

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2005
6 to 9 p.m.
College Hill Library, Room L-107
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, Erin Hamby, Bill Kossack, Mike Maus, Bill McNeill, Andrew Ross, Hank Stovall / Dean Rundle (USFWS), Larry Kimmel (EPA), Scott Surovchak (DOE-LM), Carl Spreng (CDPHE), Dave Kruchek (CDPHE), John Rampe (DOE-RFFO)

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Mattson, Phil Tomlinson / none

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Bob Darr (DOE-RFPO), Rob Henneke (EPA), Ralph Stephens (Denver), James Horan (Denver), Alan Trenary (Westminster), Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Pam Tumler (GAO) / Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff), Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT / NEW BUSINESS:

Public Comment / New Business:

- **Alan Trenary** from Westminster reported he is pleased with the progress that has been made in cleaning up the site, but he is still concerned about residual contamination. He would like there to be some sort of permanent monument or marker at the site that will warn future generations of any residual contaminants. He also believes the government should grow industrial hemp at the site and use it to form an organic mat that will stabilize the soil and prevent contaminant dispersion.
- **Pam Tumler** with GAO reported that her agency will release its final report on the Rocky Flats cleanup by March 2006. In the meantime, she is working on a community survey for which she would like Board member participation. She will forward the survey to Ken Korkia for distribution to both current and former Board members. The survey seeks views on the cleanup and the value of public participation.
- **John Rampe** with DOE provided an update on recent activities by DOE and Kaiser-Hill. Following Kaiser-Hill's announcement on October 13 that physical cleanup was done, DOE had 24 hours to provide its initial agreement that such was the case. DOE did agree. Per its contract with Kaiser-Hill, DOE also has 90 days to identify any cleanup deficiencies. A list of 39 deficiencies was recently provided to Kaiser-Hill. None of these deficiencies had to do with actual cleanup activities, but were more along the lines of cosmetic problems, such as fence posts that need to be removed and haul roads near the Original Landfill that need reseeding. John anticipates that DOE will take final acceptance of the site from Kaiser-Hill by Thanksgiving.

- Board member **Earl Gunia** raised concerns about funding for the future Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO). He asked Scott Surovchak with Legacy Management for an update. Scott reported that Congress had approved \$500 K in funding for the LSO for five years. DOE has already given \$100K to the Coalition of Local Governments to use in establishing the LSO. Earl and other members then raised concerns about DOE providing this money directly to the Coalition and asked for an accounting of how it is being spent. Scott advised that the members would need to seek this information directly from the Coalition. Members also raised concerns that the Coalition has rejected the Board's advice to hold meetings at times accessible to the public in order to allow their input related to establishing the LSO. Members also asked whether there would be an opportunity for public comment on the Coalition's LSO plan. Scott replied that he did not see why not.
- Staff member **Patricia Rice** passed around a set of before and after photos taken at Rocky Flats to show what the site looks like now that the infrastructure is gone. She also reported that another seed picking event will be held on Saturday, November 12 to gather native grass and other plant seeds from Section 16 near Rocky Flats. The seeds will be used to help re-establish native plant communities in the revegetated portions of the site.
- **John Rampe** also reported that DOE and the regulators are still reviewing the risk assessment data associated with the hot spots of plutonium contamination that were discovered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education during its independent validation and verification of site cleanup. DOE and the regulators will meet on November 6 to go over methodologies and settle on the best way to present their findings.

INTERIM SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING PLAN PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

The Interim Surveillance and Maintenance Plan (ISMP) will cover the period from physical completion to regulatory closure. A Long-term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan will be written to set forth requirements of monitoring and maintenance in the post-closure period.

The ISMP was written to avoid the appearance of having made decisions ahead of time on public documents without knowledge of the public. John Rampe of DOE explained as follows. John said the steps for regulatory closure involve the development of a Proposed Plan and the Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD). Until the CAD/ROD is signed, the site will operate under the first Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA). After the CAD/ROD is signed, the site will operate under so-called RFCA 2, a second agreement that will set forth enforceable commitments in the post-closure period. Having a Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan now would be considered "pre-decisional" to the development of the CAD/ROD and signing of RFCA 2. That is, the decisions on monitoring and maintenance in the Proposed Plan, CAD/ROD, and RFCA 2 would seem to have been made before those "public comment" documents were written.

John said that when DOE's Office of Environmental Management formally accepts that cleanup is complete, DOE's Office of Legacy Management (LM) will be responsible for all activities at the site. That should occur sometime this fall and the site monitoring and maintenance will be covered by the ISMP. At the time RFCA 2 is signed, the LTSMP will take effect.

Ken Korkia asked about the schedule for regulatory closure and whether the Board, which will go out of

business at the end of September 2006, will miss out on the CAD/ROD if it is signed after that time. John said the Board will have an opportunity to voice its opinion of the Proposed Plan, which will outline the site's final cleanup decisions. The CAD/ROD formalizes the decisions outlined in the Proposed Plan.

Scott said planning for the transition From EM to LM began two years ago so that LM could get an idea of what the resource requirements would be. He presented a schedule for the transition of site responsibilities and said LM has already taken over many functions once done by EM. Those include air and ecological monitoring, inspections of the landfills, and the groundwater treatment operations. Scott said SourceOne, one of the largest records management companies in the US, has been brought in to help with records management. He said the biggest records issue at this time is responding to requests for information from individuals and organizations under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)."

Scott said when DOE "accepts" the site, which is planned for mid to late November, LM will take over ground and surface water monitoring and pond operations.

Scott said several Kaiser-Hill and subcontractor staff members have been brought over to LM.

Scott said that the ISMP activities will include public involvement, records management, environmental monitoring, operations and maintenance of treatment systems and erosion controls, access control monitoring, data management, regulatory compliance, inspections and reporting. Scott said most of the ISMP is based on or has been taken from the Integrated Monitoring Plan (IMP).

Scott said the only outstanding issue in the ISMP is purge water, which is preventing the document from being made final. Purge water is water taken from a well before it is sampled. Because this water may be contaminated, regulators and LM are discussing what should be done with it.

Scott said the post-closure Public Involvement Plan (PIP) identifies opportunities for public participation with LM. He said under the plan the Local Stakeholder Organization will disseminate site information to stakeholders. Scott said quarterly and annual public meetings will be held for two years. He said the Public Reading Room for Rocky Flats information will remain in existence until at least Dec. 2006.

On records management, Scott said, DOE-LM will be the primary record holder for all site records. Active records will be placed on the web. The Administrative Record has been placed on the web, as well. In the near term, records management staff will be based near Rocky Flats. In 2007, LM intends to build a new legacy records center in Morgantown, West Virginia, where all hard copies of the record will be kept.

A large part of the ISMP will cover environmental monitoring to ensure conditions remain protective of human health and the environment. Surface and ground water, air, and ecological monitoring will continue as described in the final 2005 IMP. Scott said there are about 120 groundwater monitoring wells, more than the 80 that was originally anticipated.

The ISMP calls for operations and maintenance of the three groundwater treatment systems, of pond and surface water operations, and of the two landfills. Ecological monitoring covers threatened and endangered species, vegetation, noxious weeds, and wetlands.

On site staff will monitor remedy performance. A rigorous site inspection will be performed annually, with a

notice sent to regulators and the public 30 days prior to the date. Quarterly meetings will be held to present data and activities. An annual meeting will be held upon completion of the annual report.

Monitoring at the site will continue until levels of contaminants in surface and groundwater are below standards. All analytical data will be stored in one database with Web access. Scott said erosion control is the greatest near-term challenge.

DISCUSSION OF PRESENT LANDFILL GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION CONCERNS:

At last month's meeting, member Bill McNeill raised concerns about possible future groundwater contamination associated with the Present Landfill. Bill believes that since groundwater is still able to reach the wastes buried in the landfill and because there is not 100% certainty of what is buried in the landfill, there could be future failure of waste drums that would release their contents to groundwater. Such releases could alter the site conditions and lead to further mobilization of other contaminants which potentially could make their way into surface water that leaves the site.

At this meeting, the Board asked DOE to discuss with it whether this is a legitimate concern and what is being done. John Rampe with DOE reported that because there is not 100% certainty of what is in the landfill, that yes there could be release of contaminants in the future. Therefore, the operation and maintenance plan for the landfill was developed to handle this uncertainty. The main purpose of the landfill design is to reduce infiltration of water into the landfill. Reduced flows from the landfill into the landfill pond show that the site has been successful in this goal. They have also installed a new passive treatment cell at the toe of the landfill to take care of volatile organic compounds. John stated that the main contaminant of concern, benzene, is found in concentrations near one part per billion. The treatment cell can adequately handle ten times that amount of contamination. There also is extensive monitoring in the area that will continue into the future. Taking all these factors into account, John believes that ground and surface water will be protected in the future.

Member Mary Mattson was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted related questions about groundwater contamination in other areas, such as near former buildings whose foundations were left in place with appreciable amounts of residual contamination. John Rampe said he would forward the questions to site experts for written response.

BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Every two years, a subset of the member seats for the 501(c)(3) corporation must be renewed. This year, the seats held by Bill Kossack and Joe Downey were up for renewal. The Board unanimously approved Bill and Joe for another membership term.

The Board also elected officers for 2006. All the current officers were eligible for re-election and their names were placed in nomination. Since there were no other candidates nominated, the Board approved the slate of officers by acclamation. The 2006 officers are:

Chair: Gerald DePoorter
Vice-Chair: Joe Downey
Secretary: Bill Kossack

Treasurer: Andrew Ross

RISK COMMUNICATION PROPOSAL:

The Board would like to assist DOE in communicating information about final site conditions and the inherent risk of any residual contamination. To accomplish this task, the Board would like to hire a consulting firm with expertise in risk communication. The Board contacted Sigler Communications, Inc., based on the work it did related to presenting the findings of the decade-long Dose Reconstruction Study for Rocky Flats, and asked it to submit a proposal and preliminary cost estimate. The activities in the proposal include providing general counsel, developing a 16-page booklet, preparing for a one-time public meeting, and developing materials for the website. Sigler's estimate for providing these services is just under \$25K.

The Board agreed to submit a supplemental budget request to DOE for \$25K to cover the costs of undertaking this project. The Board intends to use the money to pay for services provided by Sigler. Questions were raised about the timing of the project. Generally, members believe that it should occur just before or simultaneously with release of the final Proposed Plan at Rocky Flats. This document is currently planned for release in the May to June timeframe.

OVERVIEW OF THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION / FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Patricia Rice gave a presentation on the RI/FS, a draft of which was distributed to the public and regulators on October 11. The document contains several volumes and arrived in six boxes in the CAB office. The heart of the document, however, is contained in the first box. The other five boxes contain volumes of the Comprehensive Risk Assessment, which assess the risks from residual contamination on humans and representative ecological species.

The RI/FS examines the nature and extent of contamination, calculates the risks to humans and animals from contamination, proposes actions to mitigate the risks, and presents cleanup alternatives. Patricia said because the cleanup is complete, it would not be expected that the RI/FS would find much more on the site to clean up.

The RI/FS is organized into 10 sections and an Appendix A. These 10 sections detail site background, nature and extent of contamination, fate and transport of contaminants, summary of the RI, the Remedial Action Objectives and regulatory requirements, and the remedial alternatives. Appendix A contains the Comprehensive Risk Assessment.

The RI found that the risks from radionuclides were within guidelines. It also discovered there were no unacceptable risks from contamination in groundwater, surface water, subsurface soil and sediments, and air. Some contaminants in surface soil present a cancer risk larger than or equal to one in a million to a wildlife refuge worker. However, these risks are within acceptable range.

The alternatives for further action are as follows:

1. Alternative No. 1 is a "no further action" alternative with monitoring.

2. Alternative No. 2 is Alternative No. 1 plus institutional and physical controls.

3. Alternative No. 3 is Alternative No. 2 plus removal of about 360 acres of surface soil in the Windblown Area to reduce Pu concentrations to about 9.8 picocuries per gram (pCi/g). This would represent a one in a million excess lifetime cancer risk to the Wildlife Refuge Worker, where the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement sought an upper bound on Pu at 50 pCi/g. This is the most expensive alternative.

Patricia concluded by saying the RI/FS is not a public comment document but the Board may want to make a recommendation on it anyway. The next step in the regulatory process is for DOE to prepare the final RI/FS. Then it will issue the Proposed Plan, which is a public comment document.

The draft RI/FS will be available on CDs by next week and portions of it will be available at www.rfets.gov. A hard copy of the document is in the CAB office.

PLANNING FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS:

For the November 16 Committee Night, the Board will discuss the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study. The members also will finalize discussion topics for the December Board meeting. The Board would like to have a general discussion on a topic of interest to the community and then reserve the remainder of the December meeting time for socialization.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: December 1, 2005 6 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: College Hill Library, Room L-268, Front Range Community College

Agenda:

- *TDB based on discussion at November 16 Committee Night*
- *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](#)