

**ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION  
May 2, 1996**

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

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

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Aluisi, Tom Clark, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Mike Freeman, Tom Gallegos, Paul Grogger, Mary Harlow, Susan Johnson, Jack Kraushaar, Beverly Lyne, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, David Navarro, Gary Thompson / Edd Kray, Frazer Lockhart, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jan Burda, Ralph Coleman, Kathryn Johnson, Sasa Jovic, Mike Keating, Linda Murakami / Dave Brockman, Jeremy Karpatkin, Steve Tarlton

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Roman Kohler (retired RF); W. W. Stockebrand (retired RF); W. Gulden (RF retired); Carol Anderson (Kaiser-Hill); Ron Morris (RF retiree); Judith Barton (CU-SON); Lauren Clark (CU-SON); Rick Goad (neighbor); Norm & Helen Lebsack (RF retirees); Jim Stone (RFCC); Darrell Marsh (retiree); Janet Brown (disabled RF employee); Doug Heberlein (retiree); Duane Dunn (retired RF); Carol J. Barker (RF retiree); W. Glenn Higgs (retiree); Kenneth Werth (citizen); Bill McFarland (citizen); James Kelly (retired); Robert Wagner (retired); David Abelson (David Skaggs' office); Bob Sheets (retired RF); Gretchen Williams (resident); Lisa Sigler (Sigler Communications); Stan Beitscher (retired RF); Mariane Anderson (DOE); Farlin Ward (retiree); Ann Lockhart (CDPHE); Phil Saba (retired RF); Jody Saba (citizen); Kay Ryan (SWEIS); James Barela (RF retiree); Bob Warther (DNFSB); Charles M. Johnson (citizen); Richard Brence (RF retired); John R. Dick (citizen); George D. Lehmkuhl (RF worker); Steve Siemion (citizen); James Horan (RF retired); Joe Rippetoe (IMAA); Mike Brown (ex-RF manager); Ralph Stephens (RF retired); Victor Holm (citizen); Gerd von Glinski (citizen); Barbara Barry (Terra Concepts); Don Scrimgeour (CAB interim project administrator); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff)

**UPDATE ON RETIRED/DISABLED HEALTH BENEFITS FOR ROCKY FLATS WORKERS:** Last month a number of retired and disabled workers attended CAB's meeting. They brought to CAB concerns about their benefits being cut or altered by Kaiser-Hill and DOE. In response to that meeting, CAB sent a letter to DOE and Kaiser-

Hill asking for a written response, which CAB did receive. Kaiser-Hill and DOE are reviewing the matter, and held a meeting on April 24, and more detailed information will follow, hopefully by May 10. DOE is doing a comparison of benefits at other sites.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Janet Brown: I am co-chair of the Rocky Flats Disabled and Retired Workers Committee. Which sites did you collect comparison information from?

**Response:** Frazer Lockhart: I don't have the full list. We went for all the major DOE sites around the country, Hanford, Savannah River, Albuquerque, etc. Nancy Tuor: We polled all the sites around the country so we'll have a full picture of the benefit package from all the sites in the complex.

**Comment:** Carol Barker: I would like to thank CAB for your attention to our problem. You certainly helped us get a little bit of action. I don't really see what this has to do with anything - our problem is that commitments were made to us when we retired and personally, I don't really care about benefits at your other sites. I just want what was committed to us.

**Comment:** Stan Beitscher: I'm co-chair with Janet Brown. The comparison of benefits throughout the DOE complex is a side issue to what we're trying to address. We believe that in the terms of our employment at Rocky Flats, which in many cases was a long-term situation, certain commitments and promises and assurances were given to us. We're interested in making sure, now that we're retired and disabled, that those commitments and promises are being met. So a comparison of benefits with other DOE sites - each of those are negotiated separately and individually with subcontractor personnel - is not central to our issue.

**Comment:** James Kelly: I'm a retired 35-year Rocky Flats steelworker/union representative. I have a couple of concerns. The interview that was done with the newspaper in Boulder County, in which Kaiser-Hill took the position that it could cancel, terminate or do anything with these benefits any time they want, still has not been rescinded. That comment and those statements still stand. I don't know why anyone would want to waste time about other plant's benefits. I negotiated at Rocky Flats for 35 years and was told every time - we're here to talk about Rocky Flats - not Hanford, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, Fernald. I'm only interested in Rocky Flats benefits. I have all the documentation back to the day the plant was born. I have all the history from the previous companies when the transitions were made and things were set in cement about how retired and disabled people were to be treated. These documents were signed and the intent and spirit of what was to be is clearly laid out. Kaiser-Hill is not going to come in here and do away with all that. I would be happy to share those documents, and meet with

you at any time. I do want to thank CAB for supporting us.

**Comment:** Wally Gulden: My concern is safety. With layoffs of 950 just announced, my concern is morale at the plant. I still have friends working out there, and morale is the lowest it's ever been in the history of Rocky Flats. When you start laying people off - and you're working with exotic nuclear material, plutonium and depleted uranium - when these people get the word that they're laid off, it terrifies me to see what can happen when a person sees his house and everything taken away. Do we possibly have an Oklahoma City, or a Chernobyl? It scares me as an individual living five miles away from Rocky Flats, what a disgruntled employee might do.

**Comment:** Stan Beitscher: I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak on issues that are very important to former Rocky Flats employees. I worked at Rocky Flats from 1953 to 1993, a total of 30.2 years. Prior to that I also worked in a nuclear facility - producing nuclear engines for naval vessels, which was also contracted through DOE to General Electric Company. I spent more than 36 years strictly in nuclear engineering. My job at Rocky Flats began as a medium-level engineer in the plutonium metallurgy department and progressed to associate scientist - the highest level for technical workers at the plant. The plant awarded me the honor of Rockwell International Rocky Flats Engineer of the Year in 1978. I was the first employee at Rocky Flats to be awarded a Ph.D. in Science at the Colorado School of Mines while working full-time at the plant. The plant has my grateful appreciation for allowing me to obtain my education and support my family at the same time. All of my time at Rocky Flats was spent in the radiation area. My office as well as my laboratory was located in a plutonium area, in Building 771 for one year and Building 779 for 29 years. My office in Building 779 was adjacent to a plutonium pit storage evaluation laboratory, which at times housed dozens if not hundreds of plutonium pits undergoing storage evaluation. Having degrees in metallurgical engineering and minors in nuclear engineering and physics, I certainly cannot claim to be ignorant of the potentially profound biological effects of low-levels or medium-levels of radiation and other interesting environmental factors present in my work area. However, I knew that DOE, the AEC and ERDA, and Dow Chemical, Rockwell and EG&G would stand behind me as I stood with them for well over a quarter of century in performing vital research on nuclear weapon materials. I was positive I would be supported throughout my life, because I supported them for what they wanted me to do in my employment. When I retired in 1993 during a voluntary separation agreement to reduce plant employment, I was told I would receive free and comprehensive health insurance for life. I was fairly confident that in accepting the conditions of employment at Rocky Flats, I was also accepting the assurance of the U.S. government, the contracting companies at Rocky Flats, and the governmental agencies administrating the contract at Rocky Flats - that they would not abandon me or back away from their commitments to me. In my security agreement with DOE, I did not reserve the right to change my mind about never releasing secret information on the details of the production and design of nuclear weapon components. I expect DOE and the contractors at Rocky Flats to live up to their

commitments to me and the other retired and disabled workers at Rocky Flats. Cutting our benefits now that we're retired and disabled is a disgraceful way of showing appreciation to the very people that implemented the policies of the U.S. government and DOE, and who helped win the Cold War in producing the most effective deterrent to war man has ever devised. We respectfully ask that DOE guarantee their promises to us - that is to restore the benefits promised the disabled workers, and not to cut health insurance benefits to the retirees. If DOE cannot be trusted in how they deal with former employees of the plant, I ask you how can they be trusted administrating the policies of the government at the plant in restoring the plant to a healthy and safe condition? In ending, I want to thank CAB and all the members of the community that I know are behind us in supporting us in our efforts to make sure that DOE lives up to their commitments and their promises.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE - REPORT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT** (Beverly Lyne): Representatives from the organizations involved in the recent Community Health Needs Assessment gave a presentation on individual aspects of the assessment. Those involved included: CU School of Nursing, Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment, CAB, and CDPHE.

- **Primary data** was collected from key informants, primary informants, and focus groups. Key informants selected were community leaders (115 individuals); primary informants (38 individuals) were community residents; and focus groups came from a random sample of area residents (76 individuals participated). Some questions asked include: what do you know about Rocky Flats? / what are your concerns? / what information would you like to receive about Rocky Flats? / how would you like to be informed? Following are focuses of some concerns and comments expressed during the study:
  - Lifestyle concerns: Ranged from none, to one couple's decision not to have children because of proximity to Rocky Flats. Primary concerns were water quality.
  - General health status concerns: Cancer and general illnesses; birth defects; plutonium in the body.
  - Perception of immunity: Many had a perception of immunity; expressed trust in government; considered plutonium to be safe in a contained area; felt there were no apparent danger signs; resistance to harm.
  - Physical agents of harm: Air, water and soil contamination; wind and dust; animal and vegetation contamination; incineration and risk of fire; development and transportation.
  - Chemical agents of harm: Radioactivity; chemical solvents.
  - Social agents of harm: Possibility of terrorism; long-term health effects; health

insurance coverage issues; acceptance of risks.

-- Political agents of harm: Lack of trust.

-- Biological environmental data: Human health risks; past plant and animal defects.

-- Social environmental data: Patterns of communication not clear; distrust in agencies (farther away from the area - less trust involved); regulation of Rocky Flats.

- **Secondary data** included information on health status and demographics. The study focused on 15 census tracts within a 5-mile radius of Rocky Flats. Both the east and northeast areas grew by 5,400 people since 1990. The median age is early 30s. They did incorporate race/ethnicity in study - the area is primarily white, with 2% asian and anywhere from 3-7% Hispanic (depending on area). A high percentage of the community has a bachelors degree, and low percentage are on public assistance. Approximately 26% are women of childbearing age; there are about 800 births per year in the area.

- **Common themes** emerging from the study:

-- Knowledge: Lack of understandable information; lack of information; too much information; and the quality of communication with the public.

-- Trust and accountability: Lack of government accountability regarding insurance for Rocky Flats workers, residential health, and budget for cleanup; lack of trust in DOE, the media, and government; DOE funding issues and political agendas.

-- Emergency plan: Expressed lack of knowledge about plans and which communities are included.

-- Development: Concerns about development around the plant; future plant site use; loss of buffer zone.

-- Environmental and health monitoring: Need impartiality and adequacy; show proper determination of safe levels.

-- Fear of potential hazards: Concerns about hazardous material movement both onsite and offsite; acts of terrorism; accidents.

-- General feelings of powerlessness.

The assessment will provide direction to DOE on community health issues. After the data

is fully analyzed, recommendations will be developed based on themes emerging from the data. The report will be available in late May.

***Discussion & Q/A Session:***

***Question:*** Have there ever been or are there any additional studies planned that go beyond birth defects or cancer?

***Answer:*** There are no studies planned at this point. It would be difficult to go out in the community and to get information from doctors.

***Question:*** What was the total number of participants in the focus groups and the primary contacts?

***Answer:*** It was a total of 229 - 76 in the focus groups, 38 primary informant interviews, and 115 key informant interviews.

***Question:*** What safeguards did you work into the assessment to make sure it would be objective? Since the assessment was primarily questions and answers, it brings up a point of interpretation.

***Answer:*** That's always an issue with qualitative data. We did a number of things to ensure that we were getting representative samples. The key informants were people identified by the members of the multi-agency task force, people they knew in the community who were leaders; some of those were Rocky Flats activists. We did pull out 11 people who were known Rocky Flats activists, looked at that data to see whether there were differences in that data and the data we got from the other interviews; there was not an appreciable difference. The focus groups were randomly selected, and the primary informant interviews were a convenient sample, but the interviewers were instructed to try to get a cross-section from age groups, economic status, etc. Those were done in the community, people at the mall, gas stations, schools, churches, etc. At the focus groups, there were multiple people taking notes about the responses. We reflected back to the participants what they said and got them to agree, and then at the end of each focus group those taking notes got together and compared their notes. The focus group interviews were also taped in case of discrepancies.

***Question:*** If this is a needs assessment, are there some future dates when this will be performed, like at key points throughout the cleanup?

***Answer:*** That's actually a discussion that we had this afternoon. That is still open, but may very well be done.

**Question:** Did you do any survey within the plant or with the workers, or was it all outside the plant?

**Answer:** We did have a few workers identified, either on a key or primary informant list, or in a focus group. We didn't try to get workers from within the plant.

**Question:** Are you going to in the future?

**Answer:** That's not something we have talked about.

**Question:** One of your recommendations, I thought you said you were recommending longitudinal studies to determine safe levels of contamination, is that right? Can you describe what you mean?

**Answer:** These are preliminary recommendations, but there seems to be a dearth of information about long-term health effects - that was an identified need of the study. In order to do good studies, a longitudinal study takes place over 50-100 years. They're expensive to do, small samples, and there's a high attrition. So recognizing the problems with longitudinal studies, but also recognizing that it's difficult to look at long-term health effects without long-term longitudinal studies, it was a recommendation.

**Question:** Was that the extent of the recommendation, or is there more?

**Answer:** The final report will be out by the end of this month, and you will receive copies of that report with the recommendations developed more fully. There will be executive summaries available at that time and hopefully those will be widely distributed within the community.

**Question:** I'm a survivor of prostate cancer in the Jefferson County area. There are more than 40 doctors of urology working out of Lutheran Hospital. My doctor performed more than 2,600 prostate cancer operations in the last 10 years alone. If you take the 40 doctors operating out of Lutheran Hospital, and take an average of 2,000 prostate operations out of one hospital alone, doesn't that tell you something about prostate cancer downwind from the Rocky Flats site, when the winds are blowing 100 miles an hour downwind? I believe that has a bearing. If you don't believe my estimates, I would suggest you check with the doctors, especially on prostate cancer, and specifically look at the Jefferson County area. Studies done so far only go up to 1988.

**Answer:** We didn't mention specific cancers, but prostate cancer was the one cancer we heard the most about in the study. We are working with the cancer registry at the state to look at all cancer incidence in Jefferson County for the decade of 1980 to 1989, and from 1970 on.

**PROPOSED SITE WIDE ISSUES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON RFCA** (Tom Marshall and Susan Johnson): The Site Wide Issues Committee brought to CAB recommendations and comments on the draft Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement. The comments cover specific recommendations on: cleanup guidelines; on-site radioactive waste disposal; cleanup levels; waste management; transuranic waste/WIPP; plutonium storage; water quality; land use; public involvement; regulatory framework; cleanup standards; plutonium/special nuclear materials; and enforceability. The recommendations reiterate previous CAB recommendations on cleanup to background levels, and waste storage and disposal. It also recommends outside regulation of plutonium, and planning for plutonium and transuranic waste storage.

***Recommendation:** Approve recommendation on RFCA. Several changes to the text were recommended.*

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

**PROPOSED PLUTONIUM AND SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON STORAGE AND DISPOSITION PEIS** (LeRoy Moore): The committee prepared recommendations on DOE's Draft PEIS on Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials. Highlights of this recommendation include: reducing transportation of these materials to a minimum; mandating external, independent regulation; protecting the health and safety of the public and workers; reducing or eliminating the need for future processing; request that DOE consider other storage options besides the 50-year can; release for review information on the MOX fuel option; consider alternative disposition technologies, as well as vitrification and ceramification.

***Recommendation:** Approve recommendation on Storage and Disposition PEIS. Several changes to the text were recommended.*

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

### **OTHER ISSUES:**

- Note: During introductions, Mike Freeman stated this is his last meeting; he is relocating to Chicago.
- National Issues Committee. The committee elected Tom Clark and Eugene DeMayo to serve as its co-chairs.

***Recommendation:** Approve Tom Clark and Eugene DeMayo as co-chairs of the National*

*Issues Committee.*

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

- Board/Staff Coordinator position hiring schedule. The Hiring Committee will meet on Monday, May 6, to review scores of applications. Based on that review, five persons will be selected for interviews on an upcoming Saturday. The committee will select one individual for the Board to approve at its June 6 meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Date: June 6, 1996, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Westminster City Hall, lower-level Multi-Purpose Room, 4800 West 92nd Avenue, Westminster

Agenda: *Presentation by National Issues Committee on House Authorization Bill; Cleanup Standards and Principles Project; work plan update*

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

- 1) Revise and forward recommendation on RFCA - Staff
- 2) Revise and forward recommendation Storage and Disposition PEIS - Staff

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:35 P.M. \***

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

**MINUTES APPROVED BY:**

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David Navarro, Secretary

Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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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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