

**Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 4, 2001**  
**8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Bal Swan and Zang Spur rooms**  
**Broomfield City Hall, Broomfield**

**Board members in attendance:** Nanette Neelan\* (Alternate, Jefferson County), Tom Brunner (Director, Broomfield), Hank Stovall (Alternate, Broomfield), Sam Dixon\* (Director, Westminster), Mary Harlow (Alternate, Westminster), Lorraine Anderson (Director, Arvada), Ken Fellman (Alternate, Arvada), Carol Lyons (Alternate, Arvada), Paul Danish\* (Director, Boulder County), Lisa Morzel (Director, City of Boulder), Karen Imbierowicz (Director, Superior).

\*Arrived/Departed at time indicated.

**Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance:** David Abelson (Executive Director), John Marler (Technical Advisor), Kimberly Chleboun (Program Manager), and Barbara Vander Wall (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C.).

**Members of the Public:** John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill), Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), Jeff Stevens (Kaiser-Hill), Dyan Foss (Kaiser-Hill), Link Hall (Kaiser-Hill), William Harroun (Kaiser-Hill), Alan Parker (Kaiser-Hill), Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill), John Rampe (DOE), Barbara Mazurowski (DOE), Fred Gerdeman (DOE), Jeremy Karpatkin (DOE), Hank Dalton (DOE), Tami Moore (DOE), Anna Martinez (DOE), Karen Lutz (DOE), Paul Hartmann (DOE), Robert Freeman (DOE), Patrick Etchart (DOE), Steve Tarlton (CDPHE), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Rob Henneke (EPA), Noelle Stenger (RFCAB), George Vancil (Arvada), Shirley Garcia (Broomfield), Kathy Schnoor (Broomfield), Kristi Pollard (Senator Allard), Theresa Sauer (Governor Owens), Doug Young (Congressman Udall), Nancy Hunter (Congressman Schaffer), Terry VanKeuren (Congressman Tancredo), Joshua Levin (Decision Research), Doris DePenning (Friends of the Foothills), Hildegard Hix (Sierra Club), Gail Bange (Wackenhut), Dan Chesshir (RFSOIU Local #1), John Whitney (RFSOIU Local #1), John Barton (USWA Local #8031), James Masingale (USWA Local #8031), Phil Cruz (RFSOIU Local #1), Beth Wohlberg (The Daily Camera), Berny Morson (Rocky Mountain News), Bob Nelson (citizen), Steve Smith (Xcel Energy).

**Convener/Agenda Review**

Paul Danish called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. There were no proposed changes to the agenda.

## **Business Items**

- 1) **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda** – Tom Brunner motioned to approve the consent agenda. Lisa Morzel seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.
- 2) **Executive Director's Report** - David Abelson started by explaining DOE Headquarters (HQ) had released its report on Rocky Flats worker safety and the 771 exposures. Barbara Mazurowski and Alan Parker will be briefing the Board later in the Board meeting. Next, David said he had called Tom Norton and discussed the briefing scheduled for July regarding the State's Northwest Quadrant alignment study. David noted his discussion included an explanation of the Coalition's authority and how it works, and the Coalition's position on the Allard-Udall bill. Mr. Norton indicated the alignment study will be something between a standard alignment study and a NEPA analysis, and it will look at all alignment options around and through Rocky Flats. The Board noted concern about the alignment options and discussed sending a letter to Mr. Norton and CDOT clarifying its position. Third, David reported on the information sent to him by the Site in response to the Board's request for semi-annual cleanup progress updates. According to DOE, through the first quarter of this year overall Kaiser-Hill is 4% behind the cleanup schedule and 2% over budget, and 23% behind on key cleanup projects. David reminded the Board Kaiser-Hill does not expect to be on a 2006 schedule until 2002. Fourth, David distributed copies of the Coalition's op-ed and informed the Board it had been published in several local papers thus far. Fifth, David told the Board and staff that he was still awaiting needed input from them on the expert panel for controlled burns. Sixth, David also asked for input from the Board on the health effects workshop and whether Board members would prefer a technical discussion or a structure for those who know little about radiation's health effects. After lengthy discussion, the Board determined that it would be most beneficial to have a 1-day technical discussion in order to understand the current thinking in the health physics community. The Board also discussed the budget and funding, potential speakers and potential attendees, in light of the Coalition paying for the workshop in its entirety. Hank Stovall suggested giving staff a cost cap and cited an example of \$15,000. Lorraine Anderson preferred the Board receive a presentation during a Board meeting. Sam Dixon suggested charging a nominal fee for people to attend. David said he would submit a proposal to the Board within the month. Last, John Marler reminded the Board his last day as the Coalition Technical Advisor would be July 13<sup>th</sup>. David said he had already started the search for a replacement.
- 3) **Receive 2000 Audit** - Linda Cassaday presented her findings from the Coalition's 2000 Audit. There were no compliance exceptions and no weaknesses in internal controls. Linda also noted the records were in good shape, and Donna Frost had done a good job of tracking monthly transactions. Ken Fellman asked David if next year the Board could receive the audit earlier in order to address questions prior to the meeting. Lisa Morzel motioned to approve the 2000 Coalition Audit. Lorraine Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## **Public Comment**

Doug Young brought copies of the new Department of Labor regulations to implement the worker compensation program. The regulations outline the type of information employees will need to supply to DOL. Congressman Udall will be holding a town hall meeting on approximately July 17<sup>th</sup>. Lorraine Anderson asked why there was a delay in paying the uranium miners on earlier compensation claims. Doug explained there is some confusion between this program and the program for uranium workers and they are still working out how to reconcile the two.

John Barton thanked the Board for its support in getting the steelworker's 70-point retirement plan approved and distributed commemorative coffee cups.

## **771 Worker Exposure/Safety Update**

Barbara Mazurowski began by explaining this briefing would provide a review of the corrective actions Kaiser-Hill has been taking in response to the 771 worker exposures and Barbara's letter dated January 5, 2001, including the Site Safety Improvement Plan (SSIP). Barbara and Alan Parker also discussed the findings of the Environmental Health and Safety (EH) Special Review, which was requested by Barbara in order to identify safety issues and take a proactive approach in safety planning and management.

Alan provided an overview of the Kaiser-Hill investigation, which was completed in March 2001. The investigation determined the exposures were likely caused by low-levels of airborne plutonium from radiological work activities over time, exacerbated by D&D activities. Alan said D&D is a dynamic activity with different sets of work conditions throughout the day. However, Kaiser-Hill's work and safety plans did not recognize the changing environment and workers were exposed, although the exposures were well within the regulatory limits. Alan then described the initial actions that took place in Building 771, including: suspension of work; additional sampling, contamination survey and containment efforts; verification of air monitoring placement; and training to all Building 771/774 personnel. Alan explained the SSIP is a continuous improvement plan and has the capacity to integrate public comment and other issues as they arise. The plan outlines specific corrective actions to address safety improvement issues, and many of these actions are already being implemented:

- Increased use of respiratory protection for D&D and waste handling activities;
- Improved control of potential airborne radioactivity areas;
- Disassembled 186 tent (site of worker exposures), disposed as waste;
- Increased radiological protection staff;
- Survey disconnected equipment for contamination weekly until size-reduction;
- Perform baseline contamination surveys in overhead spaces; and
- Introduce the use of maslin mops.

Alan also described future corrective actions, which incorporate lessons learned, increased evaluations, and increased air flow in Building 771. All corrective actions should be in place by December 2001. Alan said some level of internal exposure to radionuclides will occur in individuals who are directly involved in D&D activities, but the Site's goal is to maintain exposures As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA).

Barbara then discussed the independent review performed by DOE HQ-EH. She had requested EH look at the Integrated Work Control Process (IWCP), line management oversight and specifically the Building 771 worker exposures. The Review identified two noteworthy practices: 1) establishing an environment where workers can focus on the safe execution of work rather than schedule pressures, and 2) a safety training course for D&D workers. Barbara said the review also identified the following six safety issues:

- IWCP implementation is not always adequate;
- Some training program requirements and other institutional safety requirements and responsibilities are not being adequately implemented;
- Some Kaiser-Hill feedback and improvement mechanisms have not been clearly defined or rigorously implemented to provide management with necessary performance data;
- RFFO's line management oversight program does not meet certain DOE policy requirements;
- Weaknesses in identifying and characterizing radiological conditions led to the closure project not keeping worker exposures as low as reasonably achievable; and
- Insufficient engineering planning and consideration of the degraded condition in Building 771 challenged the ventilation system's ability to confine plutonium and direct air flow as required by DOE orders on facility safety, and temporary ventilation systems have not minimized the potential for plutonium intakes.

Alan noted many of the EH Special Review suggestions are already being implemented as part of Kaiser-Hill's SSIP. Specifically, they are focusing on quality and safety rather than schedule, working to clarify the IWCP process, and improving the first line supervisor span of control. A separate action plan is being developed for the Building 771 vent issue. Barbara added RFFO will develop an assessment program that fully meets DOE policy requirements, as well as a formal system to communicate informal assessment results to Kaiser-Hill. Barbara concluded by stating RFFO and Kaiser-Hill will further develop the safety partnering initiatives together. The floor was opened for questions.

Lorraine Anderson asked if they make disclosure to new employees that they may be exposed to low levels of radiation, and if they are doing anything about long-term follow up to health impacts. Alan said the unions understand the risks and they have made disclosure, but they are still working out how to factor this into human resources. He also said they are changing the way of radiological monitoring with a long-term monitoring program which looks for chronic exposure and health impacts. Tom Brunner commented that although some exposure will be inevitable it is vital to keep it as low as possible. Hank Stovall asked about protection levels, the detection levels of instruments, and independent safety analysis. Alan explained the problem

with the tent originated with a monitor that had not been calibrated, and data not being collected for 30 days. However, when the monitor was checked it was not out of calibration and the contamination levels were below their detection levels. In reference to their independent safety board, Alan stated it is a significant group of leaders from the nuclear industry who will advise Kaiser-Hill in their safety planning. Alan also introduced Link Hall, Kaiser-Hill's Chief Operating Officer, as taking the lead in the independent safety analysis. Mary Harlow asked why some corrective actions won't be completed until the end of the year. Alan replied they didn't want an artificial schedule, but they do have special rigorous controls in place now that will not be lifted until all corrective actions are in place. After that the program will become more routine. Barbara added they need to address priority issues first. James Masengale and John Barton advised the Board the steelworkers are in complete agreement with the investigation's findings and their workers have been involved with the corrective actions and the IWCP. John cited many of the positive changes they are seeing including improved safety procedures and the ability to question and stop work without fear of retaliation. Paul Danish said he is delighted about what he heard today, but still doesn't understand how these basic things could have been missed. Alan Parker said if he had that answer they would not have had these problems, but they want to make sure it doesn't happen again. Barbara explained Rocky Flats is in the forefront of cleanup and closure and this hasn't been done before. Many of the safety and radiological programs were put into place when the work was done in a static environment, and even though there was an entire program onsite to protect workers they didn't understand how proactive you really have to be. Barbara said they are continuing to learn and improve their program. Bob Freeman said he has performed many inspections across the DOE complex for EH, and Rocky Flats is by far the furthest along with this type of safety program. He emphasized the rest of the complex is learning from Rocky Flats. Mary Harlow commended DOE for their efforts and said the study was well done.

\*Nanette Neelan left at 9:45 a.m.

### **D&D Briefing**

John Marler outlined the questions raised in previous D&D sessions and the subject of demolition to be covered during the current session. David Abelson reminded the Board of the Coalition letters written regarding the demolition plans for Buildings 371 and 771, and the request for additional information on explosives in order to evaluate their necessity.

Jeff Stevens began the session by again stressing the importance of the pre-demolition survey, and then described pre-demolition status. The facilities will be decontaminated to meet the unrestricted release criteria. The Board questioned the criteria and Jeff explained the unrestricted release standard, 100-disintegrations per minute (dpm) per 100 cm<sup>2</sup> for fixed measurements and 20-dpm for loose measurements, was established by the NRC in 1973. In comparison, Rocky Flats background radiation is 15-40 dpm, and 35 picocuries per gram (a suggested radionuclide soil action level) in ground-up concrete is 200,000-dpm. He noted most likely 75% of the floors will be pulled up due to extensive contamination. Jeff also said the facilities would be empty of equipment, most interior walls and any asbestos containing material will have been removed,

below grade openings will be plugged, capped or covered, and utilities will have been isolated. In response to questions from Paul Danish and Mary Harlow regarding the pre-demolition survey, Jeff explained the measurements will cover surfaces all the way up the walls and the ceiling and will be entered into a database as separate points. He said they do very little averaging at this time, and only for small areas.

Jeff then described demolition methods and their pros and cons:

- Wrecking ball - easy technique, but dust control is difficult;
- Cabling - used to collapse small shacks and tin sheds only;
- Diamond wire cutting - works well for any thickness of concrete and is best for areas that are difficult to access, but is slow and involves difficult equipment;
- Excavator with mounted attachments - attachments include pulverizers, sheers, grapples and rams, and will be used for 98% of the demolition;
- Non-explosive cracking agent - used for slabs greater than 5-inches thick in cramped spaces in conjunction with other methods, but takes 12 hours; and
- Explosives - used in a limited capacity to weaken or collapse structures.

Jeff stated explosives can enhance the safety of demolition and, in some cases, may be the safest and most effective means for demolition. He emphasized the use of explosives at Rocky Flats involves a rigorous regulator and stakeholder consultative process, including an evaluation of health and safety, soil, structural, environmental, and economic effects of explosive versus mechanical demolition. They may also perform a "test shot" to evaluate the explosive's strength and their controls. Lisa Morzel asked how they would monitor fine particulate matter generated. Jeff stated airborne silica and nuisance dust would be a hazard to workers as well, thus they provide real time monitoring as well as the Radioactive Ambient Air Monitoring Program (RAAMP). They also use water for dust suppression. Paul Danish asked how they would then control the water. Jeff responded they do set up controls such as diversion ditches, more for storm events than for streams created. There normally is no standing water, but instead a paste results and if there is a puddle created it would be sampled. Lisa asked what they would look for in the soils. Jeff said first they look at maps of the designated areas, then they would sample to verify historic data. Lisa asked about contamination in pipes and other infrastructure. Jeff explained the effects the demolition techniques would have on these structures would be minimal, and there would be more ground vibration from an excavator. Paul said he was concerned about giving up control and having more dust with explosives. Jeff responded with the techniques they plan to use they expect to see no dust problems. Lisa asked if there would be a surge cloud and Jeff said this type of explosive technique is significantly different than the typical explosives used to bring down regular buildings, with different controls and more robust dust control. Sam Dixon asked if they would use explosives on highly contaminated buildings, and Jeff said they had no plans as of yet. Tom Brunner asked how they planned to decontaminate and survey the inside of the 771 stack. Jeff described the stack as 196-feet tall starting with 20-feet underground. They surveyed up the inside 18-feet, then cored from the outside up to 30-feet, and the higher they went the less contamination found. They also performed air modeling from the fire to confirm which portions contained the highest

contamination, and they will use probes and a crane to measure each foot of the remaining height. The Board agreed to postpone the rest of the discussion on air monitoring until the next D&D session at the next Board meeting in July.

\*Paul Danish left at 10:40 a.m. and Sam Dixon chaired.

### **Round Robin**

**Westminster** – Sam Dixon proposed drafting a resolution which would state DOE must be prepared to handle nuclear waste before pushing for nuclear energy in the future. A discussion ensued among the Board, and Ken Fellman asked Barbara Vander Wall if this would be in the scope of the Coalition's IGA. Barbara reviewed with the Board the purposes of the Coalition as described in the Coalition's establishing agreement, and said it appeared the Board would be stepping beyond those purposes by working on energy issues outside of Rocky Flats.

**Broomfield** – Tom Brunner asked David Abelson to look into RMRS layoffs to find out if the contractor is leaving and if long-term employees are losing benefits by being forced to move to lower tiered companies. Hank said he was encouraged by the Site's safety presentation and hopes the outcomes are positive.

**City of Boulder** – Lisa Morzel again reminded the Board that to put a road across the refuge would be in conflict with many other goals, and they should stick with their previous agreement on the eastern (Indiana) alignment.

**Arvada** – Lorraine Anderson asked David about a letter from Gerald DePoorter and the Citizen's Advisory Board regarding stewardship funding. David explained the letter was regarding money he was trying to secure for the Coalition from DOE HQ, Office of Long-Term Stewardship in order to diversify funding. The funding request stemmed from an HQ request to present a grant proposal last September. The CAB was concerned why it was not informed about it. David said the CAB and Coalition are partners in the Stewardship Working Group, but the Coalition does not have the CAB's DOE funding source and also does not make announcements of initial fund raising efforts.

\*Sam Dixon left at 10:50 a.m. and Lorraine Anderson chaired.

### **Public Comment**

Doug Young and Kristy Pollard expressed thanks on behalf of Congressman Udall and Senator Allard for the Coalition's op-ed in support of their bill.

### **Big Picture**

At the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board will continue the D&D discussion and receive a briefing on the Northwest Quadrant Alignment Study from Tom Norton.

The meeting was adjourned by Lorraine Anderson at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Chleboun, Program Manager