



**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 2, 2001**  
**6 to 9:30 p.m.**

Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building,  
11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgins

Jerry DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Allen, Suzanne Allen, Robin Byrnes, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Maureen Eldredge, Shirley Garcia, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters, Earl Sorrels, Markuené Sumler / Steve Gunderson, John Rampe, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Gallegos, Jason Krupar, Tom Marshall / Jeremy Karpatkin

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Rob Henneke (EPA); Lane Butler (Kaiser-Hill); Anna Martinez (DOE-RFFO); Melissa Anderson (RFCLoG); Carl Spreng (CDPHE); Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill); Norma Castaneda (DOE-RFFO); Lee Norland (Kaiser-Hill); Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff); Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff); Noelle Stenger (RFCAB staff); Deb Thompson (RFCAB staff)

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

**REGULATOR UPDATE (CDPHE):** Steve Gunderson, ex-officio representative from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, gave his quarterly update:

- RSALs: At next week's RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group meeting, the RSAL Working Group will provide preliminary numbers for two key scenarios, wildlife refuge worker and rural resident, including calculations for key parameters. The numbers will be both preliminary dose-based numbers, as well as numbers within the CERCLA risk range. Calculations for open space user, office worker, and resident rancher will be forthcoming in yet another week. This release of numbers will signal the beginning of the public process and discussion of RSALs selected.

- A major milestone occurred at Rocky Flats last week when the old Protected Area was closed. It has been consolidated into the new, smaller, reconfigured Protected Area within the Building 371 complex. The old Protected Area is now open. Fences are being torn down and will be gone in another week or so. Three guard towers are no longer in use; the fourth tower near Building 371 will continue to be used. The other three towers will be brought down with explosives this fall.
- The Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System is processing cans at a slow rate, around two a day. Full production rate is eight to nine cans a day, which assumes two working shifts producing cans and a night shift for staging and maintenance. All cans will ultimately be shipped to the Savannah River Site.
- Regarding TRU waste shipments: last week the site completed six shipments to WIPP. One year ago they only completed one or two shipments a week. The site hopes to be able to ship nine per week by end of the year. RFETS is working on an additional TRU waste shipping facility, planned to be operational by fall.
- ER RSOP: Kaiser-Hill has been working on drafting new language dealing with issues raised by stakeholders, particularly to include stewardship issues in the ER RSOP. CDPHE has reviewed an outline of language that will be included. KH is also preparing language to address ALARA issues, and upgrades on how it intends to keep the public involved about work being done.
- Soil management RSOP: Some community members have raised concerns that issues brought forth were not addressed. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to address those concerns.
- South side strategy: The south side essentially is buildings at the site that do not include the plutonium buildings, those buildings located south of all plutonium buildings. Kaiser-Hill has approached CDPHE with a strategy to tackle the south side. A proposal will be announced at the next D&D meeting later this month. The site is proposing to divide the south side into five large areas, and to perform D&D work in each area before moving on to the next area. This strategy will free up large amounts of land for beginning work on environmental cleanup. The first area proposed is the 800 area in the southeast corridor. Kaiser-Hill hopes to begin south side D&D in the early part of 2003.
- Demolition is scheduled in the near future for Building 111, by September 30. Right now Kaiser-Hill is working on asbestos abatement in that building. Building 333 will be demolished in the fall. These are both Type 1, non-contaminated structures.

**RSAL educational session #2, key parameters of interest:** On the agenda for this meeting was part 2 of the Board's series of educational sessions on the RSALs. Two discussions were slated: mass loading and soil ingestion rates. However, the RSAL Working Group was unable to provide an expert to attend the meeting and discuss soil ingestion rates. A substitute brief discussion was then scheduled on exposure frequency. A list of questions developed by the Environmental Restoration Committee was provided to the RSAL Working Group before the meeting.

First, Bob Nininger with Kaiser-Hill gave a brief background discussion on mass loading (the amount of contaminated dust that becomes suspended in the air as a result of wind erosion or

mechanical disturbances). Mr. Nininger began by presenting some background information on mass loading, discussing the process for generating data, and how precipitation influences the incidence of dust. He also reviewed the results of the wind tunnel tests performed last year. Then he presented the responses to the Board's questions 9 through 13 (those questions associated with mass loading). His responses are summarized below. A copy of the presentation and complete responses can be obtained from RFCAB staff.

9. **Regarding vertical pounding that accompanies high-wind events at Rocky Flats:** Large-scale vertical turbulence is damped out as the wind approaches the ground surface, and is caused to flow horizontally. Near the surface, only small-scale turbulence is in effect; that turbulence plays a role in the erosion of small particles and is replicated in the wind tunnel.
10. **Regarding the potential distortion of wind tunnel results by high winds immediately following the fire:** Site meteorological data show wind speeds to have been relatively low in the 24-hour period after the April 2000 test burn. This would have affected the erosion potential measured by the wind tunnel at low wind speeds, but not at higher wind speeds where the majority of erosion potential is measured. Increased erosion potential due to denuded soil, as estimated by the RSAL Working Group, takes into account the entire erosion curve. Therefore, the small degradation of the curve at low wind speeds has no measurable effect on the overall results.
11. **Investigating sampler data from fires at other DOE sites, and data from the burning of the 903 Pad:** Kaiser-Hill has contacted site representatives at Hanford, INEEL, and Los Alamos. Data have been collected to determine the impact of fires on radionuclide levels around the burn areas. However, these data are not accompanied by baseline data that allow determination of relative impacts on air quality. Kaiser-Hill will continue to monitor the results at other sites, in particular Hanford. Kaiser-Hill has not yet had a chance to review the document discussing burn data from the 903 Pad.
12. **Mass loading in the aftermath of a fire:** The response provided to the Board was incorrect. Mr. Nininger will provide a corrected response to this question at the next meeting.
13. **Increase of mass loading by 14% in the event of a drought:** At Rocky Flats, the number of annual precipitation days is limited, and the range is equally limited, which results in small differences between "normal" and "dry" years. Should emissions be scaled as though there were no precipitation during the year, the emissions would be increased by 36% instead of 14%. The RSAL Working Group did not consider the latter number to be reasonable. It also did not look at the mitigating effects of variable snow cover or soil moisture following a precipitation event.

Next, Tim Rehder with EPA briefly talked about exposure frequency. He discussed two scenarios under consideration at this time: the wildlife refuge worker and the rural resident. If institutional controls fail, the rural rancher scenario is the next likely scenario to be used. For the rural resident, this is considered a semi-rural development at Rocky Flats of approximately five-acre ranchettes. The mean amount of time living there for an individual is estimated at 12.6 years.

This time frame is general for residents across U.S. The exposure frequency considered is 234 days, which includes the amount of time spent on site as 85% indoors and 15% outdoors. These assumptions are compiled from EPA's exposure assessment handbook, based on nationwide information. This brought up some discussion among the Board about risks associated with exposure to plutonium.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMITTEE ON THE ER RSOP:**

The Board approved a recommendation transmitting comments in response to its working draft (May 2001) of the ER RSOP. The recommendation states:

1. RFCAB supports the overall premise of the ER RSOP.
2. The ER RSOP makes no mention of stewardship considerations; a section should be added to define how long-term stewardship will be incorporated into remedial decisions.
3. The language of the ER RSOP should be amended to identify the mechanism whereby the ALARA principle could be used to accomplish greater cleanup. Also, the ER RSOP should define the process for documenting the application of the ALARA principle.
4. RFCAB requests clarification on the backfill criteria. Specifically, RFCAB is concerned about soils that are treated via thermal desorption and then used as backfill, even if relatively high levels of hazardous constituents remain. RFCAB questions whether soil that has already been subject to a removal action should be returned to the environment.
5. RFCAB feels it may be premature for DOE to consider implementing this RSOP before the RSALs have been determined and the ALARA process is more clearly defined. RFCAB requests that the ER RSOP include a provision prohibiting implementation until final decisions are made on the RSALs and the ALARA process.
6. RFCAB requests a section of the ER RSOP to delineate the regulator's role in implementing this RSOP, which describes checks-and-balances and where regulatory approval is required during a specific project.
7. RFCAB requests that ER staff provide regular updates to the Board on the status of remediation projects, as well as user-friendly summaries of the documentation required by RFCA. The purpose of the updates would be to inform the public of work completed, in progress, and still to come. Receiving information in real-time, rather than after the fact, would put the community in a better position to affect cleanup decisions.

**WORK SESSION PLANNING:** RFCAB will hold a special work session this month to continue to address RSAL issues. The Board agreed to include the following items on the agenda for that work session:

- Soil Action Levels 101
- Risk Assessment 101 and risk management (including EPA risk equations)
- Overview of RESRAD
- Description of the scenarios
- Open dialogue with experts on:

- Key parameters (including explanation of conservatism built into numbers selected)
- Selection of particular risk levels to serve as basis for RSALs
- ALARA

The work session will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room, 11755 Airport Way in Broomfield.

**DISCUSSION OF EMPLOYEE MANUAL:** Over the past few months, staff has worked with RFCAB's attorney to review and revise the Board's employee policies. A revised version of the employee manual was sent to the Board for its review and approval. RFCAB unanimously approved the new draft of the Personnel Policies Manual.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** August 15, 2001, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room,  
11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

**Agenda:** Soil Action Level Discussion #3: overview; risk assessment; and open dialogue regarding key parameters, risk levels, ALARA

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 p.m. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Jeffrey Eggleston, 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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