

## ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

April 1, 1999

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Jim Kinsinger called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Barron, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Tom Davidson, Gerald DePoorter, Joe Downey, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Bryan Taylor / Mariane Anderson, Angela Hutton-Howard, John Rampe, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alan Aluisi, Carol Barker, Eugene DeMayo, Derek Dye, Tom Gallegos, David Navarro, Linda Sikkema

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Al Gibson (DOE-HQ); Mark Sautman (DNFSB); Anna Martinez (DOE); Anne W. Callison (ITRC); Tom Stewart (CDPHE); Louise Janson (resident); Lisa Rittel (resident); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

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

**Comment:** Anne Callison: I'm interested in the new permeable barrier wall and the treatment system for nitrates, if anyone here has information I would appreciate receiving that.

**Response:** John Rampe & Tim Rehder: Although it's not available this evening, we can get that information to you.

**REGULATOR UPDATE (EPA):** Tim Rehder updated Board members on Rocky Flats issues the EPA is tracking:

- **EPA Certification of Rocky Flats TRU Waste.** In late March, EPA sent a letter to the Carlsbad Area Office certifying that the TRU waste characterization program at Rocky Flats meets regulatory requirements, and that a portion of the TRU waste

at Rocky Flats was ready to be transported to WIPP. The letter of certification covers about 8,000 of the drums at Rocky Flats. Future generation estimates are that about 75,000 drums will be expected overall.

- **Industrial Area Characterization Strategy.** Both EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) have expressed concerns that this project is not progressing as well as they hoped. A meeting will be set up with site representatives over the next couple of weeks to discuss issues about timing of the project as well as its scope of work.
- **Installation of East Trenches Plume Passive Treatment System.** Treatment vessels have been installed, and preparations are being made to construct the groundwater barrier. Work on the Solar Ponds Plume Passive Treatment System is scheduled to begin in July.
- **NPDES Permit.** A tentative agreement has been made to issue the permit once changes have been made to the RFCA Action Level Framework and the Site's Pond Operations Plan. The revisions in these areas will reflect changes to the regulation of surface water and the management of the pond system that will result from issuing the new permit.
- **Quality Assurance Requirements for the Shonka.** The Shonka is an automated device for measuring radiation on surfaces. Both EPA and CDPHE had concerns that the quality assurance documentation for the instrument was not adequate to demonstrate it could measure contamination at levels at or below the cleanup level. Site personnel demonstrated the quality control checks and calibration techniques that will be used for this device. Following that demonstration, EPA is comfortable that the instrument can measure contamination at levels as low as 25% of the cleanup standard of 100 dpm/100cm<sup>2</sup>.

**LOS ALAMOS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION INVITATION:** The Los Alamos site will be demonstrating an in situ vitrification technology for use in contaminated soil remediation. The chair of the Los Alamos Citizens Advisory Board thought other SSABs around the country might be interested in seeing the technology demonstrated and asked other SSABs to attend. The demonstration is scheduled for April 15-22. CAB has no funds allocated in its budget for this trip. Board members were asked to decide whether CAB wants to spend money for this technology demonstration, and if so for how many Board members and who will attend. Estimated cost of sending one Board member is \$500. After discussing the issue, the Board agreed that since this is not a technology Rocky Flats will ultimately use, it wouldn't be appropriate to expend CAB's limited travel funds to attend the technology demonstration. Staff will draft a letter to the Los Alamos CAB thanking them for the invitation, but declining.

**ACTINIDE MIGRATION STUDIES TECHNICAL REVIEW GROUP — CONTRACT REVIEW AND APPROVAL:** The Actinide Migration Studies Technical Review Group met earlier this week and held interviews with three finalists to serve as its contractor to provide technical review and advisory services. The TRG evaluation

committee selected ATL International, Inc. ATL consists of Dr. Ward Whicker and Dr. Tom Hakonson, both professors in the Department of Radiological Health Sciences at CSU, as well as several other individuals. CAB members were asked to review the draft contract for technical services and to give tentative approval. This contract is a little different from others in the past, in that a three-month "probationary" period is set up in the contract, to allow the group and the contractor a chance to see how things will work out. This is considered the "initial term" of the contract — should both parties after an evaluation of the contractor's service choose to continue, the contract will continue through the end of 1999. Services to be provided are expected to run through at least six months of next year as well; however, a new contract will be set up for that calendar year. Board members had a few comments about language in the contract, such as adding additional language to the section on "termination for cause," and to address more clearly the process for evaluation after the "initial term" or "probationary period." Staff will work with CAB's attorney to rewrite the contract, and a finalized contract will be brought back to the Board for its final review and approval at the April 19 meeting.

**BUILDING RUBBLE DISCUSSION:** At the March 15 meeting, following a lengthy discussion of building rubble and the Board's position, staff was asked to reword a letter to DOE stating its position on disposition of clean building rubble. In summary, the letter stated that CAB supported disposing of building rubble as fill material in the foundations of Buildings 771 and 371, using the free release standard and Smart Characterization and Decontamination, provided some conditions could be met:

- Demonstrate that under-building contamination is thoroughly characterized and remediated before those building foundations are filled with rubble.
- Demonstrate the emission of fugitive dust from the staged rubble (rubble awaiting disposition in the building foundations) is mitigated to prevent off-site transport of dust to surrounding communities.
- Demonstrate that groundwater infiltration into the buried rubble does not cause surface water impacts to downstream communities.
- Provide the Board with an analysis for using a Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) for long-term monitored retrievable storage of building rubble, to be considered as an option.

Board members still had concerns about sending this letter of recommendation to the site. Although the rubble to be put in the foundations will be decontaminated to free release standards, and thus considered "clean," many CAB members still expressed concerns that contamination will likely remain in the rubble, and wanted to have assurances that effects from that contamination would be mitigated and monitored. DOE stated that the building rubble will be cleaned to both hazardous substance and radionuclide standards, and although it cannot guarantee all the rubble be "clean," there will not be contamination of any volume. The site is not considering any kind of scenario that would place the rubble in monitored/retrievable storage. Right now the only options under consideration are to

either place the rubble in the building foundations, or ship it to the Erie landfill for disposition,

The letter CAB had drafted was meant to be forwarded to DOE as an early public comment, to aid in DOE's drafting of a decision document for building rubble — an Environmental Assessment type of document. That document is still in the early drafting stages, and will be released for formal public comment sometime in early May. CAB was asked to provide early comment to DOE. After discussion, the Board still could not agree by consensus on language to be put into this letter of recommendation. CAB members decided instead to submit to DOE a document transmitting all CAB member concerns, comments and questions, and asking DOE to address those topics in its decision document. Staff will send out a document to Board members asking them to list their top three concerns and return that document to staff for compilation. A document expressing Board member concerns will be compiled and prepared for the Board's final review and approval at its April 19 meeting. It will then be forwarded to DOE.

**CAB VISION DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:** At the last Board meeting, some Board members expressed frustration with the Board's progress toward developing a CAB "Vision" on Rocky Flats closure and asked to have a discussion about this issue. The Executive Committee met and talked about it as well; they feel the goal of developing a vision is a worthwhile effort, but recognize that many on the Board are not pleased with its progress. Some suggestions for making the discussions more valuable include:

1. For areas with significant disagreement, members with different perspectives might write position papers, to aid in better tracking of ideas and to provide a better chance for directing the conversation toward specific points to be considered.
2. Change the discussion format to allow more free and open dialogue — avoid using tent cards and have the facilitator better direct the discussion to include a more free flow of ideas.
3. Set aside time during meetings to break into discussion groups, develop position statements, and discuss ideas.
4. Appoint issue managers responsible for working on a particular vision element, and seeing its way through the Board process.
5. Or, consider the vision not as a recommendation, but a sense of the community, and not necessarily need to have each vision element agreed to by consensus.

Board members did not seem interested in #5, and did not wish at this time to return to the committee structure. However, they discussed all other options and thought them to be valuable. CAB members agreed to continue working on the vision, with a refined process — comments, ideas and suggestions to make the process work better included:

- work harder on contacting each other directly instead of going through the staff;

- have members volunteer to take on issues and help craft documents and recommendations;
- allow more flexibility to discuss issues at the meetings;
- keep on topic and have ideas flow more freely, only using the tent cards to change the subject or head in another direction;
- use email more often to share documents, positions, comments and concerns;
- possibly set up the website to accept comments from the Board, in a structure similar to a newsgroup;
- use informal breakout sessions or more frequent breaks during the study sessions to allow time for discussion off-line and to get clarification on issues.

At the next meeting, Reed Hodgkin, the Board's facilitator, will begin using the new process for facilitating CAB discussions. Board members will raise their hands to comment on the current topic and keep the discussion flowing along more natural lines, and tent cards will be raised whenever a Board member wants to move the topic in another direction.

Board members agreed to begin sharing ideas more regularly via email. The staff will look into the cost and time involvement to set up newsgroups on CAB's website, so that Board members may pull up the website to make comments on documents and/or topics, or to have discussions between meetings.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Membership Committee. Based on a recommendation from its Membership Committee, the Board approved its newest member. Lesley Taufer is the president and owner of Boulder Corporation, which is a group of information technology consultants in Boulder. A computer and information technology consultant, as well as a marketing and business planning consultant, Lesley majored in Biology. A resident of Boulder, she will represent the Administrative / Business Community.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** April 19, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. (study session)

**Location:** College Hill Library, Front Range Community College, 3705 West 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Westminster

**Agenda:** Final review and approval of Actinide Migration Studies Technical Review Group contract and selected contractor; final review and approval of comments on building rubble disposition issue; follow-up discussion on low level waste issues

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Send thank-you letter to Los Alamos CAB for invitation to technology demonstration; but that the Board declines at this time - Staff
2. Work with CAB attorney to rewrite the AMS TRG contract; bring back to CAB for final review and approval at 4/19 meeting - Staff
3. Prepare and send form to CAB members asking for three top comments on building rubble disposition; compile and prepare document for transmittal to DOE; back to the Board for final approval at 4/19 meeting - Staff
4. Check into cost and time involved with setting up newsgroup on CAB website - Staff

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:35 P.M. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Mary Harlow, 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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