

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2005
6 to 9 p.m.
College Hill Library, Room L-268
Front Range Community College, Westminster**

Board Chair Jerry DePoorter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Suzanne Allen, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Earl Gunia, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, Mike Maus, Bill McNeill, Phil Tomlinson / Dean Rundle (USFWS), Larry Kimmel (EPA), Carl Spreng (CDPHE), Dave Kruchek (CDPHE), John Rampe (DOE-RFPO)

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Erin Hamby, Andrew Ross, Hank Stovall, / Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM)

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Bob Darr (DOE-RFPO), Rob Henneke (EPA), Alan Trenary (Westminster resident), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS), James Campbell (Westminster resident), Joan Seeman (citizen) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:

Public Comment / New Business:

During Public Comment, community member Alan Trenary expressed concern with how persons might be exposed to residual contamination at the site. He proposes that the Department of Energy grow industrial hemp at the site as a groundcover to prevent contaminant dispersion. Alan believes that the hemp could also serve as a visual marker of the areas where residual contamination exists. He would also like to see hemp agriculture applied to other DOE sites, with the crop being turned into biodiesel fuel.

Update on Hot Spot Risk Analysis: John Rampe gave an update on the risk analysis that has been done on 13 hot spots that were found by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) in the 903 Pad Lip Area. The spots were small areas of plutonium greater than the 50 picocuries per gram (pCi/g) standard for surface soil that was set in the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA). The Department of Energy agreed to have the hot spots removed but did an analysis of the elevated levels on the risk to a wildlife refuge worker.

For calculating long-term average exposure, the data were averaged over each of two exposure units – the Wind Blown Area Exposure Unit (WBEU) of 715 acres and the 903 Pad Lip Area Exposure Unit. The Inner and Outer Lip Areas comprise 33 acres.

John said several scenarios were developed to calculate the risk to the refuge worker. All the scenarios were developed using data from the alpha spectroscopy used in the Comprehensive Risk Assessment and gamma spectroscopy employed by ORISE in its independent verification of the site.

The original risk, before the independent verification was performed, was calculated at about a 2 in a million excess lifetime cancer risk to the wildlife refuge worker. The highest risk calculated from any of the scenarios was about 3 in a million.

Based on statistical analysis, the site estimates the percentage of sampling results that would be greater than 50 pCi/g would be 1.58 percent in the 903 Lip Area and 2.66 percent in the ORISE survey units. This correlates well with the results found by ORISE that about 1.6 percent of the area of the two survey units contained plutonium spots higher than 50 pCi/g.

A Board member suggested DOE find a way to explain to a lay person in the public what these results mean in practical terms. Another board member said the public would not be allowed into the area where the elevated levels were found and so such an explanation would be a moot point. Dean Rundle of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the refuge manager said none of the proposed trails would be anywhere near this area. However, Dean said, that the FWS could not prevent people from breaking rules. John was asked if the DOE planned to put a fence around the DOE-retained lands. He replied the RFCA parties have not made a recommendation on whether a fence should be erected.

Refuge Funding: In the last couple of weeks, Board members had become concerned that there is no money for the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in the 2007 federal budget. Several board members suggested sending a letter in support of funding for the refuge. In order to educate board members on refuge funding, Patricia Rice distributed fact sheets from the FWS on refuges and testimony by the present of the National Wildlife Refuge Association on 2006 refuge funding. Patricia said the National Wildlife Refuge system has been hit by weak budgets in the last couple of years and that there is at present a \$2 billion backlog in operations and maintenance on the nation's refuges.

Refuge manager Dean Rundle said it is not atypical that there would not be an O&M budget for 2007. Dean said the Service will provide a minimal amount of weed control and law enforcement at the site, even if the refuge does not have a budget. A Board member said he believes the Board should recommend the refuge get at least a minimal amount of funding.

Dean said he appreciates any support for the whole refuge system. But, he said, money allocated to Rocky Flats could take money away from other refuges where there may be more important habitat. Dean said there is a modest operating budget for the other refuges he manages, and he will use existing personnel to help at Rocky Flats. He is concerned that invasive weeds will be extremely difficult to control at the site in the future if the Service is unable to do some work in the interim. Dean said a lot of work on refuges is done by volunteers with the Friends of the Refuge group.

The Board will continue to discuss the topic at Committee night, Dec. 14.

DISCUSSION ON WAYS TO VISUALLY DEPICT AREAS OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION AT ROCKY FLATS:

In 2006, the Board will develop a risk communication strategy to explain the risks of residual contamination at Rocky Flats to the general public. Part of the strategy will be to develop maps or other illustrations that can depict areas of residual contamination in a readily understandable manner.

For this meeting's discussion, staff member Patricia Rice displayed a collection of maps and illustrations she received from Rocky Flats personnel. The maps focused on three main areas: surface soil contamination, subsurface soil contamination, and groundwater contamination. As the Board discussed these maps, they considered whether this available collection portrays information about residual contamination in an easily understood manner or whether they would suggest changes.

As the discussion continued, several themes emerged. Maps and graphics should be simplified. The members would like to see as few maps or graphics developed as possible. The most important area for them is surface soil contamination. It was generally agreed that an aerial photograph be used upon which the boundary between the DOE-retained lands and the refuge would be clearly marked. Then, areas of residual plutonium contamination could be drawn in with distinct colors for different levels of contamination.

The Board will continue the discussion concerning maps and other graphics at its January meeting. In the meantime, members were asked to continue reviewing the collection of maps. Areas of particular interest are how to depict subsurface contamination, structures left in place below ground, and groundwater contamination plumes.

LETTER TO MIKE OWEN:

The Board considered a draft letter to DOE Office of Legacy Management Director Mike Owen. In the letter, the Board outlines its concerns related to the lack of adequate public involvement in the development of a plan for the future Local Stakeholder Organization. The plan was recently completed by the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments. The Board also raises concern that the Coalition has already received and spent money earmarked for the Local Stakeholder Organization.

The Board approved the letter by unanimous consent.

PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

At its December 14 Committee Night meeting, the Board will discuss ways it might address concerns about the lack of funding for the Rocky Flats refuge.

At the January Board meeting, the members will continue their discussion of maps and other graphics to be used to depict areas of residual contamination.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: January 5, 2006 6 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: College Hill Library, Room L-107, Front Range Community College

- Agenda:*
- *Continued discussion on maps and other graphics to depict areas of residual contamination at Rocky Flats*
 - *Other items as necessary*

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 p.m. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bill Kossack, 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.

[Home](#) | [About RFCAB](#) | [Board Members](#) | [About Rocky Flats](#) | [RFCAB Documents](#) | [Related Links](#) | [Public Involvement](#) | [Board Vacancies](#) | [Special Projects](#) | [Contact](#)