

**ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION**

**August 8, 2000  
6 — 9:30 p.m.**

**College Hill Library, Front Range Community College  
3705 West 112th Avenue, Westminster, Colorado**

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**FACILITATOR:** Laura Till

Gerald DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eugene DeMayo, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Mary Harlow, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Mary Mattson, LeRoy Moore, Markuené Sumler / Kathy Wahlberg, Jeremy Karpatkin, Frazer Lockhart

**BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ray Betts, Tom Gallegos, Victor Holm, Tom Marshall, Bryan Taylor / Tim Rehder

**PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT:** Anna Martinez (DOE-RFFO); Lane Butler (K-H); Don Owen (DNFSB); Kathy Wahlberg (CDPHE); Barbara Mazurowski (DOE-RFFO); Shirley Garcia (Broomfield); Ann Lockhart (CDPHE); P. J. Timmerman (GAO); Rex Rainard (CDPHE); John Corsi (K-H); Alan Trenary (citizen); Irving Williams (COGEMA); Tom Lukow (DOE-RFFO); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Erin Rogers (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Susan Wilds (CAB staff)

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No comments were received.

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD UPDATE:** Don Owen with the DNFSB gave a quarterly update on Rocky Flats issues.

- The Board issued three new letters. The first letter discussed efforts by Rocky Flats site representatives to implement a revision to Integrated Work Control Program. The letter offered observations on the process, such as training of key personnel. Kaiser-Hill has worked on improvement in those areas and efforts continue. The second letter, regarding the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS) forwarded observations on recent contamination control upgrades, ranging from electrostatic mechanisms to reduce contamination, to alpha monitors for the inner can weld, and the level of readiness for the PuSPS. Finally, the third letter was observations on how Rocky Flats had interpreted requirements on DOE Order 435.1 regarding hazardous waste. Revisions have since been made.
- Update on risk reduction under DNFSB Recommendation 94-1. The PuSPS has been delayed again, with a possible startup now in October or November. Regarding Building 771 solutions, the September milestone - to drain an additional eight actinide systems - was met in June. Regarding plutonium residues, DOE proposed and DNFSB accepted changes to the milestone to allow prioritizing of Building 771 deactivation.

**ADMIN RECORD**

SW-A-005359

- D&D activities. There are four buildings onsite with contaminated gloveboxes. The site has implemented an Inner Tent Chamber system, and the next generation of this process will start up in September. This generation will allow for a closer waste box, and can also handle plasma arc cutting. Kaiser-Hill is reviewing its plans for using a robotics system, but to date those plans continue.
- Miscellaneous. Staff reviewed the Rocky Flats Criticality Safety Program in May, and gave a favorable review. However, the Conduct of Operations, or use of procedures, has presented many problems. Implementation of the Integrated Safety Management program is still at the activity level.

#### **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH NEW DOE SITE MANAGER,**

**BARBARA MAZUROWSKI:** First, Barbara introduced herself and gave some introductory comments. Barbara stated that community involvement is important for support and feedback, and she commended Board members for their dedication to Rocky Flats issues. Her vision for Rocky Flats is for it to become a model closure site for DOE, with a safe closure and a smooth transition of the work force. Hopefully, then Rocky Flats can become the model for closing other DOE sites. Her overall goal is safety, specifically making sure that there is an integrated safety management system in place to allow workers to work safely. Her office is working closely with the contractor on integrated work plans, the detailed plans for what is to be done. Another of her goals is to implement the new contract, which presents a new approach for DOE. And the final goal is to resolve closure issues with the community, the workers, and DOE staff working together. A successful transition of the work force is a key element of that.

Next, Board members and audience members asked questions and made comments.

- Mary Mattson. Mary stated that she is worried that workers are being held hostage to their jobs by the timing of the educational program for retraining many of the workers. For instance, some workers are stuck waiting to nearly closure, with their lives are on hold, because educational benefits do not become available soon enough. Barbara noted that she will check with Kaiser-Hill on their plans in this area.
- Mary Harlow: Will DOE's role in the contract be more active? Barbara: Facility representatives are in each building to review plans and activities; they have extensive backgrounds to qualify as a facility representative. However, DOE serves in a project management role for this contract, to oversee each individual project, to interact with the contractor, and to identify and resolve issues. DOE has to evaluate the work performed in order for the contractor to receive a fee.
- Jerry DePoorter: When the robotics system becomes available, who will write the procedure and how will workers be trained? Barbara: KH is probably work closely with the company developing the robotics, and involving workers in learning procedures. Some worker training is going on at this time.
- Mary Harlow: Will stewardship be taken into consideration in the new contract, and the decisions made as a part of the contract? Barbara: The RFCA Stakeholder Focus Group works with members of the community to understand how stewardship needs to be applied to work at the site, such as D&D work. The site is looking at closure scenarios that integrate stewardship issues. Options developed by the focus group will be reviewed and evaluated.
- Markuené Sumler: Just a comment - holding the focus groups during the day is not helping to gain an accurate pulse of the public. Since members of the public may not be able to attend so early in the day, only a core group of people are giving input, some of who are paid to attend the meetings.

- LeRoy Moore: There are no Rocky Flats workers on the Board right now. A concern brought to the Board in the past is that Kaiser-Hill has threatened to take away benefits and pensions from retired and disabled workers. Apparently the way the contract is written, it allows Kaiser-Hill to raise their profits by penalizing former workers. Has DOE addressed in the contract a way to prevent Kaiser-Hill from doing this? Barbara: Kaiser-Hill has asked DOE to help set guidelines for health care requirements for former workers. Following an evaluation across the sites complex-wide, there will be a report due out around the end of the year that shows how each site deals with this same issue. Then Kaiser-Hill will be better able to negotiate with former workers. It is also anticipated that policy from DOE-Headquarters on this issue will be forthcoming. Kaiser-Hill does not have unilateral authority to change the benefits.
- Alan Trenary: A comment - issues with retirees shouldn't be involved with the contractor doing cleanup. It is DOE's responsibility to handle the issue and to care for its former workers. Second, as long as there are toxic wastes, and governments change over the years to come, the contamination will not go away and there should be a warning or monument that shows the severity of what was there, to prevent housing or something else being built there. Barbara: The reason Kaiser-Hill negotiates with the benefits is a legal process that must be in place. Second, a memorial or monument at Rocky Flats or other sites is a good idea and has been the topic of discussion for stewardship groups.

#### **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON KAISER-HILL SITEWIDE BASELINE:**

Nancy Tuor attended the meeting to give this presentation on the recently released Closure Project Baseline for Rocky Flats. The baseline is the project plan that lays out the elements of the work scope, the work activity schedule, and cost estimates. The baseline also includes a project management plan, which includes the organizational elements and how to ensure that everything is operated safely. It also includes a risk management plan that has contingencies and prioritizations. The baseline is based on the best information available right now, but it is guaranteed to change over time.

The baseline does not cover all the work required to meet the current Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA). DOE also has a certain scope of work that may eventually be turned over to Kaiser-Hill. Other changes to the scope of work will occur over the life of the project. The baseline being discussed now only covers the work defined in the current contract with Kaiser-Hill.

The Closure Project Baseline was submitted on June 30. Total spending is capped at \$3.9 billion, with a target completion date of December 2006. The annual budget is no more than \$657 million.

Physical completion of the project is defined as:

- All buildings are demolished
- All Individual Hazardous Substance Sites are remediated or dispositioned in accordance with RFCA
- All wastes are removed, except those that can be left in place, recycled or used as fill material
- Closures caps are used for the 700 Area and the solar ponds, or the areas otherwise remediated in accordance with RFCA
- Building foundations, utilities, or remaining structures covered by a minimum of

three feet of fill

- Surface water onsite meets health standards based on open space use
- Water leaving the site in Woman and Walnut creeks meets water quality standards

Two kinds of assumptions were used: estimating assumptions to define cost and schedule; and bounding assumptions based on best available information. Assumptions will change over time as regulatory decisions change, and based on better characterization.

The key assumptions:

- Maintaining compliance with all laws and requirements
- All government-furnished services and items will be delivered
- The regulatory framework is unchanged
- Union agreements are unchanged
- Onsite surface water meets health-based standards for open space
- Offsite water will be safe for any use
- Use of closure project caps
- Some subsurface soil contamination will not cause an exceedance of surface water standards
- Radionuclide Soil Action Levels (RSALs) stay the same

In the beginning, most funds will be spent on risk reduction of special nuclear materials, accompanied by accelerated shipments. Then the major work will turn to the D&D of major plutonium buildings. Toward the end, other building remediation (D&D work) is the key part of the project, as well as soil and water remediation.

There are six main projects: Closure of Buildings 371, 707, 771, and 776/777; the Material Stewardship Project; and Remediation, Industrial D&D, and the Site Services Project.

The major strategies all start with conducting all activities safely and in compliance. The other key strategies are an early closure of the Protected Area (by 2003); focus on early risk reduction of SNM liquids, residues, beryllium, and SNM stabilization; reduce the site mortgage costs to help fund closure; better characterization of contaminants in selected areas such as under buildings; reviewing optional technical solutions such as robotics; and finally using clean building rubble as fill.

Some key differences between this baseline and the site's previous baseline are a funding cap of no more than \$657 million per year; a revamped Protected Area strategy that includes shrinking the Protected Area more quickly so that only Building 371 remains; and increasing the spending for D&D costs based on experience with Building 779.

**UPDATE ON SSAB CHAIRS MEETING:** Chairs from each of the Site Specific Advisory Boards across the country met last week in Amarillo. This meeting was hosted by the Pantex Plant Citizens Advisory Board. First, there were updates from each of the chairs, with concerns expressed by all about funding for work that needs to be done at the sites. Then the group took a bus tour of the Pantex facility, with a detailed briefing on the work done at Pantex. Pantex at this time assembles and disassembles weapons. There are some problems with groundwater contamination at that site, and many others. At the meeting, the group discussed issues related to groundwater and groundwater contamination. Each site gave an individual presentation, and received an overall presentation on contamination

throughout the complex. Fortunately, Rocky Flats groundwater is not as contaminated as other sites. The chairs also discussed common values for the SSABs, a draft document had been prepared at past meetings and at this meeting a final document was agreed to and signed by the each Board's chair. Finally, the group worked on and agreed to an agenda for the SSAB Stewardship Workshop to be held in Denver this October.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Membership Committee made the following recommendations, all of which were approved by the Board.

- **Application for Board Membership - Bill Petersen.** A resident of Westminster, Bill works as an architectural designer for Pappas Architecture. His interest is to be involved in the community where he lives, to have a positive role in the impact of environmental cleanup of Rocky Flats, and as a citizen he wants to provide feedback to the government on its responsibility to affected citizens and communities. He has worked in the architectural field since graduating from CU-Boulder in 1996, and has experience working with municipalities on development and redevelopment of "greenfields" and "brownfields." Bill will serve as an Administrative/Business Representative.
- **Application for Board Membership - Nancy Peters.** Nancy also lives in Westminster. She is retired from employment with the State of Colorado, where she worked with the Colorado Medicaid Program, the Joint Budget Committee of the legislature, and Colorado State Parks. She is the chair of the City of Westminster Special Permits and Licensing Board, a volunteer instructor for the Environmental Edge Program at Front Range Community College, and a volunteer mediator for employee grievances with the Colorado Department of Personnel. Nancy has a bachelor degree from Juniata College in Pennsylvania, and a Master of Public Administration from CU-Denver. She will serve on the Board as a Community Representative. Nancy will begin her service on the Board in November, as she is unavailable until that time.
- **Request for Leave of Absence.** Mary Mattson requested and was approved for a leave of absence through January 2001. At that time, the Membership Committee will contact her to determine whether she can continue her Board membership.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Date:** September 7, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** College Hill Library, 3705 West 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Westminster

**Agenda:** Committee updates (Environmental Restoration, AME TRG, and Stewardship); SSAB Stewardship Workshop preparation; Water Quality Control Commission comments

**ACTION ITEM SUMMARY: ASSIGNED TO:**

1. Provide to Board members and Barbara Mazurowski a copy of the common values statement signed by SSAB Chairs - Jerry DePoorter

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M. \***

(\* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in CAB office.)

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Mary Harlow, Secretary  
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

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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.

[Top of Page](#) | [Index of Meeting Minutes](#) | [Home](#)

[Citizens Advisory Board Info](#) | [Rocky Flats Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Feedback & Questions](#)