

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

August 5, 1999

FACILITATOR: Laura Till

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

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Barron, Shawn Burke, Tom Davidson, Eugene DeMayo, Gerald DePoorter, Joe Downey, Mary Harlow, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, David Navarro, Markuené Sumler, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Rob Henneke, Anna Martinez, John Rampe

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Ray Betts, Tom Gallegos, Victor Holm, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, Linda Sikkema

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: David Grover (DNFSB); Jeff Eggleston (citizen); Don Owen (DNFSB); Matt McCormick (DOE); John Corsi (K-H); R. Givan (citizen); Mark Wachal (citizen); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received. However, prior to the meeting the Board received via fax in its office a letter from Tommy Stewart, resident of Westminster. As he was unable to attend the Board meeting, Mr. Stewart asked that his letter be considered as part of the public comment. Mr. Stewart stated in his letter that he had reviewed a report by the DNFSB dated March 1999, regarding the "Status of Emergency Management at Defense Nuclear Facilities of the Department of Energy." Because of this report, and a subsequent conversation with an emergency management official affiliated with the State of Colorado, Mr. Stewart believes there is an overall attitude of complacency toward emergency preparedness. Mr. Stewart expressed concerns that the state and local governments have simply accepted public relations efforts by Kaiser-Hill — and that Rocky Flats is safe and there is no longer a need for concern about the potential for any disasters. Mr. Stewart would like RFCAB to challenge DOE to work with the state and local governments, in a meaningful dialog about both onsite and offsite emergency preparedness issues.

REGULATOR UPDATE (DNFSB): Mark Sautman with DNFSB gave a quarterly

update on the Board's activities related to Rocky Flats.

- First, Mark announced **personnel changes among site representatives for the DNFSB**. Mark is leaving Rocky Flats and will become the site representative for DNFSB at the Hanford site. There is a normal rotation among staff members about every four years. Then Mark introduced the two new site representatives:
- Don Owen used to be in the Navy and has nuclear experience. He is a mechanical engineer with prior experience at Rocky Flats with projects on Buildings 559 and 707. For the last several years, he has worked at Y-12 and other weapons sites in the complex.
- David Grover is a nuclear engineer from MIT with Navy and shipyard experience. He has been involved with the packaging and storage of plutonium at Rocky Flats and other sites, and recently has done a lot of work on the spent fuel project at Hanford.
- The **Defense Board had a site visit at Rocky Flats in June**. The focus of the visit was on Recommendation 94-1, plutonium stabilization activities, and some of the D&D work in Building 771. DNFSB recently issued a technical report, *HEPA Filters Used in the DOE's Hazardous Facilities*, which addresses DOE's failing infrastructure for HEPA filters.
- Regarding **Recommendation 94-1**, there were two milestones recently completed on schedule. First, all actinide solutions in Building 371 have been stabilized. All of the plutonium solutions in the piping have been drained, and all the tanks have been emptied. In addition, all high-risk pyrochemical salt residues have been stabilized. Some low-risk salts are being repacked right now. In Building 771, the draining of the actinide solutions systems is going well and recovering its schedule. They should meet the September milestone to drain six of these actinide systems. For plutonium residues, some modifications have been made for the packaging strategy for wet combustibles to address drum and filter corrosion and plugging issues, which occurred because of carbon tetrachloride and nitric acid present in the residues. Sand, slag and crucible shipments to Savannah River have been halted while container issues can be resolved. There are questions about how much moisture can remain in the residues based on the expected gas generation rates.
- Preparations for **glovebox size reduction in Building 771** — the site has been working on a new approach for size-reducing gloveboxes in Building 779. They have switched to using a hardened structure inside of a tent with sliding doors, better ventilation and counterbalanced tools. There were some problems with the original system, such as lack of sound engineering and the lack of functional design requirements. There was also weakness in the technical basis for the engineering controls, concerns with the way they were handling mockup training, the acceptance testing of the facility, and the declaration of readiness. Most of the issues with the original system have been resolved. The contractor is revising its engineering process for designing subsequent systems. For future systems, DNFSB will review plans for use of plasma arc torches, and eliminating the use of supplied

air by downgrading to just using respirators.

- **Other general issues. Recommendation 94-3**, dealing with structural upgrades to Building 371, has been closed formally by the Defense Board because the upgrades have been completed. DNFSB continues to follow **Y2K** plans for the site, and is now focusing its reviews on the contingency plans and the drills being performed onsite. DNFSB had some concerns with the most recent **annual radiological exercise for emergency planning**. DOE and Kaiser-Hill were also disappointed with their performance, and are doing a series of practice drills to address these weaknesses. Finally, DNFSB is also doing some **reviews on TRU waste storage** — specifically the option for storage in Building 460 and the dose estimates for nearby workers.
- **Reminder:** all site reports, site trip reports, technical reports and recommendations are available on DNFSB's home page: www.dnfsb.gov.

BUILDING RUBBLE RSOP RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION AND

APPROVAL: In April, the Board approved sending a letter to the site transmitting concerns and comments from individual Board members on proposed disposition options for clean building rubble. Since that time, the site completed a draft version of a RFCA Standard Operating Protocol (RSOP). This document was released for public comment, which is open through August 9. In July, a focus group of Board members met to discuss and hear a presentation on the document. RFCAB's comments and concerns were answered as part of that presentation and summarized by staff for the Board. Staff then prepared a follow-up draft recommendation, which restated as background information the Board's original comments and concerns. The draft recommendation specifically stated that "RFCAB approves the use of the operating protocol as written," and added additional considerations for DOE and Kaiser-Hill.

First, Board members spent a little time discussing their concerns with the recommendation as drafted. Some of the concerns focused specifically on issues such as: 1) information needs; 2) ensuring the environment is protected; 3) sampling and characterization of the rubble; and 4) monitoring. The Board debated the merits of forwarding this recommendation without what some members felt was adequate information to make a decision to approve the RSOP. Other members felt that all the information necessary was available, and that issues about sampling, characterization, monitoring, etc. would be dealt with in another document.

The Board tried a few different variations on the recommendation to see if it could come up with something everyone could agree on.

1. In its first revision, a minor change to the wording of the original recommendation was made, stating that the Board approved the use of "free release" building materials as fill material, and leaving the remainder of the recommendation intact.

- There was no consensus on this option.
2. Next, the Board tried leaving the recommendation as stated in its first revision, still approving the site's RSOP plan, but adding comments on ensuring that sampling and characterization could prove the rubble is clean. Again, the Board was unable to agree on this option.
 3. Another option was to state "the Board does not oppose the use of free release building materials," but stating that more information is required before RFCAB can decide whether or not to approve the RSOP document. Board members again did not approve this.
 4. Finally, the Board was given the option to prepare a recommendation stating it neither approved nor disapproved the RSOP, and restating Board member concerns to be addressed by the site. No consensus was reached on this option either.

While some Board members felt it was important to let the site know that information received so far was inadequate and that too many concerns had not yet been addressed, an equal number of members believed that RFCAB comments had been addressed and that any sampling and characterization issues needed to be separated from the discussion on this recommendation.

With 10 of the 13 members present voting in the affirmative, the Board agreed to move to a super-majority vote in an attempt to approve two different options. First, they voted on approving the recommendation as it was originally worded. Only 8 members approved that option and super-majority did not pass. Then, in a second attempt, the Board voted on approving a recommendation (or letter transmitting comments and concerns) as proposed in option #4 above. Only 6 of the members present voted in favor of that option, so again no super-majority vote was approved.

The recommendation on the Building Rubble RSOP was tabled and there will be no comment from the Board at this time.

WRAP-UP DISCUSSION ON CLEANUP PHASES END-STATES: This was the last item remaining for the Board to discuss in finalizing its Vision document. RFCAB members needed to determine whether the Board wanted to further define the endpoint for the cleanup to background levels. In 1995, the Board had endorsed a statement from the Future Site Use Working Group, which noted that cleanup should be to average background levels for Colorado, when that is achievable. Again in 1996, as part of the Board's Recommendation 96-13 (Cleanup Principles and Critical Reporting Elements), RFCAB restated that position. The Board was given some additional information about possible definitions for "background" and was asked to decide if it still supports the definition made in Recommendation 96-13. The Board reaffirmed its position with a minor change to the wording. A statement will be added to the Vision document that says:

The Board defines background as the mean value of background measurements for the Colorado Front Range including naturally occurring and fallout radiation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

DRAFT RFCAB VISION DOCUMENT DISCUSSION: RFCAB was presented with the second draft of its Vision document, which staff had continued to work on since the last Board meeting. Since it will be professionally printed, the document had been formatted and was presented at this meeting in a format similar to the Board's newsletters and annual reports. Board members did not have any comments or changes to either the wording or the style of the document. After inserting final language as noted above, plus making any additions and/or revisions necessary to complete the document, it will be presented to the Board for final approval at the September 2 meeting.

Since there was additional time on the agenda, Board members were asked for suggestions on individuals or agencies they would like to see receive a copy of the Vision document. Suggestions included local governments, state officials, the Colorado congressional delegation, libraries, CDPHE, EPA, other SSABs, the press, universities, local high schools, and the legislature. Many of these groups are already on a list that staff has begun developing for distribution.

Next, since the final Vision document represents the end of an entire years' work and a completely different way of working for RFCAB, Board members, ex-officio members and staff were asked to comment on the Vision process — what worked and what didn't. In general, the Board felt it was a good process, and helped to build a foundation for future recommendations. The committee structure used in the past provides an opportunity for members to delve more thoroughly into issues and it is easier to focus on a defined subject. But going through committees can also be frustrating and challenging, particularly if there is low participation on the part of Board members, and when the recommendations developed do not pass final review by the Board. Using the process of having all Board members educated at once helped to keep things moving, and to give better insight into the perspective of fellow members. RFCAB also enjoyed the opportunity to receive the presentations that may have in the past only been limited to committee meetings. As a side note, part of the process developing toward the end of the Vision process was a more extensive use of email to help gauge Board member comments. Everyone agreed this was a useful tool that will serve the Board well, provided each member actively participates.

RFCAB will define a work plan and structure for its next year at a retreat to be held on September 12.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Personnel Committee. The Board received a final report from HR Partnership, the personnel consultant it hired in May to review the Board's compensation, benefits, evaluation process and personnel policies. Cheryl Miller and Barb Albrandt of HR Partnership attended the Executive Session and gave a brief presentation on the results of their work. The Board agreed to accept HR Partnership's report as submitted. RFCAB also decided to hire HR Partnership to upgrade the Board's personnel policies and procedures document, at an additional cost of \$1,000.
- Membership Committee. The Membership Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the addition of a new member for RFCAB — Jeffrey L. Eggleston. Jeff is an engineering manager in Research and Development at Valleylab, a medical device manufacturer in Boulder. Jeff has more than 17 years in the health industry designing products used in operating rooms. He has an AB in Biological Sciences, a BSEE in Electrical Engineering, and an MSE in Engineering. Jeff is a resident of Broomfield, and will serve as a health industry representative.
- Other Business. Mary Harlow suggested that the Board consider adding representation on the Board from area high schools. Concerns were expressed about issues regarding whether or not a student representative would have voting authority; whether a student representative could be considered similar to an ex-officio member of the Board; if the bylaws and/or Board policies and procedures would need to be changed to allow such representation; and issues about the Board's non-profit corporation status. It was also suggested that a college student may be a student member. Staff will be asked to look into this possibility.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: September 2, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: College Hill Library, Front Range Community College, 3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster

Agenda: Update by CDPHE; recommendation on Industrial Area Characterization Strategy; discussion and beginning preparation of RFCAB year 2000 work plan; final approval of RFCAB Vision document

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

1. Make final additions/revision to Vision document - Staff
2. Check into issues about adding a student representative to the Board - Staff

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 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.

[Top of Page](#) | [Index of Meeting Minutes](#) | [Home](#)

[Citizens Advisory Board Info](#) | [Rocky Flats Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Feedback & Questions](#)