

ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION

January 19, 1999

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgins, AlphaTRAC

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

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Barker, Susan Barron, Ray Betts, Shawn Burke, Eugene DeMayo, Gerald DePoorter, Derek Dye, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Bob Kanick, Jim Kinsinger, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Bryan Taylor / Steve Gunderson, Mariane Anderson

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Aluisi, Tom Clark, Tom Davidson, Beverly Lyne, David Navarro, Linda Sikkema / Joe Legare, Tim Rehder

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Kenneth Werth (citizen); Norma Castaneda (DOE); Jessica Alcorn (IIRM); Lane Butler (Kaiser-Hill); Tom Stewart (CDPHE); Annette Primrose (RMRS); Carl Spreng (CDPHE); Gary Kleeman (EPA); Alan Trenary (citizen); Grace Sandeno (CDPHE); Anna Martinez (DOE); Mark Wickers (citizen); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Brady Wilson (CAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

DOE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE STATE OF THE FLATS

MEETING: DOE will hold its second annual "State of the Flats" meeting on Wednesday, January 27, at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Boulevard in Arvada. The annual report corresponding to what will be reported at the meeting was mailed to Board members and other interested stakeholders on January 19. Invitations to the meeting were sent to members of the community. The meeting is scheduled from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. A welcoming reception and registration begins at 5 p.m. Everyone was asked to RSVP to DOE-Communications at the site.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON EAST TRENCHES AND SOLAR PONDS PLUMES PROPOSED ACTION MEMORANDUM DOCUMENTS: Anette Primrose, a representative of RMRS at the Rocky Flats site, gave a presentation on the

Proposed Action Memorandum documents for these two projects. Both the East Trenches and Solar Ponds plumes involve groundwater remediation, with objectives to protect the surface water, intercept contaminated groundwater near streams, and minimize impacts to the habitat of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse. What the site proposes to do is to install passive or low-maintenance systems to achieve these objectives.

The **East Trenches Plume** is comprised primarily of volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated groundwater, above RFCA Tier I action levels, which extends to South Walnut Creek and impacts the stream. Contaminants found in the groundwater include trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and carbon tetrachloride. The plume here is associated with events at Trenches T3/T4, which contained sanitary sewage sludge, volatile organic compounds, crushed drums, and miscellaneous waste. Both trenches were remediated in FY96. The groundwater in this area flows to the north and northeast. The proposed remedial action is to build a collection and treatment system (similar to what is used at the Mound Plume) — a modified French drain 1,200 foot collection system upgradient of South Walnut Creek. This would be a passive treatment system containing reactive iron to destroy the VOCs. The iron in the treatment cells degrades VOCs by creating conditions where hydrogen is substituted for chlorine, leaving end products such as ethene, ethane, and chloride irons. The proposed system will be operational past site closure, and long-term monitoring will be conducted. Project cost is approximately \$1.6 million, and the public comment period is open through January 28.

At the site there are five Solar Evaporation Ponds, used from 1953 to 1986 to store and evaporate process wastes and other liquids. Removal of pond sludge was completed in 1995. However, there is a plume of nitrate and uranium-contaminated groundwater, which extends north and east from the solar ponds to the North Walnut Creek drainage. Water from the **Solar Ponds Plume** currently is collected and evaporated; this system is scheduled for D&D prior to site closure and has high maintenance and overhead costs. Data indicates that higher concentrations of nitrate are likely in the future, and are moving toward North Walnut Creek. A remedial action now can prevent higher concentrations from reaching the stream. The proposed system is similar to that for the East Trenches Plume — building an 850 foot long collection system, with passive flow-through treatment cells, containing reactive iron to reduce nitrates and remove uranium. The project is expected to cost approximately \$2.2 million. The public comment period begins in February.

Board members provided comments on these proposed projects, summarized below:

- It is better to use maximum flow rates rather than average flow rates.
- Develop a cost/benefit analysis that factors in any stewardship costs and maintenance of the systems in the future.
- Influent and effluent waters should be monitored closely to ensure radionuclides are adequately removed by this treatment system.

- There was a determination that the East Trenches Plume has a much lower groundwater flow rate than the Solar Ponds. Due to the proximity of these areas, shouldn't the flows be more similar?
- Will the treatment systems be able to handle higher flow rates as a result of flooding and wet seasons?
- Concerns about possible seepage of the Solar Ponds Plume via surface discharge, what are the contingencies for mitigating seep impacts to water quality?
- CAB requested the following information:
 - results from the bench scale tests from both plumes;
 - performance data from the Mound Plume project;
 - a copy of the plume maps; and
 - specifics about the mechanisms and chemistry that allows the iron filings to remove uranium.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION / COMMENTS ON RADIOACTIVE

WASTE STORAGE PROPOSAL: Kenneth Werth, who is a citizen of Arvada, was given an opportunity to present his concept for a storage facility at the Rocky Flats site. Mr. Werth proposes that a pyramid facility be built at Rocky Flats, which would be the only structure remaining onsite. This pyramid would house a centralized storage facility, built in the center of the above ground pyramid-type structure. The structure would be built using granite blocks, and could possibly accommodate more than 963,000 cubic yards of low level, low level mixed waste, building rubble, soil residue, and transuranic waste if that is also left onsite in the event the WIPP facility does not open. Mr. Werth believes his proposed facility would have substantial cost savings for DOE, and help to solve the country's problems with storage and disposition of waste. After his presentation, CAB members and others in the audience had a few comments and questions, such as whether the waste will be containerized, if any studies have been done on the feasibility of using granite to contain radioactive waste, as well as concerns about the budget numbers used. Other individuals may submit questions and comments to Mr. Werth in writing.

SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION: Erin Rogers gave a presentation of the CAB slide show, which has been in development over the past year. The Board has had opportunity to review and revise the script of the slide show during the past few months. Board members were given comment forms and were asked to write down their thoughts and comments on the slide show as it was presented. The comment forms were collected at the end of the presentation, and Erin then went over with the Board any specific comments. A few changes were recommended; Erin will make those along with any relevant comments from the forms collected as a final slide show script. The Board gave general approval of the slide show, and asked for one final review of the script after those changes were incorporated. Next step will be to offer CAB presentations at schools and local civic or community organizations. Board members will be asked to participate in giving those presentations as part of CAB's Speaker's Bureau.

CAB VISION DEVELOPMENT UPDATE / DISCUSSION: Staff members reviewed for the Board the status of preparations for the remainder of CAB's Vision discussion. First, an outline was prepared of what the Vision report could conceivably look like, including: an executive summary of recommendations; background information on the site and the Board itself; CAB's core values related to cleanup and closure; and specific recommendations on items identified in the Board's work plan such as waste management, environmental restoration, D&D, shipment of special nuclear materials, and reuse/stewardship. The Board will focus its discussions on three major areas: 1) what should be removed from Rocky Flats; 2) what can remain at Rocky Flats; and 3) stewardship and natural resources management. A draft of the first section to come out of the Vision discussions was included in the Board packet, and covered generally the Board's discussion on how it feels about storage of waste at the WIPP site. This was prepared to give the Board an idea of what type of recommendations may be expected from their discussions. A first draft of the background sections of the Vision report should be available for the Board's review at its April 1 meeting. Updates will be given as more sections are added to the document, with an expected review and approval of the final report by the end of summer.

Next, staff reviewed for the Board a timeline it developed on the order of discussions. According to this timeline, a natural progression was developed of which topics should be covered and in what order. The Board meets twice a month through July, and each topic generally has been given a course of three meetings, overlapping with other topics. This will allow the Board to first receive information, second to allow substantive discussion on the topics, and third to come to resolution on its position on each issue. CAB tentatively approved following this timeline and schedule for discussion, but will leave it open for further refinement as necessary.

RESET DATE FOR WIPP TOUR: At the last Board meeting, CAB had selected a date for a tour of the WIPP facility. However, DOE was not able to accommodate the tour on that specific day. CAB selected an alternate date of Friday February 12. The Board and others on the tour will depart on Friday, February 12 from Jefferson County Airport. The tour will be conducted Friday afternoon, and guests will stay overnight in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Everyone will return on Saturday, February 13. Meetings with stakeholders and local groups may be planned for the evening of February 12. Erin Rogers will finalize arrangements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Committee. Salary increases were approved for staff.

NEXT MEETING:

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

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

Agenda: Presentation on disposition of building rubble; review and approval of RFP for the Actinide Migration Studies Technical Review Group; follow-up information regarding the Proposed Action Memorandum Documents — East Trenches and Solar Ponds Plumes.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:

1. Summarize comments on the East Trenches Plume and Solar Ponds Plume Proposed Action Memorandum Documents; forward to DOE - Ken Korkia
2. Revise slideshow script to incorporate final comments from Board - Erin Rogers
3. Finalize arrangements for CAB tour of WIPP site on February 12 - Erin Rogers
- 4.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:20 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.

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