

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

November 5, 1998

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

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

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Aluisi, Carol Barker, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Tom Clark, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Gerald DePoorter, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Bob Kanick, Jim Kinsinger, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, David Navarro, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Mariane Anderson, Reg Tyler, Mark Aguilar

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Barron, Meir Carasso, Derek Dye, Beverly Lyne, Linda Sikkema / Jeremy Karpatkin, Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Kenneth Werth (citizen); Mark Sautman (DNFSB); Patrick Etchart (DOE); P.J. Timmerman (GAO); Anna Martinez (DOE); S. K. Gupta (citizen); M. Wickers (citizen); Mary Jo Edwards (DOE); Alan Trenary (citizen); Elizabeth Helvey (DOE); Allen Schubert (Kaiser-Hill); Mark Aguilar (EPA); 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: Mark Sautman with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) gave an update to the Board on issues and activities. First, Mark noted that Bob Warther left the Board for another position and currently DNFSB has no plans to replace him. The Board has issued two recent recommendations, one regarding the resolution of DOE independent oversight assessment findings, and the second on safety management at the Pantex plant. All reports and general Board information can be access through its web site (www.dnfsb.gov).

New issues being tracked by the Board include: identifying hazards and controls to protect workers during deactivation activities; a premature declaration of readiness to proceed

with new operations; reclassifying high risk residues as low risk based on the results of characterization; and residue compliance. Some ongoing issues the Board continues to track are: plutonium stabilization; HEPA filter degradation; upgrades to Building 371; implementation of the authorization basis; at risk inventories; shift manager and technical advisor qualifications; and staffing of the fire department. Complex-wide, DNFSB is working on an update to recommendation 94-1, as well as revision of that recommendation's implementation plan; reviewing draft standards for the long-term storage of material with less than 50% plutonium; and an integration of plutonium stabilization and disposition activities throughout the complex.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Erin Rogers discussed with the Board two agenda items brought by the Outreach Committee:

- **Draft slideshow script.** To aid with CAB's planned speaker's bureau, Erin prepared a script to be used by Board members at speaking engagements, to discuss current Rocky Flats issues and activities, as well as information on the Board itself. The script accompanies slides and photos that Erin has gathered, and has a specific structure. An outline of the script was presented to CAB, which includes general background information on the site, discusses problems and concerns with Rocky Flats, planned cleanup and associated budgets, how to get involved, and basic information on CAB. Board members gave Erin some input to the script. She will redraft and have the Executive Committee review for continuity and clarification prior to returning to the Board for final approval.
- **Request from KBDI-Channel 12.** This public television station sent a letter to CAB asking for volunteers to work its phone line during an upcoming pledge drive. In exchange, the Board will receive free on-air time to promote CAB either through interviews with Board members or announcements about CAB activities. Board members were asked if they were interested and could volunteer. Fifteen persons need to commit to one evening. Several members were interested and selected the preferred date of Saturday, December 12. Erin will contact everyone to confirm their attendance prior to making arrangements with the television station.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ken Korkia reviewed two items from the Executive Committee, which required a Board decision:

- **Meeting date conflicts.** CAB's study sessions over the next three months show potential conflicts and need to be rescheduled. The Board agreed to move the dates for all three. The Board's study sessions will now be held on Monday, December 14, Tuesday, January 19, and Tuesday, February 16.
- **1999 budget.** In conjunction with the recently approved 1999 Work Plan, staff

developed a budget for calendar year 1999, totaling \$412,601.34. The Board approved this budget. Staff will submit a grant application to DOE requesting 1999 program funds for the Board.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CAB voted on its 1999 officers, who will serve beginning at the December 3 Board meeting. Elected were: Jim Kinsinger, Chair; Tom Marshall, Vice Chair; Mary Harlow, Secretary; and Victor Holm, Treasurer.

DOE UPDATE ON WIPP CONTINGENCIES: First, Scott Anderson with Kaiser-Hill discussed the waste inventory at Rocky Flats and strategies for disposition. He presented information on current quantities of each of the waste types and projected generation of those waste materials, their sources, and where each is planned to be disposed. However, there is a great deal of uncertainty about where to ship much of the wastes, partially because of WIPP not opening, and also because integration of waste disposal activities throughout the complex needs to be addressed. Policy issues being studied by the site include onsite TRU waste management, options for disposing of building rubble, developing additional options (like the Deer Trail facility), and what to do with low level mixed waste of greater than 10 nanocuries. The site also must address challenges such as whether or not receiver sites are available; stabilizing, packaging and certifying waste; coordinating shipping schedules; and interim storage needs.

Next, Reg Tyler (DOE) gave an overview of waste storage issues at Rocky Flats, specifically related to TRU and TRM waste. Currently there is an inventory of more than 1,800 cubic meters of TRU/TRM waste, with a capacity of just over 3,000 cubic meters. Planned locations for storage of the waste is Buildings 991, 664 and 440. With additional generation of waste and residues, those storage facilities could be full as early as mid-1999. The site has done contingency planning, and decided to expand Building 440 and upgrade Tents 2 and 12 to allow for additional interim storage. The cost for upgrading and expansion of these facilities is approximately \$3.2 million. Long-term storage options are also being planned for. This includes the design and construction of modules, or Butler buildings, for storage, which could be completed as soon as 18 months and operationally ready 6 months after construction is finished. The total cost of these modules is projected to be \$50 million. These long-term storage options will be necessary in the event WIPP does not open.

BOARD DISCUSSION: Following the presentations, CAB members began an open discussion of waste types, disposition pathways, disposition issues, and related uncertainties. This generated a great deal of comments and concerns; a few are summarized below:

- Should new buildings be built for TRU waste storage? If so, will the storage become permanent?

- Does CAB want waste to be shipped offsite? If so, the Board needs to be a proponent for those facilities. If not, need to define and support onsite possibilities.
- Other buildings besides 440 should be considered for storage
- Continued funding for cleanup is a concern
- If storage continues at the site, there cannot be "closure"
- Concerned about using tents for storage of waste; and the uncertainty of generation estimates
- What will happen with building rubble?

In general, CAB member comments and concerns centered on the following categories:

- **TRU waste** — possible storage contingencies; issues about WIPP, temporary storage might become permanent; and using existing versus new structures.
- **Cleanup and closure** — several options were discussed about possible definitions; activities will be in phases and could cover three areas: 1) D&D and building removal, 2) environmental restoration, and 3) stewardship.
- **Residues** — CAB members had many questions and needed more information and clarification about the status and plans for treatment and disposition of residues.
- **Waste generation estimates** — Again more information is needed about D&D and environmental restoration wastes, and residues.
- **D&D issues** — What will be done with the building foundations, rubble, and process lines?

During the discussion, several issues regarding waste and contingencies were raised that require additional information from DOE and site representatives. Action items follow:

- DOE will gather information for the Board on inspection of TRU waste drums.
- A copy of correspondence between Kaiser-Hill, DOE, Savannah River, CDPHE and others on the issue of delisting plutonium fluoride residues from RCRA was requested.
- CAB requested information on decision-making at the site that includes a cost/benefit analysis, specifically related to TRU/residues waste storage contingencies.

NEXT STEPS: At its November study session on the 16th, CAB members will discuss the life-cycle of the site, views of each member on what they feel constitutes the end-state, plus an in-depth discussion of TRU/residues waste storage contingencies.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: November 16, 1998, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. (study session)

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

Avenue, Westminster

Agenda: Discussion of cleanup/closure definitions and end-state vision; discussion of WIPP contingency storage options and public involvement strategy

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

1. Revise slideshow script, then to Executive Committee for review and back to Board for final approval - Erin Rogers
2. Confirm with Board members and others participation in KBDI-Channel 12 pledge drive on December 12; schedule with station - Erin Rogers
3. Finalize CAB 1999 budget and prepare grant application; submit to DOE - Deb Thompson

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 P.M. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Tom Gallegos, 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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