

**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2003
6 to 9:30 p.m.**

Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

FACILITATOR: Scott Woodard

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

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Davia, Joe Downey, Maureen Eldredge, Jim Fabian, Anne Fenerty, Tom Gallegos, Earl Gunia, Kip Harward, Victor Holm, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters, Andrew Ross / Rick DiSalvo, Steve Gunderson, Mark Sattelberg

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Suzanne Allen, Shirley Garcia, Henri Jonas, Mary Mattson, Alliyah Mirza / Tim Rehder

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Alan Trenary (citizen); George Goddu (citizen); Pat Etchart (DOE-RFFO); Lane Butler (K-H); Anna Martinez (DOE-RFFO); Deb French (RFCAB staff); Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff); Ken Korkia (RFCAB staff); Patricia Rice (RFCAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments were received.

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FOR INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP AGREEMENT

DOCUMENT: Dr. Tom Hakonson, an independent reviewer hired by the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, was asked to review four documents from the recently released modifications to the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA). Those documents were: Appendix B, Subsurface Soil Conceptual Model; Attachment 14; Old Process Waste Line Approach; Figure 3, Soil Risk Screen; and Attachment 10; RCRA/CHWA Closure for Interim Status Units.

Dr. Hakonson spent his time discussing Appendix B, which describes the procedure used to develop contaminant concentration limits in the subsurface associated with old process waste lines. Based on the RFCA modifications document, the site will remove contamination from the top three feet. The procedure described in Appendix B discusses what is planned for subsurface soil in the three-to-six-foot range. Dr. Hakonson discussed the science behind assumptions made by the RFCA agencies, such as the weighting factors: a dilution factor and an area factor. The planned cleanup procedure relies heavily on those two factors, which in Appendix B are specific to one species, the prairie dog. Prairie dogs were chosen by the agencies as they provide a mechanism for bringing contamination from the subsurface to the surface. He feels the choice of burrowing animal is critical. According to Dr. Hakonson, other important items to consider are the size and density of the prairie dog mounds, the total disturbed area surrounding each mound, and the average area between mounds in a colony.

According to Appendix B, the subsurface action level is equal to the action level for the surface times 4800, which means the concentration of contamination in the subsurface can be 4800 times higher than the concentration found at the surface. Thus, the subsurface contamination in a known leak area can be 10 times higher than what is permissible at the surface, based on an assumption that there will be no contact with that contamination. The size of a given hotspot is also a factor.

Dr. Hakonson feels the RFCA agencies should have reviewed more literature when considering modifications to RFCA. Of all published data on prairie dog burrows, only a single study was used. That study tends to underestimate mound size and overestimates the area disturbed by an individual prairie dog burrow system. He also feels that although the procedure used by the agencies to develop Appendix B may have been sound, the numbers used in their assumptions are questionable. Dr. Hakonson believes it is important to look at the habits of other species such as pocket gophers and burrowing insects, since those species may have the capacity to excavate more soil than prairie dogs. The model also does not account for the fact that prairie dog mounds tend

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to spread out over time due to erosion, potentially creating a much larger area of contamination than the size of the original mound. He recommends the agencies reconsider the parameters they used in making assumptions for this document.

The Board agreed to officially transmit Dr. Hakonson's report to the RFCA agencies, and to ask that the report be considered part of the official comments to the RFCA modifications document. Representatives from the Department of Energy, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that they appreciated the detailed information and recommendations made in Dr. Hakonson's report and will consider his report carefully.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RFCAB RECOMMENDATION ON PROPOSED RFCA MODIFICATIONS: RFCAB staff member Ken Korkia headed this discussion. He noted that the Board's Closure Projects Committee met in December to prepare specific comments on the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA) document. Those comments are included as part of the Board's recommendation. Next, the Recommendation Drafting Committee met before the Board meeting and produced Draft 6 of the end-state recommendation. Most of the changes found in Draft 6 are organizational in nature. At the December Board meeting, some concern was expressed by Board members that the recommendation was not clear enough. Other members wanted to make certain at least part of the recommendation addressed specific comments on the RFCA modifications document. The recommendation also includes language gleaned from the Board's end-state conversations held over the past year, when the Board learned about and discussed the conceptual basis of the site's proposed plan. The recommendation is now separated into three parts. Part 1 provides a context for the Board's recommendation on proposed RFCA changes. Part 2 contains comments and recommendations specific to the RFCA document. Part 3 addresses long-term stewardship considerations. The recommendation also includes an appendix, which contains specific questions addressed to the RFCA agencies as well as requests for additional information.

The goal at this meeting was for the Board to review the latest draft and come to agreement on some of the last remaining recommendations under debate. One Board member, who was absent from this meeting, expressed several concerns in writing prior to the meeting and also voiced disagreement with key recommendations found in Draft 6. Thus, some discussion was deferred to the Board's next meeting in order to properly consider that Board member's views. However, the Board did spend some time discussing their opinions about recommendation language upon which there is not yet agreement. Most of the recommendations under contention address surface and subsurface soil remediation, the depth to be considered as surface soil, and cleanup levels for both surface and subsurface soil. Other concerns raised were about recommendations in the long-term stewardship section, and the legal enforceability of specific recommendations contained in that section. A few minor changes were made to Draft 6.

The Board agreed to discuss remaining issues via email over the next couple of weeks in order to work out their concerns. It is hoped that compromise language will be developed as a result of the email discussions to ensure that the Board is able to finalize its end-state recommendation at the January 23 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION / PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Based on a recommendation from the Personnel Committee, the Board approved a 6.67% increase for Deb French, which makes her salary \$41,600 per year, effective January 1, 2003.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: January 23, 2003, 6 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room, 11755 Airport Way, Broomfield
Agenda: Finalize recommendation on proposed modifications to Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 p.m. *

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joe Downey, 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.

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