

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

June 6, 1996

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Tom Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Aluisi, Jan Burda, Ralph Coleman, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Kathryn Johnson, Susan Johnson, Sasa Jovic, Jack Kraushaar, Beverly Lyne, Tom Marshall, David Navarro, Gary Thompson / Jeremy Karpatkin, Shirley Olinger, Tim Rehder, Jessie Roberson, Steve Tarlton

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Clark, Paul Grogger, Mike Keating, LeRoy Moore, Linda Murakami / Dave Brockman

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Kenneth Werth (citizen); Doug Heberlein (RF retiree); Cheri Andersen (citizen); Duane Dunn (RF retiree); Carol Barker (RF retiree); John Law (RMRS); Roman Kohler (RF retiree); Frank Smith (citizen); Steve Siemion (RF retiree); Ralph Stephens (RF retiree); Mariane Anderson (DOE); Les Johnson (RMRS); John Ciolek (citizen); Greene Rankin (RMRS); Niels Schonbeck (Metro State College/HAP); Hank Stovall (Broomfield City Council); W. Diment (citizen); Stan Beitscher (RF retiree); Jeannette Dutcher (citizen); Don Dutcher (RF retiree); James Horan (RF retiree); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

JESSIE ROBERSON - INTRODUCTION AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: Jessie joined CAB at its meeting, and briefly discussed her new position as manager of Rocky Flats. She began working at Rocky Flats in 1994 as manager of the environmental restoration programs. Prior to that, she worked at the Savannah River site; Georgia Power - a public utility; and DuPont - a contractor for the federal government at Savannah River. Jessie has worked closely with Mark Silverman during the past two years. Mark served as visionary for the site - he brought the site to the level it is now and worked on setting up formal relations with CAB. Jessie will continue with that vision, but wants to take things one step further - she sees her purpose as the implementer, to begin getting things done. Her goal is to make sure that essential work begins to happen.

Q&A Session / Public Comment Period:

Question: David Navarro: You have quite a challenge ahead of you. There is one specific problem area that I hope you can improve on. CAB has public comment periods, and we also encourage timely and factual response by the contractor and/or DOE. At the December 7 Board meeting, John Barton brought up an issue about potential criticality concerns in Building 886. There was a response that evening from Leanne Smith, but the response had some errors in it. It was indicated that she thought some safety monitors were in place which were not in place until two weeks after. Leanne committed to giving us a report back at the next Board meeting. That never took place, nor any acknowledgement that the information was in error. Later we had a letter authored by Dave Brockman which also had errors in it. The issue itself is not an issue any more. What concerns me is that we did not get factual information, and both times I tried to talk to Leanne and Dave and tried to get this corrected. Factual and timely feedback is crucial and I hope we can resolve that in the future.

Answer: I hope we can too. We will do our best to do that.

Question: Stan Beitscher: Welcome to Rocky Flats on behalf of 3,200 retired people from Rocky Flats. We wish you the best of luck. I have a short statement to introduce you to a problem we have been working on diligently for about a year. My name is Stan Beitscher. I'm a consultant with the Los Alamos National Laboratory. I retired from Rocky Flats 2-1/2 years ago after working for Dow Chemical, Rockwell and EG&G for over 30 years. My job was an associate scientist in metallurgy dealing with nuclear weapons parts production. About a year ago, I started to hear and read statements from Kaiser-Hill, who administers retiree benefits, that my health insurance would be continued at no cost to me for the next year, but is subject to change in the future unilaterally by the contractor, Kaiser-Hill. I, and all of the other hundreds of retirees that we've spoken to, thought we retired with benefits that were grandfathered for life, and not at the whim of the current budget problems at Rocky Flats. I initiated and now co-chair with Janet Brown a committee called the Rocky Flats Retired and Disable Benefits Protection and Information Committee. I represent the retired people from Rocky Flats, Janet represents the disabled people. We ask that the new administration of DOE at Rocky Flats enter into with us, the retirees and disabled people, a written understanding that assures us of no negative changes in health insurance coverage. We ask that the DOE, now that we are retired or disabled, meet their commitments to us as we met our commitments to the government by supporting faithfully and over many years the nuclear weapons production program. Serious negative changes have already been made to the benefits received by the disabled workers. We ask that the new administration at DOE take a hard and compassionate view at these changes and rectify them. We look forward to further discussions with you, Jessie, and with DOE and are awaiting word from DOE-Rocky Flats benefits administration of a meeting with you to discuss further our request. Finally, I want to thank the Citizens Advisory Board for permitting me on behalf of the committee and all the retired and

disabled people to make this statement and to allow a forum for this to be discussed.

Answer: My understanding is that we are working our calendars to see if we can sit down and talk.

Question: Mary Harlow: In the past, CAB has sent letters to DOE on items that they have been concerned with, and the letters we get back look like a form letter. I'm wondering if it is possible for you to really read these letters and to address the items that we specifically mention so that we have a feeling that you're taking seriously what we have to say.

Answer: That's my goal. I'm a little surprised that they look like form letters, because we don't have any form letters. There really is thought that goes into them. That's good feedback. I will do my best to make sure that it's evident in writing that we've actually noted the issue. If it's not, maybe there's more dialogue needed.

Question: Eugene DeMayo: Can you comment on DOE's perspective on the mining in the buffer zone, northwest area, and its effect on the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse?

Answer: I really am not savvy enough to do that yet. That is something I can look into and get to you later.

Question: Stan Beitscher: A couple of years ago, Mark Silverman tried to formulate a Retiree Advisory Board that would bring technical expertise back to Rocky Flats from retired people. It almost came together. I thought this was a terrific idea; we would be able to give back to the plant some technical information and advice. I still think it's a pretty good idea. I kept all the documentation.

Answer: It sounds like a good idea to me. I don't know what happened for it to fall apart [Jeremy to follow up on this]. There was an initiative out of Washington to do that across the complex.

Question: Tom Marshall: You come in at a difficult time. RFCA and Vision comment period just closed. CAB issued comments as well as numerous others. We are expecting a final sometime in June. One of the concerns we have is how you are going to respond to CAB and the public. Do you have a sense about the process and what we can expect in terms of responses?

Answer: We had our first principals session today. We left the negotiating team to lay out a process for communication. Jeremy Karpatkin: There's going to be a responsiveness summary that will address directly the comments that were raised by the public. I don't know if they will be addressed by comment or by commentator, but they will all be

addressed and responded to. Where there have been adjustments to the document in response, that will be noted and referenced.

Comment: Tom Marshall: My concern is that we have substantive responses to the issues the public has raised. There are many of us who are concerned because the principals meetings are closed, that you will make decisions and that will be the end of it. CAB has requested a copy of all comments, and they will be placed in all reading rooms. CAB will look at them to see if there is a degree of congruence in comments. If you are getting a number of comments that are congruent on various issues, and the principals decide not to go with the sentiment of the public, you had better be able to offer a good reason for that.

Response: Steve Tarlton: The comments have been read and an attempt made to categorize a lot of the comments. The working groups set up after the first workout session that actually formulated the content around those issues will now deal with the comments that relate to what they dealt with. They will review the comments, identify the significance of them - whether they can be addressed by changing something in RFCA or whether they can be addressed by changing something in the Vision. The working groups will bring that information back to the principals.

Comment: Niels Schonbeck: The one thing that sparked my interest is the loss of technical expertise at Rocky Flats. Many of these people are retired. Even though there are young engineers coming in, they don't have the experience. I hadn't heard about the proposal from Mark Silverman about the Retirees Advisory Board. It seems like a terrific idea. If I were manager of Rocky Flats, I would snap it up. Here are retirees who are willing to give their advice. You can't replace 30 years of experience with people who have not been in that situation. If someone doesn't follow up on this idea, I'd like to know why.

Question: Susan Johnson: Regarding the FY97 budget, currently I understand a House Committee has taken what DOE requested for the Policy and Management Office and slashed it by 50 percent. Basically that severely jeopardizes SSAB funding as well as other stakeholder groups that DOE currently pays for under cooperative agreements. What do you think might happen?

Answer: That's a reach in the dark. There is so much uncertainty at this point with the upcoming election. I am more familiar with what's going on with the FY98 budget. But I haven't heard that.

Question: Kenneth Werth: Are you guided by DOE principles when you're laying out your framework for Rocky Flats? CAB and stakeholders have come up with 150 questions they'd like answered. Are you going to be in touch with DOE? Mr. Grumbly has never answered one letter of mine. DOE has never answered one letter. I have been in contact

with 21 different agencies of DOE. I've been writing letters for 2-1/2 years and not one of these agencies has ever contacted me.

Answer: I would like to be responsive, and that is my plan. I don't know the circumstances so I can't speak to that.

Question: Hank Stovall: HAP has seen the results of accidents by fire and off-site releases. Having been one who has gone through a number of downsizings, I understand the loss of efficiency when you let a substantial number of your qualified work force go. How do you plan to enforce safety rules and regulations so that on-site employees are not jeopardized and so there will be little or no risk for off-site releases as has happened in the past?

Answer: There's a myriad of activities. We plan to use Price Anderson to enforce the implementation of safety rules.

Comment: Tom Marshall: There was a picture in the *Boulder Daily Camera* yesterday showing work happening on Trench T3 and T4. There's a large piece of machinery doing the work. As we go into further cleanup, there's concern that there may be releases to the surrounding area due to heavy machinery. There have been suggestions in the past that we need to think about how to do this work. We need to have a conversation about how this cleanup work is going to proceed before this happens. This picture was supposed to be reassuring to the public that cleanup work is happening, but I found it somewhat disturbing to see a large piece of machinery with little protection around it.

Comment: David Navarro: The issue is not so much that we don't have safety rules at Rocky Flats, but implementation and enforcement of them. On my original topic, I wanted to ensure that we're going to get a final report to close that out on that misinformation. And an informational piece - next Monday at our Site Wide Issues Committee meeting we will be discussing a proposed recommendation from CAB about your issues.

Comment: Carol Barker: Responding to Tom's concerns - back in 1978, we cleaned the 903 lid barrier with mechanized equipment, which is the first time this had ever been done in history. Prior to that it was done in tent-like structures which takes forever and you get maybe a few shovelfuls per summer. This can be done very safely. We wrote reports on how to do it. I only feel that way because I developed that process and I did the job.

Response: I think we need to have a conversation with the community to reassure us. Maybe you can convince us that is true. You'd be important to have involved in those conversations.

Question: Frank Smith: Would you be so kind as to let us know you better by giving the

Board a curriculum vitae and let them publish it with the minutes?

Answer: Certainly.

IGGY LITAOR - UPDATE ON RESEARCH / DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WORK:

Dr. Litaor gave an update on his work, which brought out many questions about possible contamination on the site, particularly in the area southeast of the plant. Kaiser-Hill has eliminated the study he was performing. He gave a list of priorities to Kaiser-Hill that detailed what he feels should be done. CDPHE sent a letter to Kaiser-Hill asking that this study be continued, particularly because of its relevance to the Dose Reconstruction Project, but that letter was never answered. During the study, they found that anywhere from 1% to 3.3% of plutonium did remobilize in the groundwater. After last year's spring runoffs, there was saturation and the remobilization lasted for 65-70 days. Kaiser-Hill will not provide funds for the report Dr. Litaor wants to write about the results of his study. He is leaving the country in a month or so. He feels that environmental monitoring must be part of the record of decision of OU2, and if funds must be taken from elsewhere, then that should happen. Dr. Litaor believes a "smart" monitoring program needs to be developed, and that would require both research and funding.

Q&A Session:

Question: Tim Rehder: At the meeting a couple of weeks ago, you said you didn't believe in the hot spot removal. Why is it?

Answer: You find them only by sampling. There is no other mechanism that I know. Any other technique won't find it. Gamma survey won't find it. If you think you can do it like that, you have to convince me of other work that demonstrates it. Those hot spots showed unequivocally there is no relationship between americium and plutonium. To our knowledge in this area there was no independent release of americium. You have to sample about two million soil samples in the area of the hot spots to find all of them. You're wasting your time.

Question: Kenneth Werth: Could it be possible since you've been doing your studies that the hot spots could have been washed downstream or blown out of the area? I did research on prostate cancer. Jefferson County has the highest rate in the nation.

Answer: I can't comment on any of that data. I'm a soil scientist. But as far as the hot spots are concerned, I did not find values above 15 picocuries per gram off-site. But I don't mean to say there are no anomalies.

Question: Sasa Jovic: Where is the extra plutonium going then?

Answer: We believe a great deal of the plutonium is moving downhill. How far it goes, we are not sure.

Question: Beverly Lyne: You say we need "smart monitoring" - we received a presentation about the cutbacks in monitoring around the site. I'm confused.

Answer: When I say "smart monitoring," it's only one facet. The groundwater has to be part of it. The wells that will give the best indication must be automated. Monitoring of the soils adjacent to the 903 pad will prevent additional mass exodus of plutonium like we saw last year. Wells near the boundaries are a completely different thing. I'm talking about environmental criticality - how much plutonium we allow to move.

Question: Frank Smith: Are you going to leave that group of papers with CAB so that we might read them?

Answer: Yes, I'm willing to leave them with you.

Question: John Rampe: The 903 pad remediation process, we are not proposing any kind of major remediation in the near future. The analysis of this data is one of the reasons for that.

Answer: The soils that Barker took out were the soils that actually were the source for potential flow from that lip, toward where we start finding the 5,700 picocuries per gram.

Question: David Navarro: I heard some figures tossed around. I think it would be helpful if you would propose to DOE and the contractor and CCS the different levels of monitoring that could be provided, at what cost, and what are the ramifications if they aren't.

Answer: I would do that only if DOE is interested. I have less than a month, I have to write a white paper, and if I embarked on that project I had better know there is some relationship with the people making decisions.

PRESENTATION BY NATIONAL ISSUES COMMITTEE ON 1997 BUDGET:

Susan Johnson gave an update on the status of the FY97 budget. The committee is concerned particularly with the budget for the Policy and Management Office, which houses funding for SSABs and public participation programs. They have requested \$48 million for FY97, but are expecting a 50% cut in the requested funds. The committee is reviewing budget issues. CAB members are prohibited from lobbying on behalf of CAB to restore the funds; however, everyone was provided with a list of addresses and phone numbers for Colorado's congressional delegation if anyone is interested in expressing their opinion as individuals.

Q&A Session:

Question: Stan Beitscher: How much does CAB get, for instance last year, to run the organization?

Answer: Not quite \$400,000.

Question: Stan Beitscher: Are you thinking there will be a 50% cut in the CAB allowance?

Answer: There's a 50% cut in the office budget that heads up and runs the SSABs. What DOE does with that cut is open. You can tell from the breakdown, Public Accountability has the smallest increase from last year's. It gives some indication of how important in relation to the others that may be. It seems like a pretty large threat. The cuts may not be across the board - that program may take a bigger hit.

Comment: Tom Marshall: The administration's overall request is less than the authorization was last year - that did not increase. The rationale behind the authorizing committees taking this cut out of Headquarters was that they would give it to the sites where the real work is happening. The message that Congress needs to get is that public involvement in the cleanup decision-making is important. We don't need to worry about these numbers. The message we need to send is that the Public Accountability office and the work of the CAB and other public involvement groups around sites like Rocky Flats is necessary if we're going to have good, credible cleanup.

ENVIRONMENTAL/WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - CLEANUP PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS PROJECT (Tom Gallegos/Tom DuPont): CAB members spent some time reviewing the draft Cleanup Principles and Standards and recommended several changes to the text. However, the discussion was not completed. Since there is no specific deadline for completing this project, this item was tabled until next month's meeting.

Recommendation: *Table this item until next month's meeting. Board members should fax/provide their comments to Ken Korkia before the next Environmental/Waste Management Committee meeting on June 20. Ken will forward a revised copy of Cleanup Principles and Standards for CAB members to review prior to next month's meeting.*

Action: *Motion to accept. APPROVED.*

OTHER ISSUES:

* Acknowledgement by CAB Chair Tom Marshall: Don Scrimgeour was here earlier but left. I wanted to recognize that Don has been serving as our Interim Project Administrator for the Board. His last day was June 1. Don came in at a difficult and crucial time and helped us through our transition. Hopefully tonight we're going to be moving on in selecting a permanent Coordinator for this Board. I want to recognize the good job that Don did for us.

* 1996 Work Plan Update: A copy of the 1996 work plan, which will guide CAB's work for the next year, was distributed to CAB members; they were asked to review the document and give any concerns, questions or comments to Ken Korkia within the next week.

* FACA: CAB was set up as an independent non-profit organization, as well as the site-specific advisory board. However, CAB did agree to become part of the EMSSAB organization set up by DOE-Headquarters. Board members recently received letters inviting them to participate on the EMSSAB. The question now is how best to approach these letters of invitation from DOE-HQ.

***Recommendation:** Have staff draft a letter to DOE-HQ stating that CAB's position has not changed since its letter of February 2, 1995, transmitting the list of current CAB members, and noting that DOE-HQ can approve those on the list. The letter will be brought back to CAB for its approval at next month's Board meeting.*

***Action:** Motion to accept. APPROVED.*

* Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee: Gary Thompson has served as co-chair of this committee for quite some time, and we appreciate his service - a lot of work and hours. He has decided to step down as co-chair because of his real work load. The committee has selected Mary Harlow to serve as the new co-chair.

***Recommendation:** Approve Mary Harlow's appointment as co-chair of the Plutonium and Special Nuclear Materials Committee.*

***Action:** Motion to accept. APPROVED.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

* Board/Staff Coordinator: The Board approved hiring Ken Korkia to serve as its new Board/Staff Coordinator, at a salary of \$40,000. The Executive Committee will develop performance measures for the position, and will conduct a six-month review.

* Restructure of agenda format: CAB members considered a change to the meeting

format. Some options include having Executive Session and dinner beginning at 6 p.m., and have the public portion of the meeting begin at 6:30, or continue as in the past. Generally Board members felt it would be preferable to leave the meeting format the same as it is now.

* Leave of absence: Gary Thompson will be working in Washington, D.C. for about six months beginning at the end of next month. He requested a sabbatical/leave of absence from the Board for that time. When he returns, he will re-evaluate whether or not his job demands will allow him to continue with the Board.

Recommendation: *Approve a six-month leave of absence for Gary Thompson.*

Action: *Motion to accept. APPROVED.*

* Board retreat: CAB needs to schedule a retreat to prepare its 1997 work plan in conjunction with next year's budget/grant request. The recommended date for the retreat is Sunday, September 8.

Recommendation: *Schedule Board retreat for Sunday, September 8 to develop CAB's 1997 work plan.*

Action: *Motion to accept. APPROVED.*

* Op-ed articles: CAB has no policy on issuing op-ed articles. RFLII has proposed that a letter be written about the possible budget shortfalls, to be signed by RFLII's chair and CAB's chair. Tom Marshall asked if this was something CAB members would like to entertain.

Recommendation: *Approve CAB participation in op-ed article. The letter should be sent to CAB members for comment, but if none are received, Tom Marshall will approve and sign.*

Action: *Motion to accept. APPROVED.*

NEXT MEETING:

Date: July 11, 1996, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Arvada

Agenda: Cleanup Standards and Principles Project; recommendation on worker benefits; recommendation on Site Wide EIS; approval of FACA letter

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

- 1) Provide comments on Cleanup Principles and Standards by June 20 - CAB members
- 2) Fax revised Cleanup Principles and Standards to Ken Korkia prior to next month's Board meeting - CAB members
- 3) Review work plan and get comments to Ken Korkia by June 14 - CAB members
- 4) Draft letter to DOE-HQ regarding Board member invitations to serve on EMSSAB - Deb Thompson
- 5) Send op-ed articles/letters to CAB members for comment - Tom Marshall

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:00 P.M. *

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

MINUTES APPROVED BY:

David Navarro, 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.

[Top of Page](#) | [Index of Meeting Minutes](#) | [Home](#)

[Citizens Advisory Board Info](#) | [Rocky Flats Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Feedback & Questions](#)