

THE ADVISOR

A Publication of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

Fall 1997

Deactivation and Decommissioning Activities Planned for 1997-1998

With the continuing efforts to clean up the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, a whole new arena of technical issues and jargon has bombarded anyone interested in the closure plans for the site. Moving from a production stage to a cleanup stage is no easy task in itself, but when you add all the details that are new to everyone in the field, the task becomes that much harder. In order to assist interested stakeholders and members of the public, site representatives have begun an intensive public involvement program for Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) issues.

D&D means:

- **Deactivation** -

the process of ceasing operations in a building and removing the contaminated interior components of the manufacturing operation from the building. This includes the removal/cleanup of all Special Nuclear Material (SNM) from the buildings.

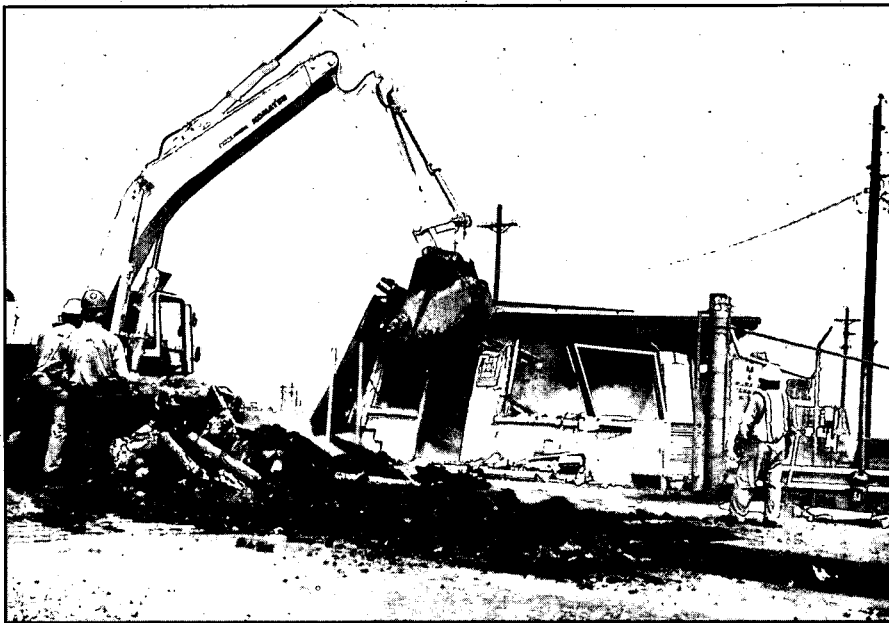
- **Decommissioning** - all activities that occur after the deactivation stage to retire the building. Decommissioning may include decontaminating the building and refurbishing it for reuse, or the total demolition of the building.

To date the site has worked on developing the D&D program. Both a facility disposition working group and a building cleanup standards working group were formed in the fall of 1996. These groups have been working independently to produce the necessary documents for the formalization of the D&D process. In late spring 1997, the site decided it was time to involve interested stakeholders in the process. They have hosted

several "pizza meetings" where stakeholders have been able to hear from the working groups and have input to the process. The meetings are scheduled to continue throughout the summer. Before summer ends, the site hopes to release a document to cover general D&D activities at the site, called the Decommissioning Program Plan (DPP). In addition, the plan is to have a building cleanup standards document out for public comment early this fall.

The DPP is a generalized approach to

decommissioning the facilities that do not contain SNM. This approach will cover the day-to-day D&D activities for buildings which are not required to have a more detailed decommissioning plan by the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCAs). At this writing, the site had planned to release the DPP for a 60-day



The last stage of D&D: formerly contaminated building being demolished prior to removal.

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Rocky Flats Updates



Board Issues Recommendation on Privatization

Over the past year, CAB's National Issues Committee has researched privatization issues at Rocky Flats, as well as other sites in the weapons complex. At the Board's July meeting, the committee brought forth a recommendation that addressed privatization at Rocky Flats for projects such as capital construction, facility D&D, and waste treatment and disposal. The recommendation, as approved by the Board, asks DOE to consider the following when privatizing projects at the site:

- Safety must be the overriding goal, not just cost savings.
- Public involvement must be guaranteed, from the beginning of projects and throughout the duration of the work.
- The existing labor force should be maintained, collective bargaining agreements should be honored, and former employees should be utilized whenever possible.
- Risk of failure needs to be minimized, with contingency plans developed up front. Financial profit must not put the project's success and safety in jeopardy.
- Agreements between DOE and the regulators must be maintained and kept in compliance.
- Both DOE and the contractor must share the risks of project failure.
- Competition between contractors should be promoted through use of a competitive bidding process.
- Requirements and the scope of work for projects need to be well-defined.

- Projects must show progress and reduce costs, with savings being used to further remediation at the site.
- Methods and milestones must be in place to monitor projects.
- The appropriate form of contract must be utilized.
- Small-scale demonstration projects for new technologies should be used.

If you'd like a copy of the recommendation, please contact the CAB office at (303) 420-7855.

CAB Advises Site on FY99 Budget

For the past few years, the Board has set up annually an *ad hoc* Budget Subcommittee to review and comment on the site's current budget request. For FY99, the subcommittee prepared a recommendation approved by CAB which supports a budget that accelerates closure in a responsible manner, maximizes cleanup and safety to the workers, and reduces the mortgage. The recommendation asks the federal government to look at long-term benefits and savings, not just short-term costs for the project. In this recommendation, CAB notes it would not support a specific dollar request without having a clearer understanding of closure plan details and without a sense the site is focused on accelerating cleanup. Also, CAB stated that DOE must demonstrate it is able to use the funding wisely by increasing efficiencies. The recommendation asks DOE-Headquarters to work more closely with sites to develop a more workable plan for allowing stakeholder involvement in the budget development and review process before work begins on the FY2000 budget request. Copies of the recommendation are available from the CAB office, (303) 420-7855. [See related information on both the draft document, *Accelerated Cleanup: Focus on 2006*, and the Rocky Flats budget, on pages 4-5 of this issue of *The Advisor*.]

Board Seeks Public Input for its 1998 Work Plan

Over the summer, CAB and its committees developed a draft work plan for 1998. This year CAB is asking the public, DOE and the regulators to give input to its work plan. In early July, evaluation forms were sent to selected members of the public, asking for advice on how the Board is doing and to specify any issues they would like to see CAB address. At its meeting on September 4, the Board will again ask the public to assist in identifying projects and issues of importance to the neighbors of Rocky Flats. Anyone interested is asked to attend the September meeting.

Results of Environmental Monitoring Contract Research Project Due in October

In spring 1996, a Rocky Flats Community Needs Assessment (RFCNA) was conducted to identify the community's needs and concerns during the cleanup of Rocky Flats. One of the themes emerging was that the public wanted to ensure they were protected from offsite radioactive releases. Having a reliable, continuous environmental monitoring program is a necessary component of that protection. As a followup, the Board contracted with an outside, independent organization to review and assess the current environmental monitoring systems at the site. This February, the firm Parker-Hall, Inc. (PHI) of Boise, Idaho, was selected to perform that review. Those of you who have been following CAB's updates on this project know that the results of the study were due to be released this summer. However, the project is quite complex, and due to programmatic issues that needed to be resolved, CAB postponed finalizing and releasing this document until October. PHI will present the results of its study, as well as recommendations for change, at CAB's meeting on October 2.

Deactivation and Decommissioning Activities (continued from Page 1)

public comment in mid-August.

The site is working on the development of its first Decommissioning Operation Plan (DOP) for the 779 cluster. A DOP is a detailed project specific plan for the decommissioning of buildings that are anticipated to be more difficult to take down. The buildings requiring a DOP including the following plutonium-contaminated buildings: 707, 771, 776, 777, 779, 991, and 371. With the exception of the 779 cluster, each of these buildings was specifically pointed out in the final version of RFCA. The 779 cluster has been added to this list because it is the first major D&D project involving the decommissioning of a plutonium building. Each building's DOP will contain specific data for that building, its hazards, and the methods used for decommissioning.

The building cleanup standards working group is researching and developing acceptable standards for decontamination of buildings. This standard can be above background levels, but below the level which is considered low-level radioactive waste. The group is seeking stakeholder input into the process. The working group hopes to release a document for public comment by the first of September.

Anyone wanting to get involved with the groups working on D&D issues should contact John Corsi, Kaiser-Hill Communications, at (303) 966-6526.



Another view of D&D activities: building dismantlement on a smaller scale.

AT ITS JUNE MEETING, CAB AGREED TO FORM AN AD HOC D&D COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS D&D ISSUES. TO DATE, THE COMMITTEE HAS MET ONCE, AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE "PIZZA MEETINGS" SPONSORED BY RFETS. CAB WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMMITTEE AS IT WORKS TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS ON D&D ISSUES. BOARD MEMBERS TOM CLARK AND VICTOR HOLM CO-CHAIR THIS COMMITTEE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, CONTACT CHRIS MILLSAPS AT (303) 420-7855 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The 2006 Plan

In July, the Department of Energy (DOE) released a discussion draft of *Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2006*, or "The 2006 Plan" as it is commonly called. Basically, this plan outlines the department's vision and strategy for accomplishing the greatest amount of work possible to clean up the former nuclear weapons complex sites by the year 2006. There is a national plan and a separate plan specific for each site in the nation's nuclear weapons complex. The discussion drafts are meant to stimulate conversations with stakeholders across the country before the "official" comment draft is released later this fall. DOE hopes to publish final plans based on stakeholder input by February 1998.

Two years ago, DOE issued a report called the *Baseline Environmental Management Report (BEMR)* which provided estimates for the amount of time and dollars that would be required to complete the cleanup of the weapons complex sites. For Rocky Flats, the estimate made at that time was that it would take 70 years and cost more than \$23 billion to complete the cleanup. Since those earlier estimates, DOE and its contractors have studied ways to reduce both the amount of time and money that would be spent to achieve cleanup.

One of the major conclusions of these studies is that investing more money at the start of cleanup would reduce the amount of money spent in the long run. For example, Rocky Flats currently spends around \$400 million per year just to operate the site. If some of the buildings and facilities could be closed earlier, the site would save hundreds of millions of dollars per year. The saved money could then be applied to more cleanup, thus accelerating the schedule and further reducing the operating costs. Additional savings can be achieved by speeding up the shipment of plutonium and other wastes from the site. For Rocky Flats, the new estimate for achieving cleanup is that it would take until the year 2010 and cost \$7.3 billion if a strategy of increasing early funding and maximizing waste and materials shipments is implemented. The site believes it could further reduce the schedule to the year 2006 and cut the cost to \$6.5 billion by developing more efficient ways of doing business.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board will be carefully reviewing the 2006 Plan. CAB supports the concepts of accelerating cleanup and reducing the costs of doing business as long as the work is done thoroughly and safely. The Board recognizes that DOE faces many challenges in achieving its goals. Foremost among these is working through the many roadblocks to allow waste and materials to be shipped from the site. Because of this concern, CAB believes that DOE must develop credible contingencies for keeping waste and materials safely onsite in the event offsite shipments are stalled.

The Board encourages members of the community to get involved in reviewing and commenting on the 2006 Plan. As citizens, we must work together in establishing the best plan for the cleanup and closure of the Rocky Flats site. Please contact our office at (303) 420-7855 to find out how you can get involved.

The Rocky Flats 2006 Plan at a Glance

Next 2-4 Years - Make the Site Safer:

- *Drain tanks containing plutonium solutions*
- *Stabilize plutonium metal, oxides and residues*
- *Repackage plutonium materials in safer configurations*

5-8 Years - Extensive D&D:

- *Accelerate shipment of plutonium offsite*
- *Treat remaining materials and consolidate into fewer buildings*
- *Extensive D&D work in both nuclear and non-nuclear buildings*

8-10 Years - Cleaning Up, Closing Down:

- *All plutonium processing is complete*
- *Protected area shrunk to only accommodate plutonium storage vault*
- *Final D&D of nuclear buildings*
- *Radioactive waste consolidated and most shipped offsite*

After 10 Years - Stewardship:

- *Final waste management, D&D and environmental restoration work*
- *Transition of site to community use*
- *Long-term monitoring*

**Cost: Approximately \$7.3 billion
(\$6.5 billion if project efficiencies
can be achieved)**

Challenges for 2006

Plutonium Solutions:

- 32,600 liters will need to be drained

Plutonium Residues:

- 106,000 kilograms will require stabilization and repackaging

Environmental Restoration:

- 226 sites will require cleanup or determinations that no further action is required

Deactivation of Buildings and Facilities:

- 1,535,213 square feet of space will require deactivation

Demolition of Buildings and Facilities:

- 769 facilities will be demolished

Wastes and Materials to be Shipped Offsite

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Plutonium Metal | 6,600 kilograms |
| Plutonium Oxide | 3,200 kilograms |
| Plutonium Contaminated Residues (bulk) | 106,000 kilograms |
| Enriched Uranium | 6,700 kilograms |
| Transuranic Waste (includes mixed waste) | 15,000 cubic meters |
| Low-level Waste (includes mixed waste) | 138,000 cubic meters |
| Hazardous Waste | 2,400 cubic meters |
| Classified and Secret Documents | 3.5 million |

ROCKY FLATS 1998 BUDGET MOVING THROUGH CONGRESS

BOTH THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE APPROVED THEIR VERSIONS OF THE DOE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998. AS OF AUGUST 1, THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE THAT WILL RECONCILE THE DIFFERENT NUMBERS BETWEEN THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE HAS NOT MET. HERE'S HOW THE ROCKY FLATS BUDGET LOOKS SO FAR FOR 1998.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| AMOUNT ROCKY FLATS WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE TO MEET ITS 2006 GOALS | \$694 MILLION |
| AMOUNT THAT WAS PROPOSED IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET | \$640 MILLION |
| AMOUNT APPROVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | \$673 MILLION |
| AMOUNT APPROVED BY THE SENATE | \$640 MILLION |

THE AMOUNT ROCKY FLATS WILL ACTUALLY RECEIVE IS LIKELY TO BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE FIGURES, OR BETWEEN \$640 AND \$673 MILLION.

Site-Specific Advisory Boards

AROUND

THE DOE WEAPONS COMPLEX

This Issue: Hanford Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is one of several Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) that have been formed at former nuclear weapons production sites. In each issue of The Advisor, we spotlight the activities of one of these boards.

The secret development of the atom bomb during World War II brought the Army Corps of Engineers to the Columbia Basin in 1942 in search of a place to build a factory for the production of a key component of a nuclear reaction - plutonium. The selection team was looking for a site where facilities could be built on a large and remote tract of land; where no towns of 1,000 or more people were closer than 20 miles from the hazardous area; and where no main highway, railway or employee village was closer than 10 miles. At that time, the Hanford area was neither highly developed nor populated. The Corps concluded that of all the possible sites, the area surrounding the small farming town of Hanford, Washington, best met the criteria.

The new "government city" of Richland was built within two and a half years, providing homes for 17,500 construction and plutonium manufacturing workers and their families. Following a two-year production lull at the site, in January 1947 the Atomic Energy Commission took control of the U.S. atomic complex, including Hanford. The city of Richland grew to 23,000 as weapons research, development and production again became the main focus. The manufacture of nuclear materials and production activity slowed in the mid-1960s, until finally in 1986 there was a

shift away from the defense production mission at the site to one of waste management and cleanup. During that year:

- DOE made public thousands of documents showing there had been off-site releases of radiation and considerable contamination at the site.

- The Chernobyl disaster heightened public concern about nuclear issues, and led to the shutdown of Hanford's last production reactor.

- Washington voters rejected using Hanford as a high-level nuclear waste disposal site by an 82.5 percent vote.

Hanford's contaminated soil and groundwater areas were placed on the Superfund National Priority List in 1989. That same year, the Tri-Party Agreement between DOE, EPA, and the state's Department of Ecology was signed. The agreement established milestones and a schedule for cleanup and restoration of the Hanford site over a 30-year period.

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) was convened in January 1994. It consists of 30 members and five ex-officio members, each having one or several alternates, all charged with representing specific, different, and strongly held interests. HAB currently utilizes four committees to consider information and define issues for the Board to address. Those committees are: Dollars and Sense; Environmental Restoration; Health, Safety and Waste Management;

and the Executive Committee.

At the end of FY96, HAB presented to Al Alm at its year-end meeting the Board's vision of what the Hanford site should be like in ten years:

A clean, accessible, and healthy environment that:

- *Protects the health and safety of the affected communities.*
- *Protects the Columbia River and the environment.*
- *Prepares the site for future productive uses and contributes to a transition away from DOE-funded activities.*
- *Fosters economic prosperity through scientific research and innovation in development and testing of waste management approaches and cleanup technologies.*
- *Respects the treaty rights of affected American Indian Tribes.*
- *Moves forward through use of existing technology and resources.*
- *Acknowledges that cleanup work will not be completed in 10 years.*

Issues HAB is currently addressing include: 2006 Accelerated Cleanup Plan; adequate funding levels for meeting regulatory compliance agreements; removal and stabilization of tank waste; moving spent fuel away from the river; interim storage and final disposition of reactors along the river; disposition of canyon facilities; and remediation of contaminated soils and groundwater.

Board Approves Recommendations on Two Waste Management Issues

At its July 3 meeting, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board was presented with two sets of recommendations from the Environmental/Waste Management Committee. In recent months the committee had been reviewing the documentation for an upcoming remediation project, the T1 Trench, and applications for the designation of two Corrective Action Management Units (CAMUs) at the site.

From 1954 to 1962, the T1 Trench was utilized as a disposal area for waste from Building 444. Waste in the trench includes drums containing depleted uranium chips which are potentially pyrophoric, drums containing cemented cyanide, and various contaminated dry waste. With remediation scheduled to begin this fall, the site is hoping to excavate the trench with no problems. CAB made the following recommendations:

- *Prepare contingency plans for potential fire including engineering controls to minimize exposures to workers, the public, and the environment.*
- *Use a continuous, conservative, project specific air monitoring program throughout the project.*
- *Report air releases in percentages of allowable limits, rather than in comparison to projected models.*
- *Perform a cost benefit analysis for using Tier II Soil Action Levels as the cleanup standard for the project.*
- *Develop contingency plans responsive to the potential for tighter cleanup standards in the future.*
- *Commit to continued public involvement in the various stages of the project.*

The Environmental/Waste Management Committee also reviewed the two applications for CAMU designations at the site. A CAMU is an area established under RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) requirements for the purpose of supporting remedial action. Rocky Flats has applied to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for authorization to designate two areas at the site as potential CAMUs. If granted, the designations would allow for the future construction of two temporary waste storage sites. RFETS is proposing to have one site for containerized waste and one for bulk material. Rocky Flats plans to use the CAMUs to deal with any backlog of waste material generated from Decontamination and Decommissioning activities. This would only happen if a current waste disposal site were to close (i.e. Envirocare, Nevada Test Site), or if a planned site was delayed in opening (i.e. WIPP). CAB recommended the following to CDPHE:

- *Review the need for the CAMU designation on a regular basis to ensure that it remains temporary.*
- *Develop a formal decision-making process to evaluate when construction of the facilities is necessary.*
- *Clean up any contamination already existing at a proposed site before construction begins.*
- *Ensure continued public involvement in the future developments surrounding this issue.*

For more information on the T1 Trench project, or the CAMU applications, contact Chris Millsaps at the CAB office.

**CAB Web Address: www.indra.com/rfcab
Public Comment Message Line: (303) 637-4808**

The Advisor is published quarterly by the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The Executive Editor is Tom Marshall. Please send your questions, suggestions and ideas to:

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Except as noted, all articles are written by CAB staff: Ken Korkia, Chris Millsaps, Erin Rogers and Deb Thompson. To request a change of address or to add or remove your name from the mailing list, contact Deb Thompson at the above address and phone number. Material may be reprinted if credit is given. CAB is funded under a 1997 grant of approximately \$237,000 sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

CAB MISSION STATEMENT

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, a non-partisan, broadly representative, independent advisory board with concerns related to Rocky Flats activities, is dedicated to providing informed recommendations and advice to the agencies (Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency), government entities and other interested parties on policy and technical issues and decisions related to cleanup, waste management and associated activities. The Board is dedicated to public involvement, awareness and education on Rocky Flats issues.

Rocky Flats Public Meeting Calendar

| September | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| 4 | <i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting</i> | 6 - 9:30 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 8 | <i>CAB Site Wide Issues Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 9 | <i>Health Advisory Panel Public Meeting</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Sheraton Denver West Hotel |
| 9-10 | <i>Health Advisory Panel Technical Work Sessions</i> | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sheraton Denver West Hotel |
| 15 | <i>CAB National Issues Committee</i> | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. CAB office |
| 16 | <i>CAB Plutonium and SNM Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 18 | <i>CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |

| October | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | <i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting *</i> | 6 - 9:30 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 6 | <i>CAB Site Wide Issues Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 16 | <i>CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 20 | <i>CAB National Issues Committee</i> | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. CAB office |
| 21 | <i>CAB Plutonium and SNM Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| (* meeting date and location may be changed - contact the CAB office) | | |

| November | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | <i>Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Meeting</i> | 6 - 9:30 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 10 | <i>CAB Site Wide Issues Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 17 | <i>CAB National Issues Committee</i> | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. CAB office |
| 18 | <i>CAB Plutonium and SNM Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |
| 20 | <i>CAB Environmental/Waste Management Committee</i> | 7 - 9 p.m. Westminster City Hall |

ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU GO -- (303) 420-7855

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Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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