

**PGDP Citizens Advisory Board  
Waste Operations Task Force  
August 14, 2002, 5:30 p.m., CAB Office**

**CAB Members Present:** Mark Donham (ex-officio)  
Merryman Kemp  
John Tillson

**DOE Staff:** Dave Dollins

**Contractor Support Staff:** Lynn Link, BJC

**Public:** Dan Burns, Envirocare  
Ruby English  
Charles Jurka  
Vicki Jurka  
Al Puckett  
Andrew Smith, Envirocare

Kemp called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

**NORTH-SOUTH DIVERSION DITCH (NSDD)**

Dollins briefly discussed the NSDD Record of Decision (ROD) that has recently been sent to the regulators for review. He mentioned samples would be placed in "Burrito" bags and then a determination would be made as to whether or not the samples exceed the threshold levels. He said there is still a need for sampling plan discussions with regulators, which could not be held during the negotiations for the Accelerated Cleanup Plan.

Donham asked if the risk assessment was on a cumulative basis. Dollins replied it was listed as individual risk.

Tillson remarked that the current plan of digging and then piling the dirt to be sampled was actually blending and was against U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

Dollins stated that over 50 samples had already been taken inside the fence. Half of the historical data samples indicate no significant levels of trichlorethane (TCE).

The 25 in situ samples taken recently by health and safety all came back as non-detect levels for TCE and 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA).

Dollins stated the excavation of the ditch is also based on the fact that the contour of the ditch facilitates surface water runoff.

Discussion was held about the waste from the ditch and where it would be disposed. Task force members expressed concern that hazardous waste might be placed in the landfill. Dollins explained the waste has to meet a waste acceptance criteria (WAC) before it can be placed in a landfill. Otherwise, it would be sent to an off-site facility such as Envirocare or Nevada Test Site.

Dollins also stated a C-746-U Landfill risk and performance evaluation document was in process and that it would be a good document to review.

Tillson asked if Dollins knew whether or not there were any samples that would not meet the WAC. Dollins answered about 10 percent (worst case scenario) probably would not meet the WAC.

When asked where most of the samples came from, Dollins replied that they came from Section 1 in the South, inside the fence.

Dollins stated the regulators agreed with the current process of excavation and that the staging pad and laydown area for the dirt were already constructed.

As a result of the discussion about the excavation of the NSDD, the task force decided to research hiring a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act technical expert to aid them in their understanding of the excavation process of the NSDD. Kemp will request the procedure from Halsey at the July board meeting.

English asked how large the samples would be that were taken from the "Burrito" bags. Dollins replied it would depend on the volume needed. She also asked why there needed to be so much digging and Dollins replied that two types of sampling were needed: post-excavation and waste characterization sampling.

English requested the names of the regulators who have agreed to this process. Dollins said the regulators involved were Jeff Crane and Carl Froede with EPA and Tuss Taylor and Linda Martin with the state. He stated that a high level signoff by both Bickford (state) and Palmer (EPA) would be required as well.

English asked if the C-746-U Landfill was leaking. Dollins replied that he was not the correct person to ask since he had not been working with landfill issues such as groundwater monitoring.

English also asked where the area of testing was located. She wanted to know how far it was from the road and whether it was below or above the S- and -T Landfills. Dollins answered that the ROD only deals with soil that is inside the fence in Sections 1 and 2.

English inquired how much more time would be required for the studies to be completed. Dollins said that the ROD should be signed by the end of September, and fieldwork started in October. He stated once the ROD is signed, DOE can begin fieldwork within two weeks.

Puckett asked if the waste was sent offsite or disposed of locally when heavy metals were found in the samples. Dollins answered that the waste was only sent to an approved facility, such as Envirocare or Nevada Test Site.

Vicki Jurka asked if mercury had been found. Donham read from the ROD that various metals had been found, but mercury was not listed.

Vicki Jurka also asked if the majority of the 10 percent of the samples that were not expected to meet the WAC were inside the fence. Dollins replied that this was true, since more polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) contamination was outside the fence.

Jurka commented since the ROD only addresses Sections 1 and 2 that she believes a large amount of the waste will go to C-746-U Landfill. Dollins replied that the landfill would not accept any waste that did not meet the WAC.

Jurka also raised the issue of Bayou Creek and Little Bayou Creek since she believes the contamination of the ditch is contributing to the contamination of the creeks. She asked why this contamination is being ignored and it appears DOE is only cleaning up its own backyard and not the plant neighbors. Dollins stated that DOE is working to prioritize risk issues and to address the worst first, and then work towards others. He said that senior management has decided to address what can be accomplished and agreed upon now, and then other issues will be considered.

Jurka asked if the WAC for the C-746-U Landfill document was available to the public. Dollins reiterated the C-746-U Landfill risk and performance evaluation document was coming out very soon and suggested that they obtain a copy when available.

Jurka stated, due to the seismic investigation of the landfill for the next two years, only two cells will be open that can be utilized. Dollins replied that all of the soil can't be excavated in the NSDD until the landfill becomes available.

Dollins encouraged everyone to attend the board meeting tomorrow night when the seismic investigation report will be presented. He stated there will be several experts attending and more time to get questions answered.

## ENVIROCARE

Andy Smith and Dan Burns gave a brief overview of the Envirocare waste facility. Tillson asked if pricing sheets for waste were available. Smith replied that they could be prepared, but that he would need information up front to calculate them.

Charles Jurka asked about health and safety requirements and monitoring. Burns replied that the facility is licensed and heavily regulated. Smith clarified that Envirocare can only take radioactive waste.

Donham inquired how deep the groundwater was in that location. Smith replied that it was about 70 ft, non potable, and non moving. He stated that it was brackish water, but that they still had monitoring wells to protect it.

Jurka asked what the air was monitored for, and Smith responded that they do a broad section, both alpha and gamma radionuclides.

Smith stated they always test 10 percent of the incoming waste in order to verify that it meets the waste criteria for the facility.

Burns stated that low activity waste can't be mixed with higher activity waste and be blended down to achieve a better risk level number. He will provide a copy of the guidance document for the task force.

#### OTHER

Kemp distributed copies of the "Department of Energy's Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan", Predecisional Draft, Version 2.0, to task force members. Comments are requested by September 6, 2002. However, comments will still be fully considered before September 30, 2002.

Kemp also distributed copies of Representative Henry Waxman's letter to Secretary Abraham, and copies of the August 10, 2002, Washington Post article.

Due to the length of the meeting, it was decided to postpone the remainder of the agenda.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:00 p.m.