

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County City and County of Broomfield Jefferson County
 City of Arvada City of Boulder City of Westminster Town of Superior

Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2003

8:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Mt. Evans Room in the Terminal Building
 Jefferson County Airport, Broomfield

Board members in attendance: Hank Stovall (Director, Broomfield), Tom Brunner (Alternate, Broomfield), Mike Bartleson (Alternate, Broomfield), Lorraine Anderson (Director, Arvada), Clark Johnson (Alternate, Arvada), Karen Imbierowicz (Director, Superior), Nanette Neelan (Alternate, Jefferson County), Mike Weil (Alternate, City of Boulder), Sam Dixon (Director, Westminster), Ron Hellbusch (Alternate, Westminster).

Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance: David Abelson (Executive Director), Kimberly Chleboun (Program Manager), Melissa Anderson (Technical Program Manager), Joan Fritsche (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C.).

Members of the Public: Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), Bill Badger (Kaiser-Hill), Len Martinez (Kaiser-Hill), Mark Ferri (Kaiser-Hill), Robert Starkey (Kaiser-Hill), Dyan Foss (Kaiser-Hill), Patrick Haines (URS Group Rocky Flats), John Schneider (DOE), Rick DiSalvo (DOE), Gary Schuetz (DOE), Rob Henneke (EPA), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Edd Kray (CDPHE), Patricia Rice (RFCAB), Anne Fenerty (RFCAB), Al Nelson (Westminster), Shirley Garcia (Broomfield), Nancy Lemein (Arvada), Phil Cruz (RFSOIU #1), Robert Lynch (RFSOIU #1), Dan Chesshir (RFSOIU #1), John Whitney (RFSOIU #1), Ron DiGiorgio (USWA Rocky Flats), Chuck Miller (USWA Rocky Flats), Aislinn Hamilton (Congressman Beauprez), Kristy Pollard (Senator Allard), Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Margaret Boyd (Boyd Solutions), Christine Herbert (Gibson), Sharon Sherman (Gibson), Barbara Erisman (Corporate Allocation Services), Katy Human (Daily Camera).

Convene/Agenda Review

Lorraine Anderson convened the meeting at 8:45 a.m. There was not yet a quorum to approve any business items, so David Abelson gave his Executive Director's Report first.

Business Items

1) **Executive Director's Report** - David Abelson reported the following items:

- Representative Udall circulated a draft bill to Senator Allard, Rep. Beauprez, and the Coalition that will give the Department of the Interior one more tool for acquiring the mineral rights at fair market value at Rocky Flats. The bill would create monetary credit, instead of a check, to use for other oil and gas leasing projects.

ADMIN RECORD

- The RFCA modifications public comment period has closed and the RFCA parties are determining how to address community concerns about the subsurface cleanup approach and long-term stewardship. The RFCA parties will provide an update on the disposition of comments at the April Board meeting.
- As mentioned at the last Board meeting, DOE's Golden Field Office had requested that the EPA delist the NREL wind facility from the National Priorities List (NPL). EPA analyzed thirteen samples for plutonium and concluded the samples are at virtually background levels. Thus, EPA determined the wind site was never on the NPL and never fell under CERCLA. This procedure may be a precursor to how other areas of the Site may be delisted.
- Remediation of the Solar Ponds is complete.

2) Motion to Approve Consent Agenda – Hank Stovall motioned to approve the consent agenda. Sam Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 (Boulder County and Superior were not in attendance).

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Briefing on Kaiser-Hill Workforce Transition Plan

Len Martinez (Kaiser-Hill) began by relating how successful the Rocky Flats workforce has been in completing one of the largest and most complex environmental cleanup projects in the world. In the next three to four years Rocky Flats closure will affect approximately 4,200 highly skilled workers. Len then described Kaiser-Hill's efforts to transition this workforce. Goals include:

- Touch every worker.
- Retain workers long enough to complete the job.
- Create opportunities for workers after project completion.
- Achieve positive human and business outcomes.
- Effectively communicate Rocky Flats workforce availability to the business community, chambers of commerce, Colorado delegation, local counties and cities, and the media.

Len reviewed the types of workers who comprise the hourly workforce of 1400, and salaried workforce of 2800. Kaiser-Hill has developed tools to match these workers with potential employers, including open employment posting on their website at KHecareer.com, online resumes, job fairs, and educational fairs. Some of the resources available to the workforce are the Career Transition Center (run by their contractor, Spherion), job development, online career transition assistance, education and training reimbursement, and assistance starting a personal business.

Len then displayed a map which showed where the workforce lives by city, thus illustrating potential economic impact on the region. He stated Rocky Flats has a \$1.5 - \$1.9 billion annual economic impact on the Denver Metro area. Spending by Rocky Flats workers generates an additional 6,888 regional jobs, which combined with 4,200 site workers equates to approximately 11,000 total jobs (direct and indirect). Len noted it is their goal to keep as much of this workforce in the region as possible.

Len next described how Kaiser-Hill has embarked on job development opportunities, which include: creating networks and possible partnerships with outside companies (such as Coors and Ball); working on outreach to local elected officials, trade groups and Chambers of Commerce; and, identifying employment opportunities at other DOE facilities around the country. Len said pending layoffs are a

natural progression to closing Rocky Flats, and job development is key to successfully transitioning the workforce from Rocky Flats. He stated the Coalition can help them with job development.

Tom Brunner said it is the Coalition's job as the Community Reuse Organization (CRO) to follow Kaiser-Hill's progress in their workforce transition efforts, and he thanked Len for their work. He asked Len to explain what it means to be a cold war veteran under 3161 (the provision from the FY93 Defense Authorization Act which provides for worker and community transition funds for sites experiences worker layoffs). Len explained that a worker is considered a cold war warrior if they were employed prior to September 27, 1991, and is eligible for benefits such as enhanced educational programs, \$10,000 for training, tuition reimbursement, and \$4,000 for relocation expenses. Tom asked how hiring preference for other DOE facilities is measured. Len said a worker has the ability to post nationwide at DOE facilities, but he is not sure about the specifics of how preference is measured. He added that with their new software program they will be able to track each employee's progress and transition, and determine the statistics of their success. Hank asked if their contractor, Spherion, is located locally. Len said they have a local office and understand the Denver area and marketplace, and are also international. Hank asked how many people are dedicated to this transition process. Len replied there are three people at the center full-time, but depending on volume this can increase up to fifteen. Len has also been working with a team of approximately nine since last August. Hank asked about the success rate in transition layoffs of the past six to eight months, and Len said their program was just recently installed and they do not have those numbers yet. Ron Hellbusch and Sam Dixon advised Len to contact the cities' economic development offices since both small and large businesses work with the municipalities in hiring local workers. Len said he intends to do so, and added there are many small businesses at Rocky Flats working with the Small Business Administration to put together business plans to continue generating business once Rocky Flats closes.

Tom referred to potential changes to the Rule of 70 which would gain more points for hourly workers, and hopefully salaried workers as well. He asked if Kaiser-Hill would support these changes and if it is something the community could help support. Len said he and steelworker representatives are in the process of meeting with Mike Owen, who is in charge of workforce transition. He noted they must also balance transitioning workers into retirement with keeping needed workers until closure. David Abelson said the Coalition would be meeting with Mike Owen the following week. David then asked the Security Police Officers (SPO) Union the status of their transition efforts. Dan Chesshir said they have been working the past seven to eight months to transition SPOs to other DOE facilities, and first right of hire has been successful. He said other plants have been coming to Rocky Flats to interview, and the plants have also been holding positions for the SPOs with letters of intention to transfer once the Site has completed special nuclear material transfer. Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders) asked if Kaiser-Hill is involved with the handling of the retirement health and pension plans to be bid on by a future administrator. Len said their parent company is considering whether or not to bid on the work, and is in the process of putting together a Request for Proposal.

Briefing on Building 776 Demolition Strategy

Melissa Anderson explained that this briefing would provide the Board an opportunity to learn about and comment on Building 776 demolition strategies before the draft decision document is released. She then cited three goals for the conversation: 1) learn about the pros and cons of the selected demolition strategy; 2) determine what additional information is needed in order to ensure community values are met; and 3) determine how the Board might want to address the decision document when it is released.

John Schneider (DOE) advised the Board that decontamination and demolition work is a joint project with DOE and Kaiser-Hill, and their strategy will be captured in the forthcoming draft Building 776 Decommissioning Operations Plan (DOP). He then introduced Mark Ferri (Kaiser-Hill), the project

manager responsible for Buildings 707 and 776/777 closure projects.

Mark Ferri began by providing a history of the Building 776/777 cluster. B776/777 was constructed between 1955 and 1957 and was the main manufacturing facility for plutonium weapons components. It is a two-story structure with a partial basement, and a common wall separating the two buildings. On May 11, 1969 a fire occurred in Room 134 in the north foundry line, and post-fire cleanup efforts were initiated immediately and continued for two years. Mark then showed numerous pictures of the fire damage, including columns encapsulated in concrete (which were water and sand blasted and painted over with epoxy), columns warped out of shape, structural steel and joints, crevices in the steel which were covered over with grout and/or paint, and perimeter walls which are 40% cinder block and 60% transite (asbestos containing fiberglass). He also showed pictures of cleanup work being performed.

Mark said when decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) was initiated, over 25,000 grams of plutonium was present in the building, but that number has been significantly reduced to less than 2,000 grams. Most of the remaining holdup is in the ductwork, which is being removed and shipped offsite. All 279 gloveboxes have been removed, and 73 of 84 work sets are complete. Thus far, over 10,000 cubic meters of waste has been shipped offsite. Mark then presented a map of the first floor depicting all the work completed to date. He said the first floor has been mostly cleared out, including removal of the horizontal accelerator, incinerators, and the supercompactor. The only major item left is the Advance Size Reduction Facility, which is a stainless steel room that was previously used to size reduce parts using robotics. It has very high airborne levels of radiation, but work is already three quarters done and should be completed in a couple of months. Mark showed before and after pictures of several work sets, including Room 437 gloveboxes, Room 443 x-ray head and supports, the cooling towers, and Room 463 glovebox and conveyor line. He also showed pictures of Set 51 which included the removal of seventeen gloveboxes of the Molten Salt Extraction Line. This is one of the highest dose areas, with layers of transite panels which will be disposed of prior to demolition. Set 60 was a High Contamination Area and contained a number of pieces of equipment used for size reduction and waste movement.

Mark also showed pictures of Set 84 and the pits which were excavated looking for buried equipment. Many areas had been so contaminated after the fire, such as stairwells under gloveboxes, that they had been filled in with concrete. During decommissioning fourteen areas were investigated for buried equipment, and ten locations were completely excavated. The other four areas consisted of solid concrete up to 25 feet deep, so they took statistical core bores to verify what was there. In Area C, the 4 high rolling mill pit, a bed plate in the foundation and an angle iron were encountered, which is part of the original building construction. In Area D, the Marform press pit, the lower marform cylinder was located sixteen to twenty feet below the slab surface. The cylinder is contaminated and will be removed during demolition.

Mark next reviewed the unique attributes of the building and their demolition strategy. Unique attributes include:

- exterior cinder block and transite walls;
- structural steel columns encased in concrete;
- structural steel joints with internal contamination;
- footing caps encased in concrete;
- smoke and water in all crevices;
- two roofs - a clean roof over contaminated roof; and,
- buried basements and equipment pits.

The demolition method alternatives analysis has been studied, and they determined that a tent over the

entire structure is not feasible, nor is decontamination to unrestricted release levels. Therefore, decontamination followed by demolition is the selected alternative. They will have to be careful as the more aggressive the decontamination efforts, the more danger there is of imminent collapse due to a loss of structural integrity. Mark said a draft DOP modification for the demolition is being prepared, since they did not know how to take the building down when the original DOP was written. The modification is being drafted in consultation with DOE and CDPHE, and should be available for informal public review in April.

Mark reviewed the demolition approach, and explained their goal is to demolish and remove all building components to at least three feet below final grade and dispose of it at an approved facility out of state. In order to reduce risk prior to demolition the Site will:

- conduct building characterization;
- close RCRA units;
- remove chemical and hazardous substances;
- remediate beryllium levels;
- abate asbestos;
- remove all PCB hazards;
- remove process piping;
- conduct decontamination and removal of radiological contamination;
- remove zone 1 ventilation ductwork; and,
- remove the Advanced Size Reduction Facility.

Controls during demolition will involve dust controls (water spray, fixatives, etc.), limitations on waste piles, work area boundaries, in-process surveys, and air modeling confirmed by air sampling. Mark noted that the environmental remediation (ER) work after D&D will be a little easier here since D&D will be taking up entire slabs and remediating under building contamination to three feet below grade. The floor was then opened for questions.

Lorraine Anderson said it is sobering to think about the people doing this dangerous work. Sam Dixon asked if the deep pits (from excavated equipment and stairwells) would be remediating during D&D or ER. Mark said the D&D team would take out the thirty foot pits. Sam asked what he meant about "limitation on waste piles". Mark explained that since everything is being shipped to the Nevada Test Site they do not want big rubble piles sitting exposed. Instead they will try to have containers keep up with the rubble pile, and have a way of covering piles with heat mist and tarps, as well as wind condition requirements. Dave added they will also likely work in sections, load a section, then begin the next section. Hank Stovall asked about the methods for removing ducts, pipes, and inner walls. Mark replied that ductwork and piping would be removed manually while the shell is still intact, and transite panels would be manually unbolted from the inside out. Hank then asked about the options for taking down the shell, and noted concern about the double roof. Mark said the second roof is clean, and right now workers are between the two roofs pulling out asbestos and other remaining items. He noted that before the second roof was constructed workers had removed most of the contamination, and what is left is mostly metal decking and roofing paper. If characterization identifies any hotspots, the hotspots will be cut out from underneath, otherwise the rest of it will come down with the rest of the building as it is demolished mechanically.

Tom Brunner said this is a vanguard project and they are doing a good job of learning as they go. Karen Imbierowicz commented on decontaminating to safe levels, and asked if they know what those levels will be at this time. Mark replied they have not yet determined those levels, but it will partially be a function of how difficult it is to access some areas. He is hopeful they will be able to reduce contamination sources to reasonable levels. Lorraine commented on a recent series of articles in the

Rocky Mountain News about the Russian secret city of Mayak and the comparisons to Rocky Flats. She asked Mark to explain why the building has a lot of contamination, but not a lot of dose. Mark said at most nuclear facilities you get a dose, or millirems/remms per hour, as you walk through the facility and all you can do is shield yourself from it. However, this is not the case at Rocky Flats. Instead, Rocky Flats has radioactive contamination which is easier to deal with it because it can be encapsulated. Lorraine asked about the procedure if there is an unexpected release. Mark replied that first, Patrick Haines (URS Group Rocky Flats) is working on dose models for worst case scenarios such as a cinder block wall collapsing. They are modeling with an EPA approved method, based on site boundaries and impacts to those closest. Second, they will be prepared with a radiological program including workers with water and fixatives to control contamination release.

Lorraine next asked about worker safety in the case of beryllium. Mark stated that workers' blood is sampled once a year for beryllium sensitivity, and if they are found sensitive they are not allowed to work in beryllium areas. Workers wear layers of anti-contamination clothing, have constant air monitoring, and regular building surface swipes. He added that workers in beryllium areas are worse off than workers in radiological areas as there is no real time monitoring for beryllium and individual exposure is still not well understood. Hank asked what the external air monitoring configuration would look like. Mark said it is still premature to determine the exact configuration, but there will be the RAMP monitors as well as extra monitors placed around the building. Dyan Foss (Kaiser-Hill) said air monitoring is geared toward worker safety. Hank asked in which document the monitoring configuration would be specified. Mark responded the Integrated Monitoring Plan (IMP). Patrick clarified that monitoring is done from a site-wide perspective, regulations are site-wide in nature, and the IMP would capture how monitoring for this project works concurrently with other work onsite. Mark added that air monitoring is cheap and easy to set up around the buildings, and currently there are over 100 monitors around the building. Hank asked if there are any additional EPA or CDPHE regulatory requirements. Steve Gunderson said they would have to meet the NESHAP standard of 10 millirems per year, and there will be a variety of tools in the DOP describing what to do under certain circumstances. He stressed the bottom line is compliance with ALARA. Anne Fenerty (RFCAB) asked how they intend to decontaminate the cinder block walls. Mark said they will use hydrojets, scabbling, fixative, and hand wiping.

Melissa reviewed the three goals stated at the beginning of the presentation, and said she heard from the Board concerns about sufficient air monitoring, beryllium, and assurance of minimizing offsite releases. She then asked the Board how they wanted to proceed. Tom said the briefing was valuable and said to just keep the Board in the loop as work and drafting of the DOP progresses over the next couple of months. The Board then discussed the *Rocky Mountain News* articles and agreed to send a letter to the editor protesting the comparison of Mayak to Rocky Flats.

Review Revised Washington, D.C. Briefing Materials

Lorraine Anderson asked the Board if they had any further changes to the briefing materials. Hank Stovall did not agree with the first bullet on page four of the congressional briefing packet, which details the percentage of project completion. The Board discussed how to change it to accurately convey cleanup progress. After further review, including input from Dave Shelton and Rick DiSalvo, the Board agreed upon the new wording, "With measurable progress being made, the cleanup is currently ahead on both scope and schedule." Karen Imbierowicz asked about including numbers from January in the Cost and Schedule Variance chart, and David said they will not be available in the necessary format in time for printing. Karen suggested including updated numbers in their talking points. David said he had also been working with Lisa Morzel to incorporate the City of Boulder's issues into the materials.

Round Robin

There was no additional Board comment.

Public Comment

Phil Cruz (RFSOIU #1) said he has been attending Board meetings for some time, and he sees Kaiser-Hill and DOE make their presentations on worker transition and safety, but the security police officers (SPO) have not been asked what they see onsite. He said the SPOs are the workers onsite investigating safety, ensuring air monitoring and other worker safety measures. He suggested the Board would benefit from discussing these issues with the SPOs since they hear all sides of safety issues and are involved in the programs Len Martinez discussed earlier. Phil added that what Mark Ferri presented earlier was accurate and he had no real issues with worker safety at B776/777 at this time. Lorraine Anderson said he has the opportunity to bring specific issues to the Board's attention during public comment, and he could also contact David Abelson if he were to have a major issue that needed to be addressed.

Big Picture

David Abelson reviewed the Big Picture. At the April 7th meeting the Board will receive an update on the RFCA modifications, and continue the Original Landfill discussion. The Board will also go into Executive Session for David Abelson's annual review.

The meeting was adjourned by Lorraine Anderson at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Chleboun, Program Manager

[Back to Meeting Minutes Index](#)

[Home](#) | [About RFCLOG](#) | [Board Policies](#) | [Future Use](#) | [Long-Term Stewardship](#) |
[Board Meeting Info](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact Us](#)