

## ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

June 4, 1998

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Tom Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Aluisi, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Bob Kanick, Jim Kinsinger, Tom Marshall, David Navarro / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan Barron, Tom Clark, Beverly Lyne, Linda Sikkema

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Kenneth Werth (citizen); David and Doris DePenning (citizens); Colleen Dailey (CAB intern); Ray Horton (RF retiree); Alan Trenary (citizen); Regina Sarter (DOE-RFFO); Hank Stovall (Broomfield); Dave Holton (citizen); M. J. Strong (DOE-RFFO); Mariane Anderson (DOE); Gary P. Morgan (DOE-RFFO); Mary Pat Adams (CAB intern); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Doris DePenning: I represent some citizens groups in the northwest part of Jefferson County, Blue Mountain and Coal Creek Canyon areas. I read the reuse recommendations. To speak for many of the citizens in our part of the county, I just want to encourage you to recommend no new development or redevelopment of that site, including the industrial part. Open space should cover the entire site, and that's what people are encouraging you to do. One exception we have to the recommendations in the draft were that this could be looked at later. We encourage this to be in perpetuity and not have an open-ended statement so this couldn't be used in some other way later. We had hoped there would be some group who would manage the area, and your recommendation asks for an agency to manage the site ongoing, if it will be used for open space or a wildlife preserve. That is our hope and our goal. And no further buildings of any sort in the area, or infrastructure brought in.

**UPDATE FROM THE EPA (Tim Rehder):** Tim discussed some of the projects EPA is monitoring at the Rocky Flats site:

- NPDES Permit: This permit will regulate water discharged from the Industrial Area. Agreement has been reached on the terms and conditions, with a few issues still to be worked out. The permit is expected to be issued this summer.
- Trench T-1: Some delays have hampered start on the project, but excavation is expected to begin this week.
- 903 Pad: Subsurface sampling began in February. This sampling will help to better define the extent of organic chemical contamination. To date, 36 of 50 planned boreholes have been completed. Also, another sampling project to gather data on superficial plutonium and americium contamination was to have started in April. This has been delayed, and EPA is awaiting information from the site on a revised sample and analysis plan.
- Review of Cleanup Levels: As part of the annual RFCA review, new information will be reviewed relevant to cleanup standards. Documents being reviewed include: radionuclide cleanup standards at the Hanford site; radiological dose assessment for residual radioactive material at the Nevada Test Site; a new EPA exposure factor manual; and surveys from Jefferson and Boulder counties on the use of open space. A report will be prepared by the parties to RFCA on methodologies used, rationale for choosing the parameters for dose calculations, and how the RESRAD computer model has been updated and how that version differs from the version used to derive existing Rocky Flats Radionuclide Soil Action Levels.
- Mound Plume Passive Groundwater Treatment System: Construction is scheduled to begin next week.

**UPDATE ON BUILDING 123 DEMOLITION (Bill Fitch, DOE):** Building 123 was used for bioassay and dosimetry activities. Other buildings in the cluster included a guard post, bus stop shelter and a small storage shed, which were also demolished. Some contaminants of concern had to be dealt with during the demolition project, such as asbestos, perchloric acid and PCBs. Decontamination activities prior to demolition included asbestos removal, disposition of the perchloric acid, radiological decontamination, work on residual contamination in the building's slab as well as on the contaminated process waste lines, removal and disposition of chemicals, and identifying, segregating and shipping PCBs. Activities remaining to be completed are to characterize any contamination under the building, check for contamination in soils and groundwater and perform any necessary remediation, and to modify the Proposed Action

Memorandum. The project was estimated to cost just over \$2 million, but the actual cost to date is \$6 million. Decontamination and demolition took five months.

***Q&A / Comment Session:***

***Question:*** Mary Harlow: Looking at your contaminants of concern, and based on that, what are you looking for underneath the slab?

***Answer:*** Bill Fitch: The main concern is that there may have been leaks in the process waste lines. The facility was operative from the 1950s, and the waste lines were redone about 1980. We don't know exactly what the condition was of the old lines, and there is a suspicion that there may have been materials that leaked from the old lines. We plan to drill beside the lines and not hit the lines, and define if there has been soil contamination created by a leak in that area.

***Question:*** Mary Harlow: How many holes are you going to drill in that slab?

***Answer:*** Bill Fitch: About 20 to 25, around and in the slab.

***Question:*** Jim Kinsinger: How thick is that slab?

***Answer:*** Bill Fitch: This is an old structure. It's probably on the order of 18 inches of concrete, at least 12 inches.

***Question:*** Tom Marshall: Could you list the rad contaminants, and were these contaminants in the waste lines that you had concerns about?

***Answer:*** Bill Fitch: The problem was that there were a number of experiments run over the years, as well as biological samples from workers, that were analyzed in the laboratory. What we know in terms of process waste lines would be some of the contaminants that might be in the workers, or in some laboratory animals that were inoculated in the past with some rad materials. Perhaps a little plutonium, and perhaps some liquid of a thorium series that had spilled in some of the laboratories that was outside the process waste lines. The main concern was with radioactive materials that would be in trace amounts in samples that were analyzed over a 40-year period.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE** (Erin Rogers): Erin gave an overview on two projects the committee is working on, and asked for Board input:

**Community Survey Results:** A community survey was part of the Board's work plan for 1998. CAB's Outreach Committee hired a consultant to design a questionnaire and perform the analysis. The survey was done in May, with a total of 400 telephone surveys

completed of residents in the northwest metro area. The goals were to gauge awareness and attitudes about CAB and Rocky Flats, to solicit input on public information and education methods, identify the level of interest in Rocky Flats and the Board, and to assess general beliefs about the risk from Rocky Flats. Of those surveyed, 30% had heard of the Board, 93% had seen, read or heard something about Rocky Flats. The primary source of information about both Rocky Flats and the CAB is via newspapers and TV. Most of those surveyed felt that Rocky Flats poses a moderate risk rather than a high risk. The individuals contacted are interested in access to more information about the site, but not necessarily in becoming involved actively in an organization. About a third feel that information about Rocky Flats is not readily available, or didn't know if it was available. Groundwater and soil contamination were considered to be the highest risks. Based on how CAB was described to them, 69% felt that the Board adequately represented their views. A draft copy of the report and survey are available at the CAB office by contacting Erin Rogers.

**Proposed CAB Community Forum:** Another outreach item on CAB's 1998 work plan is a public forum, tentatively scheduled for this fall. A planning group was formed following the co-chairs meeting in March. The group has preliminarily discussed both the purpose and structure of the forum (either a moderated panel debate with experts to discuss the topic, followed by Q&A session, or a format similar to past Rocky Flats summit meetings with educational presentations, breakout sessions and then gathering information to come to conclusions as a whole). The planning group has focused on future land use issues as its preferred topic for the forum. CAB members were asked for feedback. Board members thought the land use topic is a timely one and useful, but also stewardship and long-term issues regarding Rocky Flats are important. The ultimate topic selected may drive the format. Some members thought a format similar to the summits would be more valuable. The planning group will come back to the Board with a proposal on the forum at next month's meeting.

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION OF CAB ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM** (Ken Korkia): The site is interested in having CAB take over the responsibility for hosting discussions leading to the development of an environmental monitoring data and information sharing system. The IMP Data Presentation Working Subgroup, comprised of local governments, EPA, CDPHE and site contractors, has been formed to look at various media and how best to present data to the public. CAB members felt it best for the site to continue to convene and manage these discussions, since the Board has limited resources and members available now to take on such a task. A letter will be sent to DOE asking them to continue the subgroup, with CAB representatives participating in meetings; to hold meetings in the evenings so that more individuals will be able to participate; to periodically update CAB at its meetings on the development of the improved data and information sharing system; and to allow CAB and other community members to "pilot" test the new system before it is put in place.

**Decision:** Approve letter of recommendation to DOE, asking the site to lead development of improved data and information sharing system; letter to be drafted by staff.  
**APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS** (Ken Korkia): The Health Issues Focus Group submitted for the Board's approval a third set of recommendations based on the study done in 1997 by Parker-Hall, Inc. of environmental monitoring at the site. The recommendations ask DOE and site contractors to:

- Continue to evaluate and refine its understanding of groundwater systems at and near Rocky Flats, and to develop three-dimensional models for underlying geology and contaminant plumes at the site.
- Continue to collect data to better understand the uptake of contaminants by and harm to the biotic communities.
- Explore all avenues possible to handle environmental monitoring samples in a more timely manner.
- Establish a comprehensive monitoring program for both influent and effluent streams at the sewage treatment plant.
- Establish a routine monitoring program for soils and sediments, and to include this topic in the scope of work for the Actinide Migration Studies.
- Consult with and advise the entities responsible for emergency planning regarding necessary monitoring for all cleanup and D&D projects.
- Add to CAB's list of "Cleanup Principles and Critical Reporting Elements" a new item, "description of the environmental monitoring systems used during environmental restoration and D&D projects." These Critical Reporting Elements are to be developed and shared with the public for all cleanup projects at the site.
- After completion of discussions among the various working groups of the IMP, prepare a written summary that outlines which recommendations and comments have been incorporated into the monitoring programs, as well as justifications for those which are not.

**Decision:** Approve recommendations on environmental monitoring issues. **APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Colleen Dailey: Regarding the community forum, based on my experience, I have been involved in a number of public meetings and forums as a Superfund site manager for the Department of the Air Force, and recently as a communications specialist for the Department of Transportation. It has been my experience that people generally want to come to get information. I would encourage you to think about what would be a good topic. Land use is appropriate for that. But rather than expect people to come and tell you what they want to know about it, the amount of information is overwhelming with an issue like land use. They look to a Board like you to direct them. I think a panel discussion would work really well, to give them a lot of information, letting them digest it, and then ask questions at the meeting. If you leave the format too open, those are the least successful type of community forums. People may come from it and say, they didn't really tell me anything.

**Comment:** Alan Trenary: Regarding site use, due to the fact of the longevity of the problem that we have, I feel strongly for saying to make it into open space. The magnitude of the contamination, to remediate that would be an enormous project. We have to accept that some of these contaminants are going to stay around. I would personally like to see some of a facility available with onsite monitoring and stewardship that would be a commitment by the state and by the federal government that there always will be adequate staff on hand, for instance if there is plutonium showing up in a creek somewhere downstream. Something that will give the community a sense that the government and the state are prepared in the event that something happens, and staff will be available to go out and handle it in a safe and effective manner.

**LETTER TO DOE REGARDING INTERSITE DISCUSSIONS AND CAB PARTICIPATION** (Tom Marshall): The Site Wide Issues / Budget Focus Group submitted for CAB's approval a letter to Secretary Peña reminding that the Board had urge DOE repeatedly to convene a national stakeholder dialogue on nuclear materials and waste. DOE is now planning workshops instead of a national dialogue process. The letter asks DOE to reconsider its decision and to go forward with plans to hold a national dialogue, so that more meaningful decisions can be made on these issues.

**Decision:** *Approve letter of recommendation to DOE regarding intersite discussions, with revisions made by the Board. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**LETTER TO DOE REGARDING RELEASE OF REVISED PLUTONIUM INVENTORIES** (Mary Harlow): The Plutonium Issues Focus Group prepared a letter of recommendation to send to Secretary Peña regarding the inventory of plutonium and highly enriched uranium at Rocky Flats. Inventory numbers were declassified and released in 1994. Since that time, shipments of these materials have left the site, but DOE

has not released revised inventory numbers. The letter asks DOE-Headquarters to release updated inventory numbers and to continue to do so on a periodic basis.

***Decision:** Approve letter of recommendation to DOE regarding release of revised plutonium inventories. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

### **LETTER TO DOE REGARDING CONTROL OF RADIOLOGICAL SOURCES**

(Mary Harlow): A second letter of recommendation was drafted by the Plutonium Issues Focus Group, which notes that several incidents involving the discovery of uncontrolled radiological sources have occurred, based on reports from the site, in this year alone. Because of concern for the safety of workers and possible diversion of these sources from the site because of inadequate control, this letter asks the site to place a higher emphasis on discovering and placing under control the entire inventory of radiological sources at Rocky Flats.

***Decision:** Approve letter of recommendation to DOE regarding control of radiological sources. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**REUSE RECOMMENDATIONS** (Tom Gallegos): The D&D / Closure Plan Focus Group developed a recommendation on reuse, which states:

- The Board would like to see all buildings onsite demolished and no new development or redevelopment take place anywhere on the site. Also, a specific open space designation should be determined in the future when final site conditions are clearer.
- CAB asks the agencies to initiate comprehensive public education and involvement to determine the public's vision of the Rocky Flats site before a specific open space designation is made. Long-term stewardship, final cleanup levels, actinide migration, and the presence/absence of caps are issues that require clarification and public participation.

***Decision:** Approve recommendations on site reuse, with revisions made by the Board. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT POLICY** (Tom Gallegos): The D&D / Closure Plan Focus Group also prepared a recommendation on the site's draft Natural Resources Management Policy. Comments and recommendations specific to this document include:

- The site should use all technologies and methods available for contaminant characterization within the Buffer Zone, and attempt to discover any other

techniques to regenerate ecological communities before discussions concerning prescribed burns continue.

- The site needs to make every attempt to find alternatives to current methods of weed control under consideration (aerial application of herbicides, and prescribed burns), and to keep the Board informed of new alternatives considered before implementing weed control procedures.
- Since the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse has been listed as threatened, the site needs to open mouse management discussions to public participation.
- CAB is concerned about the ability of the site to retain a sustainable ecology after DOE relinquishes stewardship of the site.
- Budget shortfalls may lead to a lack in environmental remediation and restoration. Some discussions have proposed delaying environmental restoration until all D&D activities have been completed. CAB asks that future discussions on this issue include stakeholder and public input.
- The site needs to develop general assumptions in the near-term concerning long-term stewardship of the Buffer Zone. Those assumptions should then become a part of the NRMP.
- The federal government should make a commitment to continued involvement in Buffer Zone management and cleanup post-closure.

***Decision:** Approve comments and recommendations on Natural Resources Management Policy. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**DEVELOPMENT OF ENDSTATE "VISION"** (Tom Gallegos): The D&D / Closure Plan Focus Group has initiated development of an endstate vision for the Rocky Flats site. This document will ensure that CAB has a unified vision when communicating information to DOE on issues related to the endstate at Rocky Flats. A preliminary vision was reviewed by the Board. This issue and development of the vision will be added to CAB's 1999 work plan for this focus group's attention.

**SOIL ACTION LEVELS OVERSIGHT PANEL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACT** (Ken Korkia): CAB is functioning as the pass-through agent for funds designated to the Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel. The Board was asked to approve a contract with a company, Advanced Integrated Management Services, Inc., which was selected by the Panel to provide administrative services to the group over the next year.

**Decision:** *Approve contract with Advanced Integrated Management Services, Inc., to provide administrative services to the Soil Action Levels Oversight Panel. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

**PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING CAB'S 1999 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET** (Ken Korkia): Ken gave an overview of the process for developing the Board's work plan and related budget for 1999. The process follows that used last year, and will begin with asking DOE and regulators for input on issues coming up in the next year. Following that, CAB will send out surveys/evaluations to Board members, focus group and committee members, DOE and regulator personnel, and interested members of the public asking for their ideas on what issues should be included in the work plan. Focus groups and committees will finalize their work plans for refinement by the Board at a retreat in September. The final work plan and budget will be reviewed and approved by CAB at its October meeting.

**Decision:** *Approve work plan and budget development process. APPROVED BY CONSENSUS.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Staff salary increase: Approve salary increase for Erin Rogers, Senior Program Coordinator.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Date: July 2, 1998, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

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

*Agenda: Report on source evaluation for Walnut Creek contaminant exceedance; letter to DOE concerning budget process and public participation; CAB role in Actinide Migration Studies oversight*

#### **ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Return to Board with proposal on community forum, at July meeting - Outreach Committee
2. Prepare and send letter of recommendation to DOE, regarding development of an improved environmental data and information sharing system - Ken Korkia

3. Forward recommendations on environmental monitoring issues - Ken Korkia
4. Revise and forward letter of recommendation to DOE regarding intersite discussions - Erin Rogers
5. Forward letter of recommendation to DOE regarding release of revised plutonium inventories - Ken Korkia
6. Forward letter of recommendation to DOE regarding control of radiological sources - Ken Korkia
7. Revise and forward recommendations on site reuse - Brady Wilson
8. Forward comments and recommendations on Natural Resources Management Policy - Brady Wilson

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:25 P.M. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Tom Gallegos, 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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