

## ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION

February 16, 1999

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

Jim Kinsinger called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Barker, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Eugene DeMayo, Gerald DePoorter, Joe Downey, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Jim Kinsinger, LeRoy Moore, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Mariane Anderson, Joe Legare, Rob Henneke

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alan Aluisi, Susan Barron, Tom Davidson, Derek Dye, Victor Holm, Bob Kanick, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, David Navarro, Linda Sikkema

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Kenneth Werth (citizen); Alan Trenary (citizen); Will Neff (RFLII); Jane Augulo (citizen); Doug Croucher (citizen); Charlotte Pystek (citizen); Sarnie Peters (citizen); Philip Sieper (citizen); Steve Elkins (citizen); Dave and Doris DePenning (citizens); Julie Waggener (RMPJC); John Corsi (K-H); Doug Young (Mark Udall's Office); Tom Stewart (CDPHE); Rick Warner (World Works I); Mary Jo Strong (DOE); Gary Erb (RMPJC); Brian Mathis (Kaiser-Hill); May Jainl (KGNU); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

**VISIT WITH CONGRESSMAN MARK UDALL:** As the newly-elected Congressional representative for District 2, which includes the Rocky Flats site, Mark Udall stopped by at this Board meeting to talk with CAB members and the public present. Congressman Udall noted he has been meeting with mayor, city councils, and local citizens in the area. He supports the planned accelerated cleanup for Rocky Flats, and believes the plan makes sense financially so long as it is accomplished safely. He is committed to working to retain funds for Rocky Flats for as long as it takes to cleanup and maintain the site. He encouraged stakeholders, CAB, citizens to work together to decide what is best, and his office is willing to help in any way they can. Mr. Udall then took questions and comments from the Board and audience, which are summarized below:

- Congress will allocate sufficient funds for cleanup and closure, but what about post-

cleanup and closure? Some federal entity must be involved, and there must be a budget for managing the site post-closure.

- Discussions are currently underway about options for post-closure at Rocky Flats. He will continue to monitor and look into the status of those discussions.
- There must be a commitment to maintain caretaker services for retirees of the Rocky Flats site, and it must be assigned to a federal department for as long as any of those retirees are living.
- Mr. Udall stated he is committed to monitoring this situation and making sure that benefits for Rocky Flats retirees stay in place.
- Benefits for retirees of the site must be set up separately from funds to the contractors, so a contractor at the site can't arbitrarily cut funds and hurt retirees.
- He supports a dedicated fund for retirees. It is important that there be a measure of certainty for the retirees and the knowledge that their benefits are secure.
- The Board probably will not be able to agree on the WIPP issue, but would encourage Udall to gather as much information from the viewpoint of Colorado, New Mexico, and nationally as well about the facility and transportation of materials to that site.
- It is important to protect the citizens of both Colorado and New Mexico, but the TRU waste needs to go somewhere. If WIPP is proven to be safe, he would support the waste going there.
- The site may become a nuclear dump if some of the waste disposition issues are not resolved soon, such as where the waste will go.
- Mr. Udall stated he is committed to making sure more problems are not generated until it is determined where the waste is going.
- The WIPP site will not cleanup Rocky Flats — only 9.3% of the site's waste will go to WIPP. Add to that the potential for accidents, and moving waste to WIPP will endanger the lives and well being of many.
- The TRU waste from Rocky Flats is not the only waste planned to go to the WIPP site.
- Why spend so much for WIPP when it won't even cleanup Rocky Flats, and in addition will contaminate another area. Leave the waste here in state-of-the-art, monitored and retrievable storage. Rocky Flats will never be clean.
- The most sensible thing to do is to move the waste, plutonium, everything away from the millions of people here in the Denver metro area. Mr. Udall is supportive of the concept of moving the waste, provided health, safety and transportation issues are resolved. He feels it is safer to move the waste and plutonium away from the area. It is his understanding that Rocky Flats eventually can be cleaned up to background levels. The Buffer Zone should be maintained as open space, and discussions will continue about cleanup of the Industrial Area. It is important to take into account all points of view, from preservationists to those wishing to redevelop the area.
- Right now the U.S. is spending more on nuclear manufacturing than in the past. The only difference is the mission has been moved to Los Alamos. About 40% of

the WIPP site is reserved for waste not even yet generated. If you aren't going to generate more, the waste at Rocky Flats doesn't need to be moved. None of this will make a difference if production of nuclear weapons is not stopped. There is a resolution in the House — sponsored by Congressman Markey — which states the budget for nuclear weapons should be sufficient only for maintenance, and not new production. Mr. Udall should support this resolution.

- Mr. Udall stated he would support Markey's resolution, and he does support efforts to disarm. Regarding the WIPP site, he was only considering new domestic production of waste. If Rocky Flats is to be shut down, the waste must go somewhere.
- Human intrusion into the environment is phenomenal. Placing waste into the ground is not responsible for future generations, since no one can guess what issues will have to be dealt with in the future. The U.S. should commit to spending as much money to fund solutions to these problems as it did to fund the original problems. The waste will not go away, and transportation of waste to New Mexico poses a huge safety risk.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**Comment:** Doris DePenning: Regarding Rock the Flats, this was brought to my attention as a community/citizens' representative for the Coal Creek Canyon area. I have received many phone calls and faxes, there are many people disturbed about this. I wanted to share some of our concerns. As we looked at this in the paper, it was indicated it would be across the highway west of Rocky Flats, and a very large event was described. Already much work had been done on this, although we just became aware of it. The purpose is to raise money and awareness of Rocky Flats issues and the CAB. It indicates they have attempted for several months to obtain the blessing of DOE and CAB. I'm here tonight to represent our citizens, and to ask you not to give your blessing to this festival. We do not feel it would be an appropriate activity for that area. Residents of the Coal Creek Canyon communities, and a number of other communities in the area, have worked hard to preserve the lands west of Highway 93, to save it as passive open space. I doubt that the City of Boulder and Jefferson County would welcome an event of this type, bringing thousands of people onto to the land, after all the work done to save those rare prairies. There would be much trampling of fragile vegetation and rare grasses that need to be preserved. A large festival in western Colorado several years ago, allowed on national forest land, caused a great deal of damage and a lot of expense. We certainly don't need that kind of publicity. The area isn't prepared to handle the traffic, the parking or the logistics of something like this. We live west of this area, and the fire danger is always a concern out there, with the dry grasses and the wind. I ask you to consider the potential liability, as well as concerns of neighbors who are asking you not to do this. We appreciate what CAB does, and there does need to be more community awareness of what is being done. But in the opinion of many area citizens, staging this event would give CAB a black eye rather than a boost. We ask you to say no.

**Comment: Kenneth Werth:** A couple of weeks ago, there was a big dust storm on the Rocky Flats ridge, caused by 80+ mph winds. The winds head southeast toward Westminster, Arvada and metro Denver. You are talking about building rubble disposition options tonight, and possibly storing it onsite. I do not believe the building rubble should be stockpiled onsite due to the high winds that are generated in the area around Rocky Flats. The winds can uproot trees, tear roofs from houses and overturn trucks and trailers. How can anyone think the rubble does not have the potential to be transported by wind? You will also have to dig up plumes for soil residues and low level waste. I believe it is an accident in the making to stockpile the rubble out there on the site.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON ROCKY FLATS' FY2000 BUDGET:**

Frazer Lockhart, with DOE-RFFO, gave a brief presentation on the status of the Rocky Flats budget request for FY2000. The President's budget was submitted to Congress in January. Figures for Rocky Flats included in that budget are derived from the President's request. There is a slight delay in releasing the information in order to allow Congress time to receive and digest the budget request information. Since budgets must be submitted well in advance of their actual approval, in April of 1998 the site submitted a budget request for a total of \$649 million, which also ties into the *Paths to Closure* document produced in June 1998. The President's funding request for Rocky Flats was for just over \$657 million. However, approximately \$12 million of those funds will be transferred to the Savannah River site budget, since that site will take over a project involving production of shipping containers originally slated to be done by Rocky Flats. This leaves a total requested and anticipated budget for Rocky Flats of just over \$645 million. In both FY98 and FY99, the site received substantially more in its actual appropriation than was included in the President's request. FY98 budget actually received was \$632 million; for FY99 that amount was \$657 million. Of the amount requested for FY2000, following are some figures for projects and activities:

- Plutonium stabilization activities \$79.5 million
- Special nuclear materials activities and projects \$22.3 million
- Closure projects (Buffer Zone, Industrial Zone, and specific buildings) \$127.2 million
- Waste management project \$79.7 million
- Utilities and infrastructure projects \$50 million (including improvement and replacement activities)
- Safeguards and security project \$43.5 million
- Analytical services \$7.8 million
- DOE-RFFO program support \$18.8 million
- Kaiser-Hill project management \$121 million
- Management project \$106 million

The Board asked for a more detailed explanation of what was comprised in the last time

line items, since those two together constitute about one-third of the entire budget request. DOE will provide that information to CAB.

A more detailed submittal of the budget request will be prepared in April, which shows an alignment with the Closure Project baseline and other planning documents for the site.

**BUILDING RUBBLE DISPOSITION DISCUSSION:** John Rampe with DOE brought to the Board responses to questions, comments and information requests from its last meeting. The Board reviewed that information, and then following its decision-making process began a round-robin discussion of each member's viewpoint on building rubble issues, identifying individual positions and concerns. Some comments follow:

- Ensure that characterization of the rubble is accurate and thorough.
- The standard used to determine if the rubble is clean was developed for other uses; might not be applicable to building rubble.
- Concerns about characterization and remediation of contamination under the buildings.
- Rubble must be cleaned to the free release standard, and that standard should result in total alpha activity not to exceed 23.05 pCi/G.
- Transporting the rubble offsite might not be subject to the same strict regulations as transportation of waste.
- Soil action levels issues should be settled first; and use stringent sampling techniques for characterizing the contamination under buildings.
- Need to decide what to do about under-building contamination before deciding whether to fill the foundations.

After reviewing those comments, the following areas of convergence were identified:

- The Board supports the onsite disposition of building rubble, provided it is clean.
- Characterization and remediation of under-building contamination must be completed before filling the foundations with any fill materials.

Remaining issues the Board would like to see addressed:

- Independent verification of total background alpha radiation;
- Further definition of cleanup levels for under-building contamination; and
- How to verify adequate characterization of under-building contamination has occurred and that appropriate remediation is completed prior to filling the foundations.

Staff will prepare a draft recommendation for the Board's review at its next meeting based on the comments taken tonight, which will include issues that it would like to see resolved

by DOE prior to proceeding with building rubble disposition plans.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No comments were received.

**"ROCK THE FLATS" DISCUSSION:** At the February 4 meeting, Board members decided to postpone a discussion of this project to its next meeting, to allow more time on the agenda. "Rock the Flats" is a proposed 24-hour music festival to be held near the Rocky Flats site. CAB was proposed as a potential beneficiary of funds generated by the festival, and had some preliminary discussions on this topic in October. Chris Shields, festival promoter, produced a promotional brochure. That brochure makes many references to CAB, which implies the Board is officially involved in festival plans. Several Board members were concerned about the use of the brochure, with CAB's name, without their prior knowledge or approval. Following the last meeting, DOE was asked to give a legal opinion to CAB as to whether the Board could accept funds from the proceeds of this festival; however, DOE could not provide that legal opinion and suggested the Board contract with its own attorney to have that issue resolved. After much discussion, a vote was held, and the Board decided by a simple majority vote not to be involved with this project at all. A letter will be drafted by staff to Chris Shields informing him of that decision.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** March 4, 1999, 6 - 9:30 p.m. (work session)

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

**Agenda:** • *Follow-up on Solar Ponds Plume Proposed Action Memorandum; report on worker accident and contamination; presentation on low level waste disposition and the Deer Trail site*

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Prepare draft recommendation on building rubble disposition issues - Staff
2. Prepare letter to Chris Shields regarding CAB's decision not to be involved with the "Rock the Flats" project - Staff

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 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



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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