

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

December 3, 1998

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Jim Kinsinger called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Barker, Susan Barron, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Tom Clark, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Gerald DePoorter, Derek Dye, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Bob Kanick, Jim Kinsinger, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore / Steve Gunderson, Mariane Anderson, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Aluisi, Beverly Lyne, David Navarro, Linda Sikkema, Bryan Taylor

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Kenneth Werth (citizen); Mary Jo Strong (DOE); Hank Stovall (Broomfield); M. Wickers (citizen); Robert Sanchez (GAO); Tom Stewart (CDPHE); Max Flippin (citizen); Cheryl Crawford (citizen); Amanda Gammon (citizen); Carrie Bishop (citizen); Noah D. (citizen); Sarah J. (citizen); Nanette Neelan (Jeffco); Megan McLenon (citizen); Tammy O'Hara (CDPHE); Kristyn Haley (citizen); Mary Baumgartner (citizen); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

REGULATOR UPDATE (CDPHE): Steve Gunderson reviewed for the Board some issues that CDPHE is tracking:

- DOE is planning to convert space in existing buildings and upgrade two tents to store excess TRU waste, given the delays in opening **WIPP**. CDPHE is working with DOE on RCRA permitting requirements for this planned storage.
- The site is beginning discussions with stakeholders on disposition options for clean **building rubble**.
- An agreement has been reached on construction of the **McKay Ditch Extension**, to prevent waters leaving the Rocky Flats site from commingling with waters entering Great Western Reservoir. A biological needs assessment will be

- conducted to address concerns about the Prebles Meadow jumping mouse habitat.
- Minor language modifications will be made to the draft **NPDES Permit and 401 Certification**; the permit should be issued by the end of this year.
- Discussions continue between stakeholders, regulators and the site within the context of the **Water Working Group**. A report will be developed analyzing differences of opinion about whether to discharge waters directly from Pond B5 instead of pumping to Pond A4 before discharge. The group received a briefing about uncertainties in the drains leaving the buildings and entering the sewage treatment plant.
- The **Decommissioning Program Plan** is currently being modified to include a process to remove contaminated equipment not connected to a pathway to the exterior of a building. The process will be used for buildings not regulated under another decision document, and will allow the site to utilize a specialized work force.
- Negotiations continue between the site and regulators to finalize **the Building 771 Decommissioning Operations Plan**.

FOLLOW-UP ON END-STATE VISION DISCUSSION: Staff reviewed materials prepared from the Board's discussion at the November 16 meeting on an end-state vision:

1. A timeline was drafted based on Board input that shows two phases: Phase A meeting cleanup to regulatory standards, and Phase B showing cleanup to background levels. Much of what CAB envisions happening during those two phases has yet to be defined.
2. Staff developed a document demonstrating similarities and/or differences in DOE's Closure Plan for the site, and CAB's position on the closure and end-state. General agreement exists in a few areas, such as cleaning up the site to open space, demolishing all buildings, shipping plutonium pits offsite for storage, and removal of special nuclear materials from the site. Discrepancies still exist about cleanup levels, where and how to ship waste (low-level, transuranic, residues) offsite, and what to do with clean building rubble.
3. In order to help it develop a vision of the end-state and associated cleanup, the Board asked for information on definitions of the term ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable). Brady gave a presentation showing how the term is used:
 - As policy (to reduce personnel exposure by maximizing distance and shielding, and minimizing exposure);
 - As defined by DOE orders (to reduce dose levels, and both dose and exposure as far below limits as practical);
 - As used historically (to specify cleanup below 15/85 mrem/year, and NRC's proposal to specify cleanup below 25 mrem/year);

The Board could consider using the term ALARA, but this phrase has many applications, which could cause confusion. Another phrase used is "To the

Maximum Extent Possible," which has the same intent as ALARA and similar problems. Finally, CAB could use a phrase or recommended course of action using the concepts of ALARA, but more specifically define its intent, such as to leave as little contamination in the soils as reasonably possible. Since "reasonable" is open to various interpretations, specific provisions would need to be applied to the standards for cleanup, such as protection of public and worker health and safety, being attainable in an environmentally sensitive manner, and being economically feasible.

CAB did agree, for working draft purposes, to having Phase A signify cleanup to regulatory levels, and Phase B as cleanup to background. Other elements of its vision for an end-state have yet to be defined, and the Board will continue to review and refine the timeline as discussions continue.

WIPP CONTINGENCIES FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION: At the November 16 meeting, Board members asked for additional information about DOE's proposed plans to upgrade and convert buildings and tents to store waste onsite as contingencies since shipment to WIPP is not currently an option. CAB requested specifics about why certain buildings were chosen, why others were not, history of a few buildings, and hazard/risk analysis on the planned options. Answers were provided to the Board in its packet, and Joe Legare reviewed DOE's responses for the Board. DOE did analyze the risk of buildings and tents for events such as large and small fires, seismic events, explosion, criticalities, aircraft crashes, high winds, and spills. The tents had a low risk rating for seismic events, small fires, wind, and spills. Tent panels have a life expectancy of five years, but can be replaced whenever they are damaged and before life expectancy occurs, thus extending the overall life of the tent itself. Risk and hazard analysis was based on the assumption that only pipe overpacks will be stored in the tents. The risk from tornadoes and snow loads is considered to be low to non-existent, although hazard analysis has yet to be completed.

OPEN DISCUSSION ON WIPP: The Board then launched into an open discussion on WIPP and issues surrounding the long-term storage and disposition of waste. There is no clear consensus within the Board on whether wastes should be shipped to WIPP. This agenda item presented an opportunity for all Board members to state their views and positions clearly, and to help begin to frame the differences and areas of agreement on this issue. Generally, a number of Board members do favor the opening of WIPP. An equal number of Board members have concerns related to transportation issues, monitoring and access to the waste after it is stored, whether isolation of the waste in one area is a good idea, and also whether WIPP should even be opened. A sample of comments follows:

- There are significant ramifications for future generations of leaving waste near a heavily-populated area
- Better to isolate the wastes in one area rather than dispersed around the country

- Not supportive of long-term storage of waste at Rocky Flats
- Using advanced mining techniques, waste at WIPP should be able to be retrieved
- There are still many concerns about transportation and emergency preparedness along transportation corridors; possible exposures along the routes
- A future society may come up with better solutions to the waste problem than burying it; putting the waste below ground makes it easier to forget and not work on alternative solutions
- Would prefer to see monitored, retrievable storage
- Doesn't like the idea of exposing currently unexposed populations to new risks and contaminating a new area
- Concerns about possible mining operations at WIPP in the future could result in surface and water contamination
- TRUPACT container has never been crush tested
- Doesn't want to see wastes stockpiled across the country; need one site with institutional controls in place
- Buried wastes will inevitably leak into the environment

Staff will review comments from the Board and develop some assumptions and scenarios for a future discussion, and look for areas of commonality in the Board's points of view. Another issue to discuss is what to do with the waste while awaiting the opening of WIPP. More specific issues will be discussed on the next agenda, such as transportation and institutional controls.

LOW LEVEL WASTE SEMINAR: BARRIERS/CHALLENGES DISCUSSION: As a follow-up to the Low Level Waste Seminar held in August, the Nevada Test Site CAB sent out a list of suggestions related to such issues as transportation, environmental/safety and economic considerations, among others. The Board was asked to complete this worksheet and return to the staff by Monday, December 7. Staff will review CAB member comments and look for any areas of agreement. NTS CAB hopes to forward a joint recommendation from the site boards to DOE-HQ on some of these issues, signed by all SSAB chairs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Three Board members requested a leave of absence in November, approved by the Executive Committee. Another Board member is already on leave. No policy has existed for such requests, and the Executive Committee felt it might be necessary to develop a policy. The Board discussed a few elements of a proposed policy, such as suspending membership, time limits on a leave of absence, whether a substitute member should be approved in their absence, etc. Staff will draft a policy for the Executive Committee's approval. The draft policy will then be returned to the Board for discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Personnel Committee. A salary increase of 4.5% was approved for Ken Korkia, based on his performance evaluation, as well as a merit bonus for accomplishments during 1998.
- Membership Committee. CAB approved a new member at this meeting. Mary Mattson is a chemistry instructor at Front Range Community College. Mary has a BA in Math and Chemistry with a minor in Physics, as well as an MS and a Ph.D. in Chemistry. She was chair of the Front Range Community College Science Department for three years, and also was a replacement instructor at the University of Colorado-Denver, teaching general chemistry courses. Mary is a member of the American Chemical Society, and lives in Broomfield.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: December 14, 1998, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. (study session)

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

Agenda: Follow-up on information requests regarding onsite TRU waste storage; review and approve CAB slide show script; low level waste seminar recommendation topics discussion; WIPP follow-up

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

1. Develop assumptions and scenarios based on CAB discussion of WIPP - Staff
2. Fill out and return worksheet on low level waste seminar challenges - Board members
3. Review low level waste seminar worksheets and look for areas of agreement - Staff
4. Draft policy on leave of absence for Executive Committee review - Ken Korkia

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:10 P.M. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Mary Harlow, 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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