



Task Force Update

The **Water Task Force** continues to follow the status of the Southwest Plume Site Investigation. In addition, the group is currently exploring the possibilities of a site-wide water balance and anticipates the release of DOE's C-400 Remedial Action Proposed Plan. The Water Task Force meets the first Friday of the month at noon in the CAB office.

The **Waste Operations Task Force** is beginning to research information available on the burial grounds that exist at the PGDP. They continue to follow the S&T Landfill Site Investigation as well as C-746-U Landfill activities. The Waste Operations Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force** continues to actively develop an end-state vision for the Paducah site and plans to submit their recommendation to DOE in the spring. Currently, the group is reviewing the draft Risk-Based End State Vision Document. The Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Nomination, Membership and Public Involvement Subcommittee** submitted recommended applicants to DOE and can be credited with the appointment of one new member. This subcommittee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every other month at 1 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Executive Committee** is the Board's newest working group and is comprised of the chairs from all of the task forces and subcommittees. The group focuses on administrative issues, work prioritization, and budget. They are currently planning the Board retreat scheduled for early March. The Executive Committee meets on the Tuesday following the Board meeting at 2 p.m. in the CAB office.

The CAB holds its Board meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Environmental Information Center.

Board Welcomes New Member

On December 11, 2003, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) appointed Rhonda A. McCorry as the newest Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) member. McCorry was recommended to DOE by the Board in late November to fill an unexpired term.

McCorry, a graduate of Heath High School, holds an international business degree and is currently employed at Briggs and Stratton Company in Murray, Kentucky. She previously worked at H.B. Fuller Company as a production operator, lab technician, and planner.

The lifetime resident of west McCracken County brings a team-building mind set and diversity to the Board. She is looking forward to serving the community through her membership.



Rhonda McCorry, the Board's newest member was appointed in December 2003.

Change Ahead in Support Staff Contract

Since the inception of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) CAB, support staff has been provided by DOE's prime contractor at the Paducah site. However, recent guidance from Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary for DOE's Office of Environmental Management, calls for change.

In July 2003, Roberson directed local DOE Site Managers to eliminate prime contractor support to the Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs). The guidance stated the change was necessary in order to ensure proper stewardship of the stakeholder activity and to increase accountability and visibility of resources provided.

In response to many questions raised by the SSABs regarding this directive, Roberson provided some additional clarification. She reaffirmed that her objective was to make certain the SSABs remain independent, and that she did not intend to impact the effectiveness of the boards.

In late October 2003, Roberson's office provided the SSABs with two long-term options to implement her directive:

- incorporate as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization in order to obtain a grant, and
- receive administrative support directly from the local DOE Site Office.

PGDP Citizens Advisory Board

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Change Ahead in Support Staff Contract (cont.)

The two options caused much concern among Board members. "The option to incorporate as a 501(C)3 is asking volunteers to form and run a business and accept personal financial liability," said Board Chair Bill Tanner. In the event the Board receives support from the local DOE Site Office, Tanner said, "the Board will lose its existing staff along with their knowledge and ability." Further, the Board feels this option will strip them of their independence and could reduce the effectiveness of the CAB by diminished support.

Due to many objections expressed by SSABs complex-wide, a third long-term option was introduced in December 2003. The new option allows the Board to operate under a Section 8(a) Small Business.

DOE is actively working to implement this guidance in the next few months. In the meantime, the Board is bracing itself for change.

Murphie Appointed DDFO

Bill Murphie has been delegated the responsibility of Deputy Designated Federal Official (DDFO) to the CAB by DOE Headquarters effective November 10, 2003.

Murphie serves as Manager of DOE's Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office located in Lexington, Kentucky.

Annual Report Available Soon

The PGDP CAB Fiscal Year 2003 Annual Report will be available mid to late February. For more information or to request a copy of the report, contact the CAB office by phone (270-554-3004) or by email (paducahcab@bellsouth.net).



Recommendations: In Brief

Recommendation 04-04: On November 20, 2003, the CAB recommended DOE incorporate additional sampling for Section 5 of the North-South Diversion Ditch into the project's Sampling and Analysis Plan for Sections 3, 4 and 5, which are located outside of the security fence.

Recommendation 04-05: After revisiting Recommendation 04-03, which requested that a fourth transect of monitoring wells be added to the scoping plan, the CAB recommended, at the January 15, 2004 Board meeting, that the S&T Landfill Site Investigation be discontinued.

Recommendation 04-06: In late November 2003, the CAB requested that DOE appoint six new members to fill unexpired terms. In December, DOE appointed one new member. Since five unexpired terms still exist, the CAB recommends DOE appoint five new members, but no less than three. This recommendation was made on January 15, 2004.

Update – Recommendation 04-02: On January 15, 2004, DOE accepted the CAB's recommendation that lessons learned from the Six-Phase Heating project be documented. However, the list was incorporated into the Six-Phase Heating Treatability Study Final Report as opposed to the C-400 Remedial Action Proposed Plan.