

**Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2001**

The November 15, 2001, Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting was held at the Environmental Information Center in Paducah, Kentucky, at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present: Nola Courtney, Mark Donham, Judy Ingram, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Ronald Lamb, Rebecca Lambert, Linda Long, Doug Raper, Craig Rhodes, John Russell, Jim Smart, John Tillson, and Gregory Waldrop.

Board members absent: Judith Duff, Leon Owens, Rosa Scott, and Bill Tanner.

***Ex Officio* members and related regulatory agency employees present:** Gaye Brewer, Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM); Tim Kreher, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), and Janet Miller and Todd Mullins, KDWM.

The Deputy Designated Federal Official present: W. Don Seaborg.

The DOE Federal Coordinator present: Pat Halsey.

DOE-related employees present: Craig Czuchna, Gordon Dover, Jim Ethridge, Bruce Gardner, Jonathan Hanna, Jill Holder, Steve Kay, David Massey, Brad Montgomery, Glenn Van Sickle, and Stacey Young.

Public: Ray English, Ruby English, Kristi Hanson, Chuck Jurka, Vicki Jurka, Andrew Smith, and Corrine Whitehead

Agenda

Donham called the meeting to order. Halsey mentioned some items that were tabled for vote at the last meeting and suggested that these items be taken care of first. Kemp asked about the Long-Term Strategy Task Force and Halsey said it was listed as the number four-action item. Halsey said she would meet with interested members.

Kay asked if there were any other modifications to the proposed agenda. Kay said the Board still needed to approve the September minutes. **The Board approved the modified agenda by consensus.**

Minutes

Kay asked if there were any additional modifications to the September draft minutes. Donham proposed adding a paragraph that he had written regarding the discussion in which Eric Scott explained qualifiers concerning the rad maps. **The Board approved the amended minutes by consensus.**

Kay asked for proposed modifications to the October minutes. Kemp said that the Waste Task Force report should read “any newspapers,” not “the newspaper” on page six of the minutes. **The Board approved the modified agenda by consensus.**

Kay asked the Board to look at the proposed revisions to the operating procedures. Halsey noted the changes. **The Board approved the changes in Operating Procedures by consensus.**

Deputy Designated Federal Official’s Comments

Seaborg mentioned that a portion of the Board took a tour of the C-746-U Landfill and said the white paper had been sent to the Board. He offered to provide a presentation at a future date, if requested.

Action Items

Young discussed dates for the annual retreat. She asked for convenient times and said she will look at the first weekend of March 2002.

Seaborg asked Halsey to address the issue of minutes on the action item list. Halsey proposed that the support staff would ensure the chair has the draft version of the minutes two weeks before the next CAB monthly meeting. This should provide the chair enough time to review them so that the staff may get them to the remaining board one-week prior. Halsey also proposed that the vice-chair should look at the minutes at the same time as the chair. Halsey said she would begin keeping a log of these items that would not necessarily be reflected in the operating procedures.

Seaborg said land would be available for field trials the weekend of Thanksgiving if users follow all security guidelines.

Occurrence Reports

There were two occurrence reports in the last month. One involved a USEC incident report involving their lab. Also, workers have found some metal shavings and a cylinder valve cap where construction of sedimentation basins has begun in the northwest corner of the plant.

Other Issues

Seaborg said President Bush has signed the appropriations bill. It gives DOE almost \$130 million dollars for environmental restoration work in Paducah. DOE is waiting for allocation of funds.

The second year of sampling for the Lasagna Project was taken in September. Data indicates that the project has met cleanup goals.

Work is underway on the seismic assessment for the CERCLA Waste Disposal Facility

Regarding the sedimentation recommendation from the Surface Water Task Force, Seaborg said that DOE owes the Board a formal answer

ATSDR plans to issue a report called "Exposure Assessment of Airborne Nickel and other Metal Particulates from Historic Smelter Operations at Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant" on November 19, 2001. All CAB members will receive a copy. The public comment period lasts until December 31.

Board Questions

Kemp asked about a replacement for Owens. Halsey said the PACE president has identified a replacement and is in the process of returning the application.

Smart asked about the budget and if it will first be filtered through Oak Ridge. Seaborg said yes.

Tillson asked about the white paper on the North-South Diversion Ditch. Seaborg said it is almost done. Tillson asked about the RCRA-listed waste issue involving the North-South Diversion Ditch. Seaborg said the evaluation has been completed and concludes that some of the waste from C-400 is potentially listed, because of the likelihood that there was more runoff from operations than previously believed. Researchers looked at samples, reports, and conducted interviews. The C-403 Neutralization Pit is a potentially listed area as well as the C-400 Northwest Sump. There is historic C-403 sampling data that confirmed presence of TCE. There is data from the Northwest Sump that may indicate TCE. More information is needed before a determination is made. DOE does not anticipate this will have a significant impact on the project. Tillson said there are documents concerning the west side of the area that links contaminants to degreasing operations.

Donham asked about the incident involving USEC. Seaborg said it has to do with analysis done on containers filled with uranium waste. Dover said the method used to determine the amount of uranium biases low. The results were showing lower levels than were actually there because some of the material shielded the radiation from the detection equipment. Potentially, there are containers with more uranium than original results showed. This process biases high for Uranium-235, but biases low for the total amount. BJC does not have any problems with their processes, but there may have been other historic process that relied only on gamaspectroscopy. BJC is currently reviewing OREIS database and has stopped movement of waste containers in the plant.

Seaborg mentioned the Ground Water Operable Unit Remedial Action Plan public meeting to be held November 29 in the Environmental Information Center.

Ex-Officio comments

There were no comments from ex-officios.

Public Comments

Hanson read a letter to the Board concerning the Barnes Creek seismic survey signed by seven environmental groups. The letter said that the type of digging that might be involved in the survey would damage the creek bank, as well as plant and animal life. The letter suggested that an Environmental Assessment should be prepared for this action.

Kay asked about the time frame for the seismic work. He asked if anyone was present to respond to questions. Seaborg said no. Hanson said the groups are concerned because of trenching, digging into the fault, and other activities. Tillson said it seems strange that workers would use Ground Penetrating Radar.

Kay said a board member would need to propose a discussion on this topic. Kemp proposed to discuss the issue. Smart said he thought the Board could address the letter, but the discussion would be one-sided because the DOE project manager was not at the meeting.

Tillson said there are other ways to conduct the survey and that workers could trench away from the creek with shovels. Seaborg said that the heavy equipment would be used as a last option after hand tools. Donham asked if there was an agreement between geologists that this was necessary. Brewer said the geologists were involved in the study decision.

Hanson asked that the board consider that using heavy equipment be delayed until more information is available or a tour becomes available. Donham asked if a determination has been made that equipment would be necessary. Seaborg said he did not think that determination could be made until later. Donham said Hanson took a tour in the area and had brought up the concern that the sample area was a good geological record.

Waldrop asked Donham if he knew the geologists involved in the survey. Donham said he knew their names.

Smart said a good compromise would be to recommend that only hand tools be used then return to board with a representative to address the use of heavy equipment. Tillson said he did not have a problem with the use of heavy equipment away from the creek.

Kay clarified the proposal as: The board proposes workers use hand tools only, and if heavy equipment is to be used, a representative will return to the board with an explanation. Donham said that when workers get to the point where heavy equipment is to be used they could send a memo to the subcommittee. **The proposal was approved by consensus.**

Miller asked the Board if they recommend that workers use hand tools only. Kay said the Board recommends that hand tools be used in the first phase. If it is expected that heavy equipment is to be used, an explanation would be brought the Board prior to use of the heavy equipment.

Seaborg said the proposal could affect the project schedule. That schedule is tied to regulatory milestones and DOE can be subjected to fines if it misses those deadlines. He said he is not inclined to accommodate the Board's request. The plan has been brought to the board and the public previously and efforts have been made to protect the environment.

Rhodes asked if the board would be notified of the activity. Seaborg said he is trying to make arrangements for a tour of the area for Board members. It has been suggested that the tour be videotaped so that all members might see the area.

C-410 D&D Presentation

Seaborg introduced Craig Czuchna, a new DOE staff member, and Brad Montgomery of Bechtel Jacobs Company, the presenter.

Montgomery said the C-410 Complex includes ten areas; the C-410 Original Feed Plant, C-410-A, C-410-B HF Neutralization Lagoon, C-410-C HF Neutralization Building, C-410-D, Flourine Storage Building, C-410-E Emergency HF Holding Pond, C-410-F-G-H-J Storage Buildings, C-410-1, Ash Receiver Shelter, C-411, cell maintenance building, and C-420, Green Salt Plant. The C-410 operations included converting uranium oxide to uranium hexafluoride (UF₆). The facility was in standby mode in the 1960's and finally shut down in 1977. Since then, it has been use for storage, labs, and shops.

There are four phases in the Decontamination and Decommissioning process. The first one is the Site Evaluation Process, which determines the size of problem and prepares the area for further activities. The second phase is Infrastructure D&D which includes removal of contents, decontamination and additional characterization. This is a non-time critical removal action under CERCLA. The third phase, Facility Structure D&D, includes primary utilities and building structures. The decision for the future of the

facility is made in this phase. The fourth phase, Environmental Media, determines if there is contamination in and around the building.

The proposed scope of this action includes removal of stored materials and other equipment from the building. Only walls, floors and ceilings will remain. This scope does not include the building structure, underlying soil, and the C-410-B, C-410-E, and C-410-D. Major radiological contaminants are plutonium neptunium, and Tc-99. There are potentially others like lead paints, PCBs, cadmium, and mercury.

Montgomery said he expects to remove the highest contamination risk source, reduce exposure potential, prepare for remedial decision-making, and prevent any further damage to building. There are six alternatives for the action. DOE first looked at No Action, a requirement of the CERCLA process. Five other alternatives were mentioned. The wastes are either low-level, solid, mixed and/or RCRA waste. The disposal alternatives include Nevada Test Site, Envirocare, and onsite. The D1 non-time critical Removal Action EE/CA (Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis) was released in May 2001. The D2 was conditionally approved in November 2001. The public comment period lasts through February 2002. There will be a public meeting during the comment period. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2002 and completed in 2008. Project completion is budget dependant.

Questions

Smart asked about rinse sites. Montgomery said they do not anticipate those types of waste.

Raper asked about reuse possibility. Seaborg said DOE could contract with an organization like PACRO to find a use.

Donham said he has seen documents indicating there has been ash left in recycled reactor tails and asked if they were still in C-410. Montgomery said he did know not about reactor tails on-site, but thinks the ash is out of C-410, except residual amounts in equipment. Dover said all ash receivers have been removed and some have been sorted for shipment.

Tillson asked what would be done with the sludge pit. Montgomery said he would have to look into the issue. Tillson recommended adding thorium to contaminants of concern because of past building processes. The arsenic filtration system was also located in the facility. There were special transuranic filters that will require workers to have good protection. Montgomery said they want to sequence work to give workers time to get comfortable in their protective equipment. Smart asked what level of personal protection equipment the workers would wear. Montgomery said Level C and full anti-C protection would be used.

Waldrop asked if this was where the old WAG 7 was located. He also asked if this was a significant source of technetium in the northeast plume. Montgomery said he does not know if this was WAG 7 and would have to research this. He said he does not think this

is a significant source of technetium in the northwest plume. Seaborg said technetium does not concentrate in the C-410 area.

Ray English said the contamination seems to be coming from the C-400 building and asked if it would be feasible to tear down the facility and clear the area. Seaborg said the C-400 building is leased to USEC, is in operation and not presently assigned for D&D. Dover said most C-410 contamination is historical. 6-Phase Heating will attack contamination from C-400.

Ingram asked what level of reuse would be possible. Montgomery said some cells could be used by DOE or potentially sold. The buildings would have to be evaluated to see whether or not they could be used. Part of CERCLA is to go through the process and look at options at each phase. D&D has to be done before it would be torn down or leased. Van Sickle clarified that the presentation focused on taking material out of the building. Montgomery said there would be another step in the CERCLA process to determine future use.

Kemp asked about recycling reuse criteria. Montgomery said reuse and recycling must comply with regulations and be consistent with DOE policy. Ingram asked if the facility could be used for an office building. Seaborg said this is a possible option.

Tillson asked about slide five, which pictured the poor condition of the building before some cleaning activities. He asked if DOE reprimanded Lockheed for the condition, because they were paid to clean it. Seaborg said that DOE did speak to the responsible party regarding the condition of the building. He added that some of the material is new waste and that the building has been used as storage for the last 25 years

Vicki Jurka referred to Alternative 2, which would include surveillance, monitoring and maintenance. She noted the cost of that alternative, and asked if those maintenance costs would come in addition to the \$49 million cost of DOE's preferred alternative. Montgomery said the costs assume that roofs and walls would have to be repaired in the next 30 years. Hopefully, a final decision on the fate of the building would be made by that time, he said. Jurka said she thought he saw a sale or bid for the fluorine generators. Montgomery said that there are still remaining cells. He said some were sold, but there some in the building and a storage facility.

Raper said he thought the cost of alternative 2 was expensive. Waldrop said he is glad to move towards environmental restoration.

Donham said he understands the ash is powdered and is concerned about ash getting airborne. He wants to make sure the building is as safe as possible to minimize ash getting out of the building.

Groundwater Operable Unit Task Force Report

The Groundwater Operable Unit Task Force met Friday, November 2. Smart said a citizen from Marshall County talked to them about concerns about contaminated

groundwater and how it would affect his farm. PTZ has been delayed because of a patent dispute. The 6-Phase test has been delayed until April 2002 because of safety concerns, but is moving ahead. The Groundwater Feasibility Study was approved the last week of October.

Surface Water Operable Unit Task Force Report

The Surface Water Operable Unit Task Force met November 6. Long said Tanner brought up the discussion of the PGDP infrastructure with a focus on the potential for leaking pipes. Tanner discussed some theories with DOE contractor technical people. The group agreed to continue the discussion at the next task force meeting in preparation for a proposal from the task force asking DOE to address the pipes.

Landfills/Waste Operations Task Force Report

The Landfills/Waste Operations Task met November 14. Kemp said they discussed the status of the NSDD paper. The task force also looked at a May GAO report and wondered if the recommendation about waste disposal option has been revisited. Kemp said the members want data information used to calculate disposal costs. She asked for a final copy of the Paducah/ Portsmouth Cleanup Plan. Seaborg said it is sometimes more cost effective to ship waste if technology does not work. DOE is still in the initial evaluation process on the GAO report.

Budget, Finance and Administration Report

Raper said the committee has to finalize the budget and asked Halsey to address the new task force meeting planned for January. Halsey said she would like to attend the first Long-Term Strategy meeting and possibly bring someone from Oakridge DOE to help in long-term planning. The initial step is to look at the DOE budget process. DOE has to send plans two years in advance for budget, so April would be a planning time for 2004.

Community Concerns Report

The committee met and talked about requested maps. Tillson said they talked about the hits on WAG 17. People said they would help the committee get standard operating procedures for calibration and scanning. The committee also looked at other things linkable to plant, like dioxins and chromium. There is a landowners' lawsuit and some people have had their land devalued. Tillson said that Donham wants to see how ecology has been damaged. Tillson said the committee would like to get a full analysis of wells. Seaborg said he would need to check on this issue because there may not be access to this information because it involves a private person's well. Tillson said he looked at a map and only saw TCE and technetium, even though other things were tested. Ingram asked about the orange soil mentioned in the meeting notes. Tillson said the orange soil appeared suddenly and it might be a fungus. Waldrop said that the Board needs to advocate the needs of the residents whether or not they get data from wells.

There exists the potential for private gain related to the on going landowner's litigation directly related to the maps being reviewed by the citizen's concerns subcommittee. A phone call was made by DOE to the CAB member, Ronnie Lamb, who had appropriately identified himself as being a litigant in this action. His continued participation was encouraged by DOE in both the citizen's concern subcommittee and continued discussions with the full CAB on this issue, as long as the board members were clearly aware of this potential conflict and that he should recuse himself from voting on any CAB recommendation or information request to DOE that could be of financial benefit to himself, his family, or business. He was also told that the Conflict Of Interest issue would be discussed at the January meeting with the full CAB, so others would be aware of this potential, and that the DDFO would be adding a note to the November minutes of these concerns.

Public Involvement Report

The Public Involvement Committee did not meet in November. Young asked the Board if they wanted to have a CABfare for December, because there was no meeting. Ingram said skipping would put the newsletter off schedule. Young said it would be helpful for the board to respond to a CABfare draft.

Membership

The Membership Committee did not meet in November.

Review of Workplan

Kay asked what would need to be scheduled in January because the C-746-U landfill is a placeholder. Young said that in February, the Waste Disposal Environmental Assessment is coming up again for review.

Review of Agenda

Kay asked if anything else should be added to the January 2002 agenda.

Federal Coordinator Comments

Halsey said she has been researching the Open Net issue. Information is available on the Web Site. Halsey said there is cleanup underway for information regarding these documents.

Halsey said she has not been able to contact Judith Duff. She proposed to notify her of her removal from the board. **The Board approved the proposal by consensus.** Halsey said there are still three people identified and approved by DOE who can join the board.

Meeting adjourned.