

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

January 9, 1996

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgkin, AlphaTRAC

Linda Murakami called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Jan Burda, Tom Clark, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Susan Johnson, Sasa Jovic, Jack Kraushaar, Beverly Lyne, Tom Marshall, Linda Murakami, David Navarro, Gary Thompson / Jeremy Karpatkin, Cliff Villa, Steve Tarlton

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Aluisi, Lloyd Casey, Ralph Coleman, Tom Davidson, Mike Freeman, Paul Grogger, Kathryn Johnson, Michael Keating, LeRoy Moore / Dave Brockman, Tim Rehder

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Kenneth Werth (citizen); Larry Helmerick (DOE); Joe Rippetoe (IMAA); Ray Horton (citizen); Ron Horton (citizen); Frank Smith (citizen); Chris Roberts (Daily Camera); Cliff Villa (EPA); Lou Johnson (EPA); Jim Stone (RFCC); Kristin Johnston-Burns (K-H); Howard Yeoman (citizen); Robert I. Carlson (retiree); Howard Bachman (retired RF); Allen Schubert (K-H); Kay Ryan (SWEIS); Sam Cole (PSR); Don Scrimgeour (CAB interim project administrator); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM LAST MONTH'S BOARD MEETING:

Question: Can CAB and other stakeholders be involved in the Environmental Monitoring Work Group?

Answer: An agency plan will be available in the next few weeks. Once it is ready, a discussion group that includes all interested stakeholders will be convened to review the plan.

Question: When will the reports from the RFCA workers be available for review?

Answer: Exact date is uncertain; however, it will be soon, since the work-out session and the release of RFCA for public comment are coming out in the next few weeks.

REPORT BACK ON MONITORING BUILDING 886: As the person from DOE who was to give the report was not available to attend CAB's rescheduled meeting, this issue will be discussed at next month's meeting.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON THE ROCKY FLATS CONCEPTUAL VISION / RECOMMENDATION AND COMMENTS: A recommendation was brought to CAB by the Site Wide Issues Committee, which advises DOE, EPA and CDPHE to consider in the Vision the following principles previously recommended to them, specifically: 1) not to allow budget constraints to drive cleanup decisions; 2) clean up of radionuclides must protect human health and the environment - the goal is to cleanup to background levels when technology allows; and 3) waste disposal at RFETS is not acceptable. In addition, the recommendation adds that the solutions for cleanup should not lead to more problems for future generations.

Public Comment on Recommendation: Comment: Frank Smith: Your next to final paragraph has the Board supporting in the Vision the creating of interim storage on Rocky Flats. I would like to have the Board debate among itself whether you want to be found supporting that or instead still hoping for options, either silo storage or creation of a facility at a different location than Rocky Flats.

Response: Tom Marshall: We have adopted a recommendation for a state-of-the-art plutonium facility or facilities at Rocky Flats. That's an issue the Board has made a recommendation on, that's why it's in here.

Comment: Frank Smith: I would like you to reconsider that.

Comment: Jim Stone: I am technical advisor for the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission, and also vice president of Stone Environmental Engineering Services. We have proposed an off-site facility with research facilities. I recommend to the Board that you not consider leaving any form of this legacy to this next generation. They're going to have their hands full. When you consider the condition of our families and economic conditions, they have a long row to hoe, and they'll have enough problems without leaving this nuclear waste legacy. I think we have the technology and perhaps the will to solve this problem. If we bury it and leave it to somebody else, it's just going to be forgotten until it turns into a catastrophe. I hope you will vote for an off-site facility with research going with it.

Comment: Howard Bachman: I heard you mention something about Building 886; I retired out of that building about four years ago. I was also involved in the cleanup after the fire a few years back. I'm very familiar with cleaning plutonium. Is there anybody here who has actually had hands-on experience in cleaning this stuff personally? There are very few people here who know how to change a glove on a glove box. You never really clean up plutonium; you transfer it from one item to another and you amplify the amount of

contamination. You never get rid of it.

Comment: Ken Korkia: Bill Kemper of the Rocky Flats Cleanup Commission contacted me and asked that I pass this on to the Board. He had two major points. First, he applauds the idea of a Vision; the second point has to do with budget constraints - he doesn't believe we should be planning as if there were any budget constraints at Rocky Flats. Things may change in the future, and he doesn't want to see us short-changing future generations based on our perceptions of how much money will be available.

Recommendation: Approve recommendation on Rocky Flats Conceptual Vision.

Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON DRAFT FOLLOWUP RECOMMENDATION

REGARDING ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP AGREEMENT: This recommendation is a followup to CAB's previous recommendation in October regarding RFCA. The RFCA Subcommittee of the Site Wide Issues Committee requests that CAB forward a letter to the principals with additional comments, specifically: 1) don't base plutonium storage decisions on the 2015 removal date; 2) include in AIP detail on how stakeholders will be involved in the budget process; and 3) reconsider developing a national dialogue on plutonium disposition. In addition, this letter will clarify a few items from CAB's previous recommendation, and requests specific information be forwarded for CAB's review.

Public Comment on Recommendation: **Comment:** Frank Smith: There is another thing that has not been mentioned: Rocky Flats' budgetary competition with other sites in the complex - it would be good to present a vigorous position on that instead of a passive one. You need to show vigor about things that aren't being accomplished so that you have a good budgetary argument. One source in the budget is reallocation across the complex.

Comment: Kenneth Werth: Can you tell me how these principals in the draft statement came up with their final say on these issues, because it seems to me they haven't addressed the main issues.

Recommendation: Approve recommendation on RFCA. Minor changes to the text were suggested, as well as the addition of a list of persons who should received copies of the letter.

Action: Motion to accept as amended. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON THE ROCKY FLATS ACCELERATED SITE ACTION PROJECT / RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:

The Site Wide Issues Committee brought to the Board a proposed recommendation which would forward guidance, comments and concerns about ASAP. There was not time left on the agenda to discuss this item in detail, but Tom Marshall noted that there is still time to comment on

ASAP in the future.

Recommendation: Postpone discussion on this recommendation to a later meeting in order to allow time for additional comments and feedback.

Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Question: Has anyone done a comparative cost analysis survey of what the cost would be just to leave the buildings rather than implode them?

Answer: Nancy Tuor: There has been a lot of additional work done on the ASAP. We are nearing the completion of analysis of six-seven different alternatives to that.

Comment: Ray Horton: I'm retired from Rocky Flats. I'm concerned about plans to implode buildings at Rocky Flats.

Response: Steve Tarlton: I know of a work group that is looking at building disposition. It is being discussed, but at this time, I'm not sure anyone at Rocky Flats is considering the possibility of imploding buildings. The process is not yet concluded, but I think that option is no longer under consideration.

Comment: Jim Stone: I was hoping that this Christmas you'd order some microphones. With all the money we're spending to have just one microphone for the Chair is not reasonable. This is an important meeting to have; let's at least set it up so people can hear.

Comment: Joe Rippetoe: First, I've been to every ASAP and Vision meeting, and have made calls. I have yet to be at one meeting where there is one specific subject matter. We can't get done what we have to without focusing on specific areas. Second, I thought two years ago this month Rocky Flats got a message from Tom Grumbly - stop talking and start doing things. I can see why there are budget constraints - there are problems at Rocky Flats that we have already paid for a dozen times.

Comment: Sam Cole: I would like to see serious discussion about the ASAP proposal. Also, it's true the buildings won't be imploded in the traditional sense of the word, but everything will be taken apart and put into the basements and covered over. To me, that's almost a slow implosion. It's still a problem and something we need to watch. Personally we don't think it's a good way to go. It's going to leave problems for future generations and it's not protecting the health and safety of the community. Same goes for creating a waste dump out there, and I'm glad you're not in favor of plans for a waste dump out there. I also would implore you to see that the Rocky Flats Future Site Use Working Group recommendations are fully understood, brought into the limelight and paid attention to. I don't think the Vision does that. And for the buffer zone, pay attention to what's going on.

We've got contaminated areas out there and we can't be opening that up to public use of any sort.

Comment: Frank Smith: If the Chair agrees, I'd like to see if all the people working on ASAP could characterize the status of things now and how they differ or what we've learned since the first version was published.

Response: Lou Johnson: There was an early conversation about new ways to deal with the site, but never any intention to implode the buildings. Please remember that the document we produced was a different way of looking at how Rocky Flats could be. There was no intention on the part of Kaiser-Hill or DOE to suggest that was the way it was going to be, just another way to look at things. We have developed a series of alternatives that have various options for Rocky Flats, ranging from cleaning up the site to residential standards on one hand to kind of a mothball option on the other end. We're in the process now of reviewing the document. We have put together analysis of a cost schedule and risk perspective. In the near future, the document will undergo some additional changes from internal review comments, and then it will be made available for public review and comment.

Question: Frank Smith: Does the release of the new document bear any relation to the upcoming Summit?

Answer: Lou Johnson: We have been operating on a schedule that doesn't relate to the Summit. But it's coincidental that all of this is coming together right now.

Nancy Tuor: The Summit Organizing Committee has asked us to put together some fact sheets for the Summit that will at least be the current thinking such as the variety of waste management and plutonium options, and environmental restoration options. The data and analysis that has been done will be available for the participants if they want to see it.

Comment: Ron Horton: Man made the plutonium and americium. It has a long half-life. Let's be careful about what we leave to the next generation. One other thing: is DOE ignoring the advice of advisory groups? Every person is going to be accountable, and we need to get it cleaned up and taken care of in a safe manner.

Comment: Reed Hodgkin: I want to ask a question of the audience concerning microphones and being able to hear the Board members. Tonight we are in a facility that has notoriously bad acoustics. Is this an issue just about tonight, or is this an issue also about our normal location at Westminster City Hall as well?

Response: It's worse here, much worse. But there is a problem at Westminster City Hall as well. If the people at the table would have stood up while talking, we could have possibly

heard it back here. Get individual microphones for everyone.

CAB BUSINESS:

Health Subcommittee Update: Beverly Lyne gave an update on the Health Subcommittee's work to date.

--The subcommittee first met in December and discussed its scope and its relationship to the Health Advisory Panel, status of health studies in the community and with Rocky Flats workers. They discussed what would be the components of a community health study and the health education needs of CAB relative to its mission. --In addition, a discussion about a proposed Public Assistance Center stems from a discussion with CDPHE, which asked CAB to look at its proposal. CDPHE is required by state regulations to have part of its emergency preparedness plan include a plan for dealing with a potential release from the site, and how to help the population that might receive an exposure. The Radiation Control Division has come up with a proposed Public Assistance Center, which covers many things from preparing directional signs and having medical equipment ready, to traffic control and identifying appropriate hospitals, etc. This is an implementation plan for mobilizing exposed people in the affected community, as well as monitoring and providing some health care for them. This is a provision, which has not yet been implemented, of the overall Emergency Preparedness Plan. The draft budget for development of the plan is about \$90,000. A recommendation was submitted to have CAB endorse concept of this plan.

Recommendation: Approve recommendation endorsing the Rocky Flats Area Emergency Public Assistance and Health Referral Center.

Action: Motion to accept. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.

--The subcommittee is reviewing information on health studies, and recommends that a letter be sent to Bob Goldsmith to fund a community health study of the Rocky Flats shadow community. The intent of the letter is to begin the process of developing a needs assessment in the community. The process would include the use of members of academia such as the School of Nursing and the School of Preventative Medicine to develop a plan. The recommended letter from CAB states that the studies should be developed from by a neutral perspective, and that CAB via its Health Subcommittee is interested in convening the process.

Recommendation: Send letter to Bob Goldsmith regarding community health study/needs assessment. Some Board members were supportive of and interested in the idea; however, several Board members had questions and concerns. They asked to have more time to consider the project and indicated a need for additional information.

Action: Table this item until a later meeting. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.

Budget Update (Jan Burda): CAB applied for 1996 grant in October but due to changes

in work plan, a revised proposed plan was submitted in December. DOE asked CAB to reapply for grant, which is due to DOE by January 20. One issue DOE has is the carryover from 1995 budget year, which is substantial and considerably over \$100,000. DOE's concern is about CAB asking for more funding this year, when it has not spent all of last year's funding. They are working on justification for increased funding request for 1996. The additional funds will be spent on independent consultants with technical expertise to assist with 1996 work plan, and upgrading computer systems for the office. DOE has discussed the possibility of loaning some of their used equipment, but those may not meet the needs of the office. The budget should be finished by the end of the month. CAB is funded through March 31, 1996, with a spending ability of about \$90,000.

Other Issues (Linda Murakami): If anyone has ideas as to what might be on the agenda in the future, please notify the office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The proposal for a six-month contract with Don Scrimgeour, who is currently serving as CAB's interim project administrator through June 1, 1996, was approved. This proposal includes recommendations on development of a 1996 work plan, and specific projects. The compensation for the interim project administrator during this period will be \$5,500 per month.

NEXT MEETING: Date: February 1, 1996, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Westminster City Hall, Multi-Purpose Room

Agenda: Presentation: Conceptualizing and Communicating Risk; recommendation on ASAP; recommendation on Waste Management PEIS

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

- 1) Forward recommendation on Vision - Staff
- 2) Revise and forward recommendation on RFCA - Staff
- 3) Forward recommendation on Rocky Flats Community Assistance Plan - Staff

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 P.M.

* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in CAB office.

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

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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