

**ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION**

**January 4, 2001  
6 — 9:30 p.m.**

**College Hill Library, Front Range Community College  
3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, Colorado**

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**FACILITATOR:** Reed Hodgkin

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

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robin Byrnes, Eugene DeMayo, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Tom Gallegos, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Paul Jurasin, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters, Bill Petersen, Markuené Sumler, Bryan Taylor, Curt Watts / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, John Rampe, Tim Rehder

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mary Mattson

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Roman Kohler (citizen); Kathy Wahlberg (CDPHE); Gary Morgan (DOE); Glenn Doyle (DOE); John Marler (RFCLoG); Jack Hanson (Kaiser-Hill); Kristi Pollard (Wayne Allard's office); Hank Stovall (Broomfield); Shirley Garcia (Broomfield); Louise Janson (citizen); Regina Wicks (COPIRG); Frazer Lockhart (DOE); Alan Trenary (citizen); Ann Lockhart (CDPHE); John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill); Herb Browarsky (citizen); Lynn Segal (citizen); Howard Segal (citizen); Carl Spreng (CDPHE); Jason Shaw (Canberra); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Noelle Stenger (CAB staff); Jerry Henderson (CAB staff)

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Louise Janson: Reed Hodgkin read for Ms. Janson three written questions and comments to the Board:

1. Spencer Abraham has been nominated as our new Secretary of Energy. As a former senator, he advocated the abolishment of this department and is not a very strong advocate of protecting the environment. Are any of the Board members aware of whether or not he has sufficient knowledge and experience regarding the

cleanup of former weapons sites to serve in this position. Tom Marshall indicated he would discuss this issue with Ms. Janson at the break.

2. Has there been communication with the advisory boards at the other cleanup sites regarding this nominee? Jerry DePoorter stated that there has been no communication to his knowledge.
3. Would this Board be willing to make inquiries with other groups about this nominee? Jerry DePoorter noted that this might be an issue that will come up at the EMSSAB Chairs meeting in Las Vegas in February. It also may be discussed on the EMSSAB Chairs conference call next week, but he has not seen an agenda yet for either the conference call or the chairs meeting.

**REGULATOR UPDATE — CDPHE:** Steve Gunderson (CDPHE) gave his quarterly update to the Board:

- The Building 707 DOP has been modified to include comments received from regulators and stakeholders. All modifications will need to be reviewed before the document can be approved by CDPHE.
- A draft of the Building 371 DOP has been prepared and will be sent out for public comment.
- A major modification to the Building 771 DOP is out for public comment. One of the modifications related to the use of limited explosives at the foundation of the Building 771 stack so that the stack will drop where it is supposed to drop. Because the stack has some contamination, CDPHE will not approve this change in the DOP until more information is gathered.
- Tests on cleanup equipment to be size reduced in Building 771 are underway; plasma arc cutting should begin on that equipment soon.
- CDPHE and EPA are fining DOE \$40,000 for missing the RFCA milestone of storing transuranic waste in Building 906 by September 1, 2000. Actual storage of the waste did not begin until September 22.
- Kaiser-Hill hopes to shrink the Protected Area to only the Building 371 complex by the end of January. The smaller Protected Area will have state of the art security systems. The site hopes to close the entire Protected Area in 2003.
- Important issues and activities to be monitored this year include the plutonium packaging system; Building 111 D&D; studies on water balance, land configuration design, and actinide migration; robotics and remote handling size reduction systems for plutonium buildings; transuranic waste shipments to WIPP; and characterization of Building 771 underbuilding contamination.

**EARNED VALUE SYSTEM PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:** Frazer Lockhart and Glenn Doyle, both with DOE-Rocky Flats, attended the Board meeting to give a presentation on the recently established Earned Value system to be used in conjunction with the remainder of Kaiser-Hill's closure contract. Earned value is a project management tool used to measure project performance, and is a measure of actual work

completed versus planned work during a given time period. It also serves as an indicator of problem areas within the project. All measurements are determined in dollars to allow comparisons with a single unit of measure. Earned value is the primary indicator of schedule performance and one of several key indicators used to determine Kaiser-Hill's provisional quarterly fee payments. All fees under Kaiser-Hill's contract are provisional until the full terms of the contract are met. Only earned value tasks that are 100% complete are considered as complete, no partial credit is given. The RFCA principals established the framework for using earned value to establish regulatory milestones in late October. Both CDPHE and EPA approved the RFCA Earned Value milestones on December 6. The proposed milestones originated from the same earned value matrix DOE uses for the Rocky Flats closure project, which is derived from the closure project baseline. The earned value matrix shows the assigned dollar value associated with the completion of regulated activities planned for each fiscal year. RFCA Earned Value milestones have been identified for fiscal years 01-03 only. There are approximately 750 activities to be completed over the life of the closure project. RFCA Earned Value milestones are "binned" into four categories: decontamination and decommissioning, low level waste shipments, transuranic waste shipments, and environmental restoration. Completing at least 50% of all earned value in each binned area constitutes a separate Earned Value milestone. The system is structured so that the site gets credit for all completed earned value in the year in which it is completed, regardless of the year in which it was scheduled. For example, if work scheduled in the out-years is completed early, it counts toward completion of the Earned Value milestone. Or, if activities scheduled in the D&D category cannot be completed in a given year, equivalent D&D planned for out-years can be used to make up for it. To achieve the 50% threshold, the work must stay within the programmatic "bins" established as milestones.

In addition to the Earned Value milestones, the agreement calls for a few out-year milestones (beyond FY2003), which include:

- Complete field mobilization and begin implementing remedy described in the approved 903 Pad IM/IRA decision document by June 1, 2003;
- Complete the remedial action identified in 903 Pad IM/IRA decision document, including disposition of remedial waste, by September 30, 2005;
- Complete the demolition of Building 776 by October 31, 2006;
- Complete D&D of Building 371 by October 31, 2007;
- Complete shipments of all TRU waste from Rocky Flats by December 15, 2007;
- Complete all Individual Hazardous Substance Sites remedial actions, not including operations and maintenance, by December 15, 2007.

The milestones are based on a schedule of 2006 plus 12 months. The site feels this system will help reduce the possibility of conflicts between regulatory compliance and safety by allowing the substitution of tasks of equal earned value without incurring a regulatory penalty. It provides greater flexibility in managing activities, allowing the site to shift

resources while still assuring that at least 50% of the regulated activities are achieved. The earned value system is used to measure the actual closure work of the contract. It does not cover preparatory work or overhead. This actual closure work corresponds to \$1.1 billion in earned value. If Kaiser-Hill fails in any given fiscal year to meet the minimum amounts of work required by the RFCA milestones, the site will be subject to regulatory penalties. A major delay in the schedule might require a change in the milestones.

Each quarter, Kaiser-Hill must complete an agreed-upon level of earned value. It is up to Kaiser-Hill to determine how to reach that level. Each quarter, DOE and Kaiser-Hill look at the list of activities and determine which are 100% complete. The total dollar value of the activities completed becomes the earned value for that quarter. The quarter's earned value is compared against the earned value that was planned for the quarter. If Kaiser-Hill accomplishes more earned value than planned they are ahead of schedule; if they fall short of the earned value planned for the quarter, they are behind schedule. Failure to meet the RFCA Earned Value milestones can result in penalties up to \$20,000 per week. RFCA earned value will be monitored and communicated with the regulators on a routine basis.

**RSAL REVIEW TASK 4 PRESENTATION ON NEW SCIENCE:** As the RSAL Review Task 4 Report was not yet available, Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill) gave a brief presentation on the results of wind tunnel tests in the area where a prescribed burn was conducted last spring. As part of the Actinide Migration Evaluation, the site is reviewing different pathways for potential contamination. One pathway under review is related to the effects of fire on resuspension of soils at the site. A wind tunnel was used to gather samples and information on resuspension of soils. In this type of wind tunnel, a large fan unit draws air from an inlet and moves the air across the surface of simulated vegetation or soil in an attempt to simulate resuspension. This is done in increments ranging from no wind, to wind speeds of up to 125 miles per hour (or the equivalent of that speed on the surface). The air then moves to a sampling area in the wind tunnel where particles are counted as they pass through. The site was particularly interested in the information gathered after the prescribed burn last spring, and following a fire ignited by a lightning strike last July. The objectives were: 1) to measure erosion potential of burned and unburned soil plots; 2) to observe differences in size distribution of burned and unburned dust; 3) to measure "dustiness" of soils with different moisture content in burned and unburned areas; 4) to determine differences in organic/elemental carbon in resuspended soils, both burned and unburned; and 5) if sufficient radionuclides are present as a result of the wildfire, to compare the relative activity in soil and airborne dust. "Dustiness" testing is a measure of a soil's tendency to erode. The wind tunnel tests on the wildfire produced the same results as with the prescribed burn. There has not yet been a characterization of the recovery, but added testing for radionuclide content in soil and in airborne dust is planned. Preliminary findings indicate there may be a dilution of soils by other particles being blown in from clean sources and contaminants settling underneath, since contaminated soil resurfaces after it is raked. The site's path forward is to analyze results of wind tunnel tests, to integrate those results with known information regarding

wind erosion at site, and model post-fire scenarios using wind tunnel information and other site observations.

**UPDATE ON BUILDING 771 WORKER CONTAMINATION:** Mark Spears returned to give an update on the status of recent worker contaminations in Building 771. He noted that the site still has not identified an event for most of the workers who were contaminated. However, they have identified an event for one of the workers, which happened a few days before that person was asked to submit a bioassay sample. The results of fecal sampling are very dependent on the timing of the event that brought about the contamination. This particular individual was in the process of removing a pipe chase and had sampled the accessible surfaces. Another worker overhead was wearing a respirator and chipping away at concrete. When the piece of pipe was removed from the concrete, a local airborne radioactivity alarm went off. The contaminated worker was underneath and without respiratory protection when it happened. The pipe "sleeve" was not expected to be contaminated since it was not the actual pipe that contained liquids. A survey of the external components showed it was expected to be safe, but the work being done exposed an internal surface that had not been surveyed. The results of tests on the ten contaminated workers revalidated the first tests, to make certain there was no laboratory error. Some additional workers have volunteered samples; results from those tests have not yet been received. The investigation into this occurrence is expected to be completed by the end of January. All work in the building is currently being done with respiratory protection, with continuous air monitoring, and with additional oversight of work practices. However, they still have found nothing to explain the contamination. Paul Hartmann then mentioned two separate incidents where a criticality infraction was declared in Building 707 on both December 21 and December 29. These were both Level 3 infractions, related to administrative controls and compliance errors. The site is very concerned about the controls in place and is investigating. Mark Spears and Paul Hartmann were asked to return to the Board's February meeting to give an update on the status of the investigation into both the Building 771 worker contamination, and the criticality infractions in late December.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE EMSSAB STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Board approved a set of draft recommendations developed at the EMSSAB Stewardship Workshop held in Denver in October. The draft recommendations were sent back to each respective Site Specific Advisory Board for review and approval. If all the Boards approve the recommendations, they will be forwarded to DOE-Headquarters for action. The recommendations address funding, roles and responsibilities, timing of stewardship, information management, and public involvement. Highlights of the recommendations include:

- Make guaranteed funding for stewardship a national priority;
- Issue a stewardship policy that addresses a legal basis, ongoing review, site-specificity, research and development, funding, and stakeholder involvement;

- Institutionalize and implement the stewardship commitment;
- Require sites to develop stewardship plans;
- Make stewardship part of the remediation selection process;
- Consider stewardship in ongoing site operations and planned new facilities;
- Identify information needed to effectively manage stewardship;
- Include preservation and dissemination of information as required components;
- Provide education and communication activities; and
- Respond effectively to questions and concerns submitted by all stakeholders.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Personnel Committee.** The Board accepted Deb Thompson's personnel evaluation and approved a 5% raise effective January 1, 2001. All year 2001 goals as stated in her review must be met.

**Membership Committee.** The Membership Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the addition of four new members:

- **Jeff Allen.** Jeff is a project engineer with the Colorado Department of Transportation, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He previously worked with Bechtel Environmental in San Francisco, California, and managed environmental remediation and restoration activities on the DOE FUSRAP project in New Jersey. Jeff has a BS in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in six states. He lives in Arvada.
- **Suzanne Allen.** Suzanne serves as the Vice President of Operations for SunCorp Credit Union, which provides investment, liquidity and corresponding services for all credit unions in Colorado and Wyoming. A resident of Westminster, Suzanne has been interested in Rocky Flats since purchasing a home in the area several years ago. Her educational background is in English, Journalism, and Marketing.
- **Shirley Garcia.** Shirley works as the Environmental Services Coordinator for the City of Broomfield, where she deals with environmental issues as well as Rocky Flats closure issues and activities. Shirley worked at the Rocky Flats site from 1982 to 1997, and has experience with CERCLA site remediation including soil remediation, water management, and closure and capping of an onsite disposal cell. She also teaches Environmental Science at Parks College. Shirley has an MS in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver, a BS in Environmental Science from Metro State College, and an AS in Hazardous Materials Management from Front Range Community College. She lives in Westminster.
- **Earl Sorrels.** Earl is a Radiological Controls Technical Supervisor for RMRS at the Rocky Flats site. He has 21 years experience in the nuclear industry, of which ten years were involved with decommissioning, environmental remediation, and

hazardous waste treatment and disposal including transportation. Earl previously served eight years in the Naval Nuclear Power Program serving on submarines, and as a staff instructor at the Nautilus training prototype located at INEEL. He is registered with the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists. Earl resides in Littleton.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** February 1, 2001, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

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

**Agenda:** Quarterly update by the EPA; presentation and discussion of recent worker contamination and safety violations at the site; draft recommendations on RSAL review process

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**ASSIGNED  
TO:**

None

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 P.M. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Jeff 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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