

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2004  
6 to 9 p.m.  
College Hill Library, Room L268  
Front Range Community College, Westminster**

Victor Holm, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Suzanne Allen, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Victor Holm, Bill Kossack, Mike Maus, Andrew Ross / Rich Schassburger (DOE), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), John Rampe (DOE), Mark Aguilar (EPA), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM), Dean Rundle (USFWS)

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Erin Hamby, Mary Mattson, Bill McNeill, Sean Rea, Vanessa Safonovs, Phil Tomlinson / John Rampe (DOE)

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Alan Trenary (Westminster resident), Rob Henneke (EPA), Ralph Stephens (Denver), James Horan (Denver), Gerald DePoorter (Unincorporated Boulder County), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS), Lane Butler (Kaiser-Hill), Norma Castaneda (DOE), Ted Auker (CLTC) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

**PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no public comment.

**New Business:**

Steve Gunderson with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment advised the Board that they should schedule a future presentation on the demolition plan for building 776. Because of the extent of contamination in the building, it will not be possible to achieve free release standards before the building is demolished. Thus, the demolition plan will need to address this fact. He advised that Vic Rizutto would be a good person to address the Board on this topic. The Board agreed this would be a good topic for either the July or August meeting.

Ken Korkia next provided several updates. He first reported that Dr. Michael Brooks with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) had contacted him and stated that the Rocky Flats Public Health Assessment his agency has been preparing will be available for public comment by the end of the year. Dr. Brooks would like to give a presentation on the health assessment at the September meeting. The Board agreed this would be a good presentation topic. Ken will follow-up with Dr. Brooks.

Ken also asked the members whether they would like to change the dates for the September meetings to avoid any conflicts with Labor Day. The Board agreed to change the monthly Board meeting to September 9, while Committee Night will be held on September 23.

Next, Ken reported that two tours are planned at Rocky Flats. The first tour, on Wednesday, June 9, is for community members and will focus on the areas involved in the 903 Pad Lip Area remediation. The second tour, on Tuesday, June 15, is part of the orientation for new CAB members. Ken advised members wishing to participate in the tours to inform the office so arrangements can be made.

Finally, Ken reported that Jeannette Allberg with Senator Allard's office had called stating that they had received the letter Victor Holm sent concerning the need to include citizen stakeholders in plans for the future Legacy Stakeholder Organizations. The Senator's Washington office also has the letter and is developing a response. Victor Holm also reported that he had contacted Doug Young with Congressman Udall's office. The Congressman also will be looking into the matter.

#### **EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION ON SITE SOIL SAMPLING:**

Lane Butler of Kaiser-Hill gave a presentation on characterization of the Buffer Zone. Lane said the purpose of characterization was to understand the distribution and location of contaminants, to find areas that require remediation, to determine whether remediation is necessary or not, and to support the Comprehensive Risk Assessment (CRA). The CRA is being prepared to determine the overall risk to human health, wildlife, and the environment.

Lane said sampling is being done to achieve a confidence level of 90 percent. This confidence level is in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has been approved by regulators. In most cases, the sampling has been done above the 90 percent confidence level. It is not possible to achieve 100 percent confidence that all contamination has been found, he said.

Lane showed a map of the sampling that has been performed on the site. Lane said recent samples taken from the Buffer Zone have not yet been analyzed. In total at Rocky Flats, there have been 10,718 sample locations, nearly 135,000 samples, 419,000 analyses, and nearly 6 million analytical records in the characterization of the site. Analyses are based on categories of contamination, such as radionuclides or metals. The analytical records refer to tests done for specific contaminants, such as plutonium. He said that Rocky Flats has only 6,000 acres but has nearly 6 million analytical records. He said he has heard that the Idaho National Laboratory, at 840 square miles, has only one million analytical records. Lane said he believes Rocky Flats is one of the best-characterized sites in the country.

The characterization program is based on historical documents and information. Regulators have approved the characterization program and consult with the site on sampling. The program is based on proper sample acquisition and analysis, an extensive quality assurance/quality control program, and regulatory review and approval of final characterization plans.

Lane said the 1992 Historical Release Report identified 360 potential sites. The report

was based on documents and interviews with present and former employees, site inspection, and a site-wide survey with hand-held radiation detection instruments. It has been reviewed and accepted by EPA and CDPHE. In addition, CDPHE conducted reviews of the Buffer Zone for disturbed sites – once in 1999 and again in 2003. Agency staff reviewed aerial photographs and walked the site but has found no evidence of additional contamination sites other than those already identified. Lane also noted that an aerial gamma survey of the site was performed some years ago.

For the Sampling and Analysis Plans, the site uses standard EPA guidance to ensure appropriate sampling methods and data quality. The sampling plans and existing data are reviewed and approved by EPA and CDPHE. Based on preliminary results, any additional sampling is approved by EPA and CDPHE.

Lane said the samples are collected and tracked with proper chain-of-custody protocol by outside contractors. Employees of Kaiser-Hill, DOE and the regulators oversee the process. Sampling methods are consistent with EPA guidelines. An independent onsite subcontracting laboratory helps provide initial analytical services. Kaiser-Hill also uses nine independent offsite laboratories, which are audited and approved by EPA and Kaiser-Hill's Analytical Services Division.

Lane said the Site has confidence the sampling data is accurate because of the high quality and oversight of the quality assurance/quality control process. DOE, EPA, and CDPHE also review the data.

In addition, Lane said that independent sampling by regulatory agencies and others provides assurance. CDPHE did a radiological survey from 1970 to 1991 that is consistent with other data. Additional sampling, which included locations chosen by citizens and funded as part of the Health Advisory Panel, was done for off-site areas in 1996 and its results also were consistent. CDPHE has also done buffer zone studies. Lane said he is confident all of the contaminated sites have been discovered.

Lane said disposal of wastes at Rocky Flats came before the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was enacted, and the wastes were not disposed of according to modern practices. However, he said historically there were designated disposal sites where workers disposed of wastes. These disposal sites were: the disposal trenches, ash pits, Ryan's pit, Mound site, 903 Pad, two oil burn pits, the reactive metal disposal area, and an Idaho site. Lane said there was no waste that did not have a disposal option. Lane said it would not have been logical for workers to make the effort to dig another hole to dump the waste if they already had a place to take it.

Lane said recent sampling in the Buffer Zone is being used to support the Comprehensive Risk Assessment (CRA). He said that sampling involves taking five samples each from a 30-acre grid and compositing the samples. If there is an elevated reading for any of the composited samples, they will go back in and take more samples from that area and retest them.

Lane said he thinks the Site has a good program with good oversight that is consistent with national programs. A Board member said there is still public distrust of the process and that perhaps the Site could find a better way to present sampling data to instill confidence in the public that the site is adequately characterized. Another Board member commented that definitions of "data gap" are different for everyone.

Lane spoke of the process that is going on for the Comprehensive Risk Assessment

(CRA). Steve Gunderson said the Risk Assessment Working Group, consisting of staff from the regulating agencies, Fish and Wildlife Service, DOE, Kaiser-Hill, and consultants, meets every two weeks to discuss the CRA and its methods. Board Chair Victor Holm said he had attended these meetings. He said the group now will be meeting more often in full-day sessions to assess a list of more than 200 chemicals of concern. They will determine if the existing data on these chemicals is adequate to establish the risk to human health, wildlife, and the environment.

A Board member commented he was disappointed in the presentation because it did not have enough detail. He wanted to see more specific information on the regulatory oversight and the actual regulations used to guide the sampling. He also expressed concern about the way data is presented. Overall, he thought the presentation was attempting to persuade the public to trust what the site is doing, but he felt that specific information was lacking to build that trust.

In answer to a question about depth of samples, Lane explained they are attempting to go to a depth of two feet, but the depth of the samples varies. They use a geoprobe that can punch out a sample to a specified depth. The geoprobe is used particularly to sample beneath building foundations.

Another Board member commented that as a taxpayer he believes the thousands of samples they have taken should be sufficient to characterize the site.

Another member commented that a lot of money was being spent to sample things that the public is not as concerned about. He suggested sampling the grass for plutonium uptake is something that should be considered, since that is a topic for which many in the community have expressed concern.

Steve Gunderson commented that there has been a lot of emotion in the communities and local governments over the sampling and characterization and it is a frustrating issue to deal with because many people believe there is inadequate characterization of the site. Geostatistics is not a subject most people understand. Steve said the Coalition of Local Governments on Monday will discuss the idea of having an independent characterization done on the site.

Another Board member suggested that to develop public confidence in the sampling, it might be a good idea to show average density of sample points or the average distance between sample points rather than the actual sampling points on the map. Steve said it has been difficult to put data in a form that is readily understandable to the public. The Board member suggesting changing the presentation of the data may help people to understand. Another Board member suggesting asking the public relations staff at Kaiser-Hill and the Department of Energy to help develop the presentations.

### **RECOMMENDATION ON THE DRAFT POND AND LAND CONFIGURATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

The Board discussed its draft recommendation for the Environmental Assessment for the Ponds and

Land Configuration (EA). The recommendation addressed several areas of the EA. In the recommendation, the Board stated its concern that the plans for remediation of the B Series ponds be developed before the plans for reconfiguration of the ponds. The Board, therefore, requested that remediation of ponds in the B series be completed before reconfiguration decisions on the ponds are made and that the remediation plan for the B series ponds be published for public comment rather than as a notification. The Board asked that the C series ponds be included in the EA.

In its recommendation, the board was concerned with plans to revegetate the pond areas with wetlands plants, which may not be appropriate because of the reduced flows, and asked the Site to hire experts to make sure the revegetation efforts would lead to a suitable and sustainable ecosystem. The Board also asked that the long-term strategy for pond management include natural flow through the terminal ponds. Presently, water in the terminal ponds is released in batches.

On the regrading of the Industrial Area, the Board asked the site to provide justification for statements in the EA that the drainage ditches next to roads would not be regraded and that only asphalt from the major access roads would be removed. They also questioned the wisdom of plugging some of the remaining culverts at the ends. The Board in this recommendation was concerned that plugging the culvert ends would lead to slumping in the middle and consequent land subsidence. The Board asked that either the culverts be removed or a way found to plug them so that subsidence and slumping would not occur.

The Board also expressed concern in its recommendation that regrading and land reconfiguration could lead to erosion of the surface and the potential exposure of subsurface contamination. While the Board commends the attempts to return the natural drainage patterns, it also asked that the Site continue to study the regrading to minimize future erosion. The Board also asked that care be taken in the regrading to divert runoff from hillsides in order to prevent surface contamination from flowing downhill into the creeks. It also asked the Site to configure the landscape so that runoff is shunted around building sites where contamination is left behind so that contaminants do not become mobilized with the groundwater.

The Board also asked that if the fish in the pond systems are contaminated, they be disposed of properly. The Board also asked that a representative sample of the fish population be tested for radionuclide and chemical contamination.

The Board made a few changes to the draft recommendation and then unanimously approved it.

#### **UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ON FUTURE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Ken Korkia and Mike Maus provided an update on workshop planning. Ken reported that he and Mike had prepared a public service announcement that was sent to a dozen local radio stations and a press release sent to local newspapers and the network television stations. Notifications also were sent to local community access television stations for their community calendars. An invitation letter was sent to local government representatives, congressional staff and local citizens. Mike noted that the goal was to spread as broad a net as possible to interest stakeholders in participating in the workshop. Ken asked members to let him know no later than Thursday, June 17 if they plan to attend, so that the food order can be placed.

## **PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

At Committee Night on June 17, the Board will discuss the Community Workshop on Future Public Participation, with the goal of developing ideas for structuring the conversation during the actual workshop. The members also will start planning discussions for the Board's 2005 work plan and budget. They also will discuss any follow-up education needs they might have regarding soil sampling at the site.

For the monthly Board meeting on July 8, the agenda topics will include an update on site building demolition planning, focusing primarily on Building 776. The Board also will ask representatives from the site, EPA and CDPHE to provide an update on remediation plan development for the Original Landfill. The Board also will reserve some time for any follow-up discussions on the public participation workshop.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board received a letter from former member Gerald DePoorter asking that he be considered for reappointment to the Board. Gerald had left the Board in late 2001 for health concerns. The members discussed his request and unanimously approved his reappointment.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

*Date: July 8, 6 to 9:00 p.m.*

*Location: College Hill Library, Room L268, Front Range Community College*

*Agenda:*

- *Presentation on site building D&D, with an emphasis on Building 776*
- *Update on remediation planning for the Original Landfill*
- *Follow-up discussion from the Community Workshop on Future Public Participation at Rocky Flats*

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. \***

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Victor Holm, Chair  
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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