

**PGDP Citizens Advisory Board
Water Task Force
November 1, 2002 * CAB Office**

CAB Members Present: Mark Donham, Merryman Kemp, Linda Long,
Bill Tanner, and Jim Smart

DOE Representatives Present: David Dollins
Gary Bodenstein (via teleconference)

Kentucky Div. Of Waste Mgmt.: Gaye Brewer
Linda Martin
Jon Maybriar (via teleconference)
Gary Morgan
Todd Mullins (via teleconference)
Tuss Taylor (via teleconference)

Support Staff Present: Kendra Payne

Public: Joe Devers (Kentucky Department of Water – Reidland)
Vicki Jurka and Al Puckett

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Site-Wide Sediment Controls Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)

Martin asked Taylor to give the status of the EE/CA. Taylor stated the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Accelerated Cleanup Plan is in formal dispute. The dispute was extended to allow DOE and regulators to present their positions on the Site Management Plan. He stated the surface water operable unit was part of the reason for the dispute. Martin said DOE and regulators also disagree on the burial grounds and soils. She stated these issues are not part of DOE’s plan.

Donham and Kemp requested a copy of the “dispute letter” dated October 15.

Dollins stated that DOE and the regulators agree the dispute is not over the deliverables but over the dates provided. DOE has provided a schedule that is consistent with the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). He stated instead of specific interim dates, DOE has given durations of time as well as start dates to accommodate events out of their control.

Donham asked if the schedule on the deliverables in the FFA was being followed. Martin stated the schedule was “totally off-track.” She said there are only three projects that are ongoing, the C-410 and C-420 Decontaminating and Decommissioning (D&D), the piping and pumping of the North-South Diversion Ditch, and the Scrap Metal Removal projects.

Tanner asked how this dispute has affected groundwater cleanup. Mullins stated the Six-Phase Heating project is moving forward. He also stated a Treatability Study has been proposed for the C-Sparge project, which was originally a backup to the Permeable Treatment Zone (PTZ) project. Mullins reported a Record of Decision (ROD) was underway regarding groundwater before DOE’s Top-To-Bottom-Review came into play. He said DOE wanted to make the D1 ROD a

removal action for Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 99. The Commonwealth of Kentucky thinks SWMU 99 is only a minor portion and that the ROD should cover more areas.

Bodenstein reported that currently the C-Sparge project is postponed.

Maybriar inquired about the dispute over the C-746-K Landfill. Bodenstein reported the landfill, which is located on the west side of the plant, has some leakage into Big Bayou Creek. Donham asked if there were a remedial action plan for the landfill. Bodenstein said DOE would like to plant poplar trees in the area.

EE/CA Presentation

Linda Martin, the Surface Water Operable Unit (SWOU) Project Manager from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM), reported that in August 1999 a Core Team was introduced to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and DOE as a means of communication to further improve the progress of various projects. She stated the Core Team, which no longer exists, was very effective.

Martin explained that the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) covers 17 outfalls. There are two permits issued for the site, one for the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), and the other for DOE. The current permit was issued in 1998. She stated the five-year permit expires on March 31, 2003.

Martin said the way the permit is structured, limits are not set on levels of contamination. The permit only requires a report of what levels are detected. She said KDWM took the lead role in the cleanup effort. DOE then initiated a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). In February 2000, the Commonwealth of Kentucky issued comments stating the document was a failure. Martin said DOE did not take those comments into consideration.

Martin stated the Commonwealth of Kentucky began looking at its priorities. After some investigation, three areas were listed as priorities. These are: the North-South Diversion Ditch (NSDD), scrap metal removal of a 50-acre highly contaminated area, and the perimeter of the plant. The Commonwealth of Kentucky began to look at the sediment, surface water, and soils around these areas. She said after cleanup of the three priority areas, they would then go outside the fence into wildlife areas to tackle any "hot spots" to prepare the land for public use.

Martin reported that DOE then was asked to issue an EE/CA. After this request, negotiations and communication between the Commonwealth of Kentucky and DOE broke down, followed by a formal dispute over the EE/CA.

In December 2001, DOE submitted an EE/CA (D0, Rev. 1) proposing to install two sediment basins at Outfalls 8 and 11. The EE/CA also listed Outfalls 1, 10, and 15 as priorities. Brewer added that not enough information was available to determine whether or not the remaining outfalls needed attention. Martin relayed to the task force that the Commonwealth of Kentucky felt the remedial actions intended by DOE were not sufficient to obtain the desired cleanup level. She stated the EE/CA has since been taken off the table completely. Martin provided the task force with the executive summary from this EE/CA, which lists contaminants found in surface water. Martin said that because DOE's Accelerated Cleanup Plan did not touch on surface water, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent a letter to DOE in September 2002 to bring this concern to DOE's attention. The letter proposed bringing the EE/CA back to the table.

Martin asked Maybriar to discuss the studies of Dr. Birge from the University of Kentucky. Maybriar stated that under the Agreement In Principle (AIP) the Commonwealth of Kentucky developed a Biological Monitoring Program (BMP). Under this program, Dr. Birge's services were retained to conduct monitoring in addition to that of DOE. Maybriar stated testing is done two times a year. Fish are collected and their body tissue is analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). He stated minnows are tested for metals because they are a good indicator of contamination. The fish are collected from all areas of Big and Little Bayou Creeks. Surface water and sediment are also tested for metals. Maybriar said the monitoring stations are selected carefully.

Using Dr. Birge's findings, the Commonwealth of Kentucky was able to determine problem outfalls with ongoing releases. Maybriar reported that a database is being developed to show baseline activities on site. The database does not indicate potential releases, only current activity. He stated they want to look upstream into the plant at which SWMUs are impacting the outfalls and eventually Big and Little Bayou Creeks. Maybriar said the data collected in the creeks indicates elevated levels of metals coming from the plant, then dropping off about one mile toward the river. Donham asked what metals are being tested for. Maybriar said they test for cadmium, beryllium, mercury, silver, zinc and other various metals; however, they do not test for radionuclides.

Tanner asked if DOE and the regulators agree on which outfalls are the source of contamination found in Big and Little Bayou Creeks. He also asked which outfalls the Southern Illinois University graduate students studied. After some discussion, Martin said she would like to return after Dr. Birge completes his analysis to present his findings to the task force.

Dollins reported DOE did not want to submit the EE/CA until they have had time to evaluate Big and Little Bayou Creeks and their source(s) of contamination. DOE asked for a 12-month extension. Martin stated the Commonwealth of Kentucky did not grant the extension.

Tanner expressed his concern that the plan did not include surface water, soils, and burial grounds. He also said Roberson stated DOE wanted to cleanup the Paducah site. Donham asked if Spencer has approved Roberson's reorganization plan. Tanner stated Roberson hopes to have approval by the end of this year. He said he was concerned whether or not DOE will continue cleanup. Martin said she has the same concern. She stated she has not given up on the project and hopes DOE will move forward with the project.

Martin reminded the task force that the KPDES permit expires in six months. She hopes negotiations will be back on the table to discuss the details. Martin stated she will keep the board informed on the progress of the permit. Tanner asked when a public comment period would be for the KPDES permit. Devers said he would check with Larry Sowder, author of the permit. Tanner requested a copy of the existing and proposed KPDES permits in order for the Board to comment.

Donham asked how he could obtain information regarding the contents of the C-746-K Landfill. Martin said she could provide Donham with map numbers that show DOE radioactive roped areas.

Six-Phase Heating Project Status Update

Bodenstein reported drilling is complete and all electrodes have been installed.

NSDD Project Status Update

Dollins reported the project got underway two weeks ago. He stated the abandoned steamline piping has been removed in order for the project to move forward.

Tanner stated he has reviewed aerial photos of the ditch dating back to 1950. He discovered that the ditch did exist prior to the plant's construction. The ditch ran up to the north fence near the Harmony Cemetery.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Martin provided the following documents:

1. Authorization to Discharge Under the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
2. Letter to Jimmie Hodges from Jack Wilson re: NPDES No. KY0004049, with enclosures
3. Fact Sheet, KPDES Permit to Discharge Treated Wastewater in Waters of the Commonwealth, KPDES No. KY0004049
4. Fact Sheet, KPDES Permit to Discharge Treated Wastewater in Waters of the Commonwealth, KPDES No. KY0102083