaque to the Board as an award of achievement from the Secretary. The text on the plaque captured the sentiments expressed in the letter.

Former Board member Gale Biggs expressed a long term concern about the site. He stated that the unique geology of the site as an alluvial buildup washed down from the nearby mountains presents a concern for the future. Because there are still buried wastes at Rocky Flats in the landfills, he is concerned that a major precipitation event could someday wash through the site and with it carry contaminated soils and buried materials into the downstream communities. He suggests this be something that persons think about in the future.

Another former member Bryan Taylor addressed the historical legacy of the site. Bryan currently serves as a board member of the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum. The museum has received land on which to build a facility near Rocky Flats. Bryan recently returned from a meeting in Las Vegas where a national association of cold war related museums was formed with members from the various DOE weapons complex sites. Bryan encouraged those interested to join the museum's planning efforts and invited them to visit the group's website at [www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org](http://www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org).

*Ex officio* member Dean Rundle with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service related his experience through the years working with citizens in areas related to wildlife management and stated that he was impressed with the dedication of those who served on the Rocky Flats board. He said he hopes that members will continue their involvement as the site makes the transition to a wildlife refuge.

Carl Spreng, the *ex officio* representative from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), also expressed his thanks to the Board for the dedication of its members in giving up time in their lives to work on Rocky Flats issues. Carl works with peers at other DOE sites and he believes, based on conversations that he has had, that the Rocky Flats CAB is one of the best functioning boards in the country.

Carl and Larry Kimmel, the *ex officio* representative with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), next handed out certificates of appreciation to those current and former Board and staff members present. The certificates were signed by representatives from DOE, CDPHE and EPA.

Frazer Lockhart next spoke about the efforts of Ken Korkia, the Board's Executive Director. He noted that Ken was committed to making sure that the public's voice was heard as decisions were made about the Rocky Flats cleanup and thanked him for his efforts

David Abelson with the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council spoke about how one measures success, especially when considering citizen and community involvement. David noted that this community did not accept the regulatorily required minimum when it came to its involvement and managed to stretch the boundaries of public involvement. These efforts resulted in a much more civil community dialogue about the cleanup of Rocky Flats. David also expressed his appreciation to the Board staff for its efforts and spirit of cooperation.

Erin Minks with Senator Ken Salazar's office spoke that Rocky Flats issues have long been one of the Senator's areas of interests, extending from when he was state Attorney General. She is relatively new to Rocky Flats issues, but anxious to carry on efforts related to worker health issues and other important Rocky Flats related topics that might arise in the future.

Community member Alan Trenary thanked the Board and its staff for helping persons such as him learn about and become involved in Rocky Flats cleanup issues. Through his involvement he has confidence in the cleanup and those who will continue stewardship and refuge management in the future.

Ken Korkia next spoke about his experiences having been involved with Rocky Flats citizen groups for sixteen years. Ken began work with the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission in 1990 and later came to work for the Board in 1994. One of the lessons Ken stated he has learned over the years is that citizen involvement is most effective when all parties respect one another and when the public is informed. These have been hallmarks of the Citizens Advisory Board. Ken also was involved on a national level with the Environmental Management program and has traveled to most of the DOE weapons complex sites. He believes that Rocky Flats is a model for good public involvement. Ken thanked the Board and those who gave him the opportunity to be in the middle of the Rocky Flats cleanup as his day-to-day job for the past sixteen years. He also thanked his fellow staff members for their dedication and making his work so much easier. He closed by thanking those members of the community who attended the Board's meetings throughout the years.

Board Chair Jerry DePoorter stated that he felt fortunate to have been a member of the Board and honored to have served as the chair. He thanked DOE and the regulators for their openness in providing him and the Board with the information it needed in making its recommendations. Jerry also thanked the staff for its support of the Board. Based on his experiences with the other SSABs, Jerry believes our Board was one of the best. He also noted that sometimes there were disagreements on the Board, but by listening and committing to dialogue, the Board was able to overcome them. In the end, the Board's commitment to consensus decision-making resulted in much stronger recommendations. He thanked his fellow members for their participation. He also thanked the site workers and commended them for their incredible safety record. Jerry believes what happened with the cleanup at Rocky Flats is a model for the rest of the weapons complex and hopes that the other sites listen to the lessons learned.

Member Suzanne Allen thanked those who let her serve on the Board. Her background was in financial services management and had no previous knowledge about Rocky Flats issues. Her participation on the Board provided her with a wealth of information. Suzanne also thanked her husband for supporting her participation as a Board member.

Former staff member Jerry Henderson thanked the Board members for letting him work for them and the opportunities they provided.

**DISSOLUTION OF THE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION:**

In order to end its operation as a 501(c)(3) corporation, the Board voted to dissolve. The motion to dissolve the corporation was approved by unanimous consent.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 p.m.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Bill Kossack, Secretary  
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board