

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 1st, 2000
8:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Mt. Evans Room in the Terminal Building
Jefferson County Airport, Broomfield

Board members in attendance: Michelle Lawrence (Director, Jefferson County), Nanette Neelan (Alternate, Jefferson County), Tom Brunner (Director, Broomfield), Hank Stovall (Alternate, Broomfield), Mary Harlow (Alternate, Westminster), Mike Bartleson (Alternate, Broomfield), Ken Fellman* (Alternate, Arvada), Carol Lyons (Alternate, Arvada), Lisa Morzel* (Director, City of Boulder), Amy Mueller (Alternate, City of Boulder), Paul Danish (Director, Boulder County), Jeff Holwell (Alternate, Superior).

*Arrived/Departed at time indicated

Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance: David Abelson (Executive Director), John Marler (Technical Advisor), Katie Ewig (Program Assistant), and Barb Tenney (Icenogle, Norton, and Seter, P.C.).

Members of the Public: John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill), Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill), Russell McCallister (DOE-RFFO), John Rampe (DOE-RFFO), Paul Hartman (DOE-RFFO), Steve Tarlton (CDPHE), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Tony Harrison (CDPHE), Rob Henneke (EPA), Tim Rehder (EPA), Charles Paura (Congressman Tancredo), Janice Sinden (Senator Allard), Pete Jacobson (Senator Allard), Jenna Jones (Senator Allard), Doug Young (Congressman Udall), George Vancil (City of Arvada), Tom Marshall (RMPJC), LeRoy Moore (RMPJC), Jyoti Wind (RMPJC), Hildegard Hix (Sierra Club), Bob Nelson (Golden), Matt Magley (Superior), Ken Korkia (RFCAB), Victor Holm (RFCAB), Tom Hoffman (Friends of the Foothills), Roman Kohler (RF Homesteaders), Steve Smith (Public Service Co.).

Convene/Agenda Review

Michelle Lawrence called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. There were no proposed changes to the agenda.

Business Items

- 1) **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda** – Tom Brunner motioned to approve the consent agenda. Amy Mueller seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.
- 2) **Executive Director Report** – David Abelson updated the Board on the recent activities of the Coalition-CAB Stewardship Working Group, focusing in particular on the groups' decision to start immediately examining stewardship assumptions and costs. Starting in June, the stewardship meetings will be held the fourth Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Arvada City Hall. The next meeting is Thursday, May 18th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at

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Arvada City Hall. David also told the Board that Barbara Mazurowski, the new site manager at Rocky Flats, made a surprise visit to the Coalition-CAB stewardship meeting on April 27th. During this time she took a few minutes to introduce herself and stressed two main points: the importance of safety during the site cleanup and the importance of the stakeholders learning to compromise to reach reasonable decisions. David then announced that Linda Cassidy was completing an audit of the Coalition and expects to give the Coalition a clean audit. She will present the results of the audit to the Board at the July meeting. In conclusion David announced the impending departure of Katie Ewig from the Coalition staff, and stated that the new program assistant would be starting in early June. John Marler then briefly told the Board about the soon-to-be-released Facility Disposition RSOP that addresses routine D&D on the site. He urged the Board to read it carefully, paying close attention to what are considered routine versus non-routine D&D activities. There will be a 45 day formal public comment for the Facility Disposition RSOP starting sometime in mid-May.

Round Robin

Arvada – Ken Fellman asked to clarify a section in David Abelson’s memo to the Board (regarding the Allard bill) dated April 21, 2000. He stated that the sentence “ [Mike] Bennet, [Senator Allard’s Chief-of-Staff] explained to me Allard’s primary intention is to balance what he understands to be Arvada’s interest in securing some portion of the property and the rest of the Coalition’s desire to keep the entire site in federal ownership in perpetuity” was inaccurate. Ken stated that Arvada is not interested in securing any portion of the site for development and he hoped David would convey that message to the appropriate officials. David responded by noting that later in that same memo he wrote that “Given that each Coalition government has expressed publicly it has no intention of annexing or developing either the buffer zone or industrial area, I see no reason why the bill language should allow for such a sale to a private interest or local government”. He assured Ken Fellman that he had conveyed Arvada’s position to Mike Bennet during the aforementioned conference call. Fellman acknowledged that Abelson’s response accurately reflected Arvada’s position.

Westminster – Mary Harlow noted that the City of Westminster recently sent its comments to Senator Allard on his proposed Wildlife Refuge bill.

Broomfield –Hank Stovall stated his concerns about the Stewardship Data Call recently submitted by the site. Hank also expressed concerns about several issues in the Allard bill, in particular the oversight of the land by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Lisa Morzel arrived at this time.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Air Monitoring Presentation

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Steve Tarlton (CDPHE) and Bob Nininger (Kaiser-Hill) gave a presentation on air quality at Rocky Flats. Bob Nininger began by describing Kaiser-Hill's air monitoring network at the site, which consists of 2 meteorology towers, 16 effluent samplers (which change location based on project requirements), and 36 ambient samplers (14 of which are perimeter locations). In contrast to effluent monitoring, which measures emissions from individual buildings, ambient air monitoring is conducted to measure radionuclide concentration in the surrounding environment. Bob displayed two maps showing the locations of the effluent and ambient samplers at the site.

Steve Tarlton then described the Health Department's air monitoring program, which consists of 16 samplers on or around the site. These samplers monitor for several parameters, including particulates, volatile organic compounds, radionuclides, beryllium, nitrogen compounds, and ozone. Steve then displayed a map of the site showing the location of the CDPHE air monitors. He also displayed a data chart that showed the activity (in picocuries per meter cubed) found in air samples in station D-3 (on the east side of the Industrial Area) from 1971 to 1998. The chart showed that for the last 30 years the concentrations of radionuclides in the air samples have been well below the regulatory maximum. In another chart showing the air monitoring data from station X-3 (on the east site boundary), activity levels at that location are an order of magnitude less than the D-3 monitor. To summarize, both charts indicate that in the last 30 years, and in particular the last 10 years, radionuclide concentrations captured by the CDPHE's air monitors have been much less than 10% of the regulatory standard.

Steve then described AlphaTRAC's analysis of the CDPHE data. He noted that AlphaTRAC found that plutonium is associated more with larger (TSP) particles than with smaller (PM-10) particles. AlphaTRAC also found that plutonium levels in TSP decrease with distance from the Industrial Area, whereas PM-10 levels are constant over distance. In conclusion, Steve stated that CDPHE air monitoring data and the AlphaTRAC analysis show: 1) air quality at Rocky Flats is better than the Metro area, 2) contamination levels have dropped significantly in the last decade, and 3) risk posed by air pathway for normal site activities is insignificant.

The floor was then opened for questions and discussion. Lisa Morzel asked what had changed at the site since the 1970s to account for the decrease in radionuclide concentrations in the air samples. Steve Tarlton responded that since the mission changed from production to cleanup, operations at the site had tightened up and there was a heightened awareness about air quality issues. Mary Harlow asked how long the turn around time was between taking an air sample and getting the resulting data. Tony Harrison replied that for isotopic data it takes about 30 days and for gross alpha-beta data it takes five days. Lisa Morzel inquired about the recent test burn in the buffer zone and asked what kind of monitors were used. Bob Nininger replied that there were TPS monitors upwind and downwind of the test burn plot as well as the site's perimeter monitors adjacent to the edge of the burn plot.

Cleanup and Closure Issues: RAC Soil Action Levels Presentation

Dr. John Till, the President of the Risk Assessment Corporation, gave a presentation to the Board on his group's findings from their review of the soil action levels for Rocky Flats. He stressed the importance and uniqueness of the review process in that the RAC worked with stakeholders

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to come up with the best possible review. The primary objective of his group was to “estimate the activity level of man-made radioactive materials in the soil due to operations at Rocky Flats such that subsequent human exposure during the future use of the site does not result in levels of radiation dose and risk that exceed specified limits”. Specific project tasks included: 1) comparing cleanup levels at other sites to Rocky Flats cleanup levels, 2) reviewing different computer models for calculating soil action levels, 3) documenting inputs and assumptions used for developing soil action levels, 4) calculating radionuclide soil action levels based on the new information collected.

In order to calculate the soil action level (using the RESRAD computer model), several methodologies were established. First, a dose level of 15 millirem per year was agreed upon as the limit not to be exceeded. Several different pathways were taken into account, including resuspension of material, ingestion of soil, and inhalation. The exposure scenario was that of a resident rancher living on the site with his family. RAC also incorporated the probability of a prairie fire. In addition, RAC’s calculation incorporates the uncertainty associated with model input parameters. Factors that were not taken into account in the calculation include: the cost of the cleanup; the risks to the public associated with the cleanup; institutional controls; risks associated with the prescribed dose limit; the background of plutonium in the environment; and community values.

Based on the above parameters, RAC’s work resulted in a “technically derived” radionuclide soil action level of 35 picocuries per gram (pCi/g). According to RAC, this activity level means that there is a 90% possibility that a 15 mrem/year dose limit will not be exceeded. Dr. Till stated that he believes this community-directed process can be used as a model for other sites, although there are still several areas that need to be identified to improve upon the work. At this time Tim Rehder (EPA), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), and Russell McAllister (DOE-RFFO) joined John Till to answer any questions from the Board and the public.

Doug Young asked Dr. Till how many acres of the site would need to be cleaned up using the 35 pCi/g standard, and Dr. Till estimated that about 500 acres of the 6400 total acres would need further remediation to meet the 35 pCi/g standard. David Abelson asked Dr. Till to explain why the 15 mrem dose limit was used since the RFCA provides for using 15 mrem and 85 mrem dose limit. Dr. Till responded that the 15 mrem was based on an EPA draft guideline that was later not adopted. Dr. Till and the oversight panel thought the 85 mrem dose, based on institutional controls failing, was questionable and therefore went with the more conservative dose (15 mrem). He went on to explain that the NRC dose limit is 25 mrem, and that he considers a dose limit between 10 to 25 mrem to be within a reasonable range. In response to Mary Harlow’s comment that the NRC dose limit only applies to nuclear reactor sites, Steve Gunderson stated that the NRC rule is all that is out there right now and its relationship to Rocky Flats needs to be evaluated.

Tom Marshall asked what the cost would be to cleanup the site at a 35 pCi/g level. Russell McAllister replied that DOE is currently in the process of figuring out those numbers, although they must first get the 903 pad cost estimate. Russell added that other factors besides cost will have to be factored into the final cleanup level decision, including worker safety and ecological

issues. Ken Fellman urged Russell McAllister and the regulators to get the cost information out as soon as possible so that the Coalition can plan discussions and requested that they put something in writing identifying the implications of RAC's recommended soil action level and its influence on cleanup. Lisa Morzel then stated that more information on the three-dimensional contamination of the 903 pad and of underbuilding contamination needs to be produced in order to identify the best way to remediate. John Corsi added that Kaiser-Hill is putting together a Sampling Analysis plan that will be distributed at the June 7th CAB meeting.

John Marler asked Russell McAllister to explain the term "action level" and how it relates to remediation strategies at the site. Russell replied that even cleaning to a 35 pCi/g standard will not ensure protection of water quality, therefore institutional controls may be necessary. Tim Rehder and Steve Tarlton added that excavation and removal of soils, runoff control, and capping are all options to protect surface water quality. Mary Harlow stressed the importance of expeditiously providing numbers on the costs of the various cleanup options so that the community can voice their opinion in a timely manner. Tom Brunner then voiced his concern that the Coalition and the community will be unjustly blamed if DOE and Kaiser-Hill miss their 2006 goal. The top priority of the Coalition is the safe and thorough cleanup of the site, whether it happens in 2006 or beyond.

Discussion of Senator Allard's Wildlife Refuge Bill

David Abelson asked the Board for guidance on how to proceed with Senator Allard's draft Wildlife Refuge bill, legislation that is based largely on the 1992 Allard-Schroeder bill designating the Rocky Mountain Arsenal as a wildlife refuge. He referred the Board to two memos in the Board packet that address questions and concerns regarding the bill that the Coalition may wish to raise. David then opened the floor for discussion of the bill.

Ken Fellman stated that there were a few issues that needed to be carefully looked at, in particular the vague language on cleanup (Section 3 of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal bill). He said that he would like to see stronger cleanup language so that Rocky Flats does not get a dirty cleanup such as the Arsenal. Ken added that he would like to see Congressman Udall and Senator Allard work together on the bill so it has a better chance of passing.

* Ken Fellman left the meeting at this time.

Mike Bartleson stated that Broomfield is still reviewing the bill and would like to explore the implications of U.S. Fish and Wildlife oversight of the site. Mary Harlow stated that she had sent a letter to Allard detailing Westminster's initial concerns, which include the allowance to transfer or sell off land (Section 5). David explained to the Board that Section 5 was put in the bill to balance "competing interests". Since it appears that none of the Coalition governments wants to develop or annex any portion of the buffer zone, David asked whether the Coalition should urge Allard to eliminate that language. Paul Danish and Amy Mueller agreed that taking out that language would be good. (The City of Boulder also sent a letter to Allard expressing their concerns about the bill). Janice Sinden stated that the language is there in case they need to

“think outside of the box”, since it is very difficult to predict the future desires of the community. The language also allows for the construction of a highway.

David asked the Board if they would like a tour of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and there was general consensus that a tour would be beneficial.

Public Comment

Hildegard Hix stated that she was not happy with Section 5 of Allard’s bill. She also said it would be helpful if Allard and Udall could craft a bill together and then present it to the community so that time is not wasted commenting on two different draft bills.

Ken Korkia announced the formation of a new CAB committee, the Remediation Technology Committee, and urged interested members of the public to attend those meetings.

Review Big Picture

David briefly reviewed the Big Picture. The two main issues in June will be water quality and Senator Allard’s bill, in July actinide migration and soil action levels will be addressed, and in August DOE will give a presentation on their compliance with the new cleanup schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.