

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

**May 17, 2001
6 — 9:30 p.m.**

Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Building 060, Golden

FACILITATOR: Jerry DePoorter

Jerry DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Allen, Robin Byrnes, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters, Earl Sorrels, Bryan Taylor / Joe Legare

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Maureen Eldredge, Tom Gallegos, Shirley Garcia, Mary Harlow, Jim Kinsinger, Tom Marshall, Mary Mattson, Bill Petersen, Markuené Sumler / Steve Gunderson, Jeremy Karpatkin, Tim Rehder

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: John Corsi (K-H); Roman Kohler (RF Homesteaders); Bob Bistline (DOE-RFFO); Brett Snyder (student); Anna Gelt (student); Johnathan Kent (student); Ryan Phelps (student); Matt Ericksen (student); Jeanna Blatt (DOE-RFFO); Gary Morgan (DOE-RFFO); Joshua Levin (Decision Research); Josie Ballinger (The Public Eye); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Noelle Stenger (CAB staff); Jerry Henderson (CAB staff)

ROCKY FLATS EDUCATIONAL SITE TOUR FOR BOARD MEMBERS: Prior to the meeting, the site conducted a two-hour tour of Rocky Flats for the Board members and other interested parties. The first stop on the tour was a bluff overlooking Lindsay Ranch, where Robin Romero of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service talked about the unique ecological and cultural resources found within the Rock Creek Reserve. From there, the group proceeded to the 903 Pad, the trenches, the B-Series Ponds, and the Solar Pond Passive Treatment System. Finally, tour participants were escorted into Building 664 for a presentation on the TRUPact loading facility. Board members then returned to Building 60 to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY

ISSUES: Mark Spears with Kaiser-Hill attended the meeting to give a status report about the worker uptake in Building 771 at the end of 2000. First, he reviewed for the Board what had happened at the end of the year. In November 2000, 11 workers received unexplained uptakes in Building 771. Ten of those workers had an exposure in the range of 6 to 60 millirem. The other worker may have been involved in a separate event and had a dose slightly higher than 100 millirem. Another 46 individuals volunteered for exposure tests; 28 of those individuals had a dose above decision level ranging up to 55 millirem. A team was then established to investigate the source of the exposures. The purpose of the investigation was to determine the cause or potential cause for the worker exposures. That investigation was completed in March 2001. It was determined that the exposures most likely were caused by low levels of airborne plutonium from radiological work activities over time, and exacerbated by D&D activities.

Immediately following the incident, work in the affected tent area was suspended, and overall work was curtailed in Building 771. Additional samples were requested, and respirator cleaning, testing, training, and use was assessed. An extensive contamination survey of Building 771 was performed, and additional containment was placed on gloveboxes awaiting size reduction. Some of the corrective actions recommended by the report have been completed. Those include the increased use of respiratory protection for D&D and waste handling activities, and improved control of potential airborne radioactivity areas. The 186 tent was disassembled and disposed as waste. The number of radiological protection staff was increased, and equipment, gloveboxes, etc. being used in activities are now surveyed weekly for contamination. In addition, baseline contamination surveys in overhead spaces were performed.

Some corrective actions are ongoing, some completed and others will continue. Those include to provide lessons learned to other projects and to train site RCTs on lessons learned; increase the ventilation or air flow in Building 771; provide independent radiological protection assessments; improve the facility's air monitoring program; establish independent review of D&D tent design and ventilation; and evaluate the site's calculation of potential intake factors.

In summary, Mark stated that the exposures were within regulatory limits. Many corrective actions have been identified and are being implemented. He also noted, however, that some level of internal exposure to radionuclides is to be expected in individuals who are directly involved in D&D activities. But he reassured the Board that the site's goal is to maintain exposures As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA).

Barbara Mazurowski (DOE Site Manager) and Alan Parker (Kaiser-Hill) will attend the Board's June meeting to give a detailed report and to discuss issues related to site safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMITTEE UPDATE: Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff) gave the Board a brief update on the activities of the Environmental Restoration Committee. The committee has spent a lot of time working on the RSAL review. At its last meeting, committee members reviewed the RSAL report (Task 4) on New Science. Both the RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group and the RSAL Stakeholder Workshop conducted at the end of April have helped to identify additional scientific information to be included in that report. The RSAL review Task 3 report on Parameter Evaluation, which is the most detailed, should be available in June. The RSAL final report is slated to begin a public comment period in August. The committee more recently has also discussed the Asphalt and Soil Management RSOP. The public comment period for that document is May 17 through July 2. A recommendation will be prepared at the next committee meeting and be ready for the Board's review at its June meeting. The site's Environmental Restoration RSOP will be released next week, and the committee is proposing that a presentation on this document be given to the Board in June.

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The Environmental Restoration Committee originally had prepared a letter to DOE requesting an extension of the public comment period for the RFCA Standard Operating Protocol (RSOP) for Asphalt and Soil Management. Prior to this meeting, the site had already granted an extension, so this agenda item was tabled as it is no longer relevant.

RECOMMENDATION ON ALARA: Bill Kossack, RFCAB member and co-chair of the Environmental Restoration Committee, presented a draft recommendation from that committee for the Board's review and approval. After one minor change was made, the Board unanimously agreed to the recommendation regarding the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principle. The recommendation states:

- the agencies should develop a detailed ALARA proposal and detailed protocol prior to completion of the RSAL review;
- the proposal needs to be explicit as to the scope of ALARA application (for instance, is ALARA to be applied only at sites where contamination exceeds the RSAL, or more broadly?);
- the agencies should explain how the ALARA decision-making process would differ among various cleanup projects; and
- it is vitally important that the community be fully engaged in the process of defining ALARA.

BOARD RETREAT: A date has been selected for the Board's annual retreat. It will be held on Saturday, September 15. The location will be determined at a later date.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: June 7, 2001, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

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

Agenda: Update by EPA; discussion with Barbara Mazurowski and Alan Parker about site safety; recommendation on RSOP for Asphalt and Soil Management; presentation on ER RSOP

ACTION ITEM:

**ASSIGNED
TO:**

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9 P.M. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jeffrey Eggleston, 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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