



PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

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Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 15, 2008

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) met at the CAB office in Paducah, Kentucky, May 15, 2008, at 6 p.m.

Board members present: John Anderson, Allen Burnett, Judy Clayton, Bobby Lee, Shirley Lanier, Alex Roman, John Russell, Jim Smart and Don Swearingen

Board members absent: Elton Priddy

Board Liaisons and related regulatory agency employees: Mike Guffey, Todd Mullins, April Webb, Ed Winner, Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM); Turpin Ballard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Tim Kreher, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR); Stephanie Brock and Rob Gresham, Kentucky Radiation Health Branch (RHB)

Deputy Designated Federal Official: Reinhard Knerr

DOE Federal Coordinator: Rob Seifert

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) related employees: Rich Bonczek, Yvette Cantrell, Kim Crenshaw, Paul Gagnon, Ashton Haus, Matt LaBarge, Steve Manning, Jerry Mayes, Janet Miller, Todd Nelson, Eric Roberts and Scott Smith

Public: Barbara Lahndorff, Myron Scott, Gary Vander Boegh, Corinne Whitehead, Ernest Whitehead and Melia Wood

Agenda

Mayes asked for modifications to the proposed May agenda. **The Board approved the agenda as submitted.**

Minutes

Mayes asked for modifications to the draft April minutes. **The Board approved the minutes as submitted.**

Deputy Designated Federal Official Comments

Knerr presented project updates to the Board. All presentations are available on the CAB Website at www.pgpcab.org. Questions and answers (paraphrased) appear below.

Questions/Comments	Answers
Smart: Requested information and sensitivity of the flyover survey.	Knerr: A copy of the flyover work plan will be provided to the CAB.
Burnett: Can the flyover survey distinguish the difference in radiation levels?	Knerr: The flyover does detect a difference in levels. There were no significant findings during the 1996 flyover.
Lee: Will the trichloroethylene (TCE) degradation presentation in June identify the results of the study?	Bonczek: The results have indicated in Phase I that the degradation of the TCE has a half life of six to thirteen years. Phase II is the aerobic biodegradation evaluation. The report and White Paper including recommendations for future study are being prepared. Phase III is currently being initiated which is the Stable Carbon Isotope Investigation. Phase IV involves the investigation of abiotic degradation. Additional details will be provided at the June Working Session.
Burnett: Requested that the presentation identify what is produced with the degradation and whether it is benign or of concern.	
Kreher: Since the 1996 flyover, materials were found during the Waste Area Grouping 17 investigation in 2002 resulting in materials to be taken inside the security fence. Even though the sensitivity has been enhanced since the last flyover, would it be possible that material could exist two feet below the surface that the flyover does not detect?	Knerr: The flyover is being conducted to look for areas that need further investigation. The walkover survey will look at various areas in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
Kreher: Will DOE be able to make a statement after the walkover and flyover surveys are conducted, that in 20 years materials will not be discovered five feet below the surface? If not, is there anything that can be done to avoid additional discoveries of radiologically contaminated materials in the WMA?	Knerr: The activities that DOE plans on performing will significantly reduce the likelihood of radiological contaminated materials in the WMA. DOE has controls in place to prevent the release of radiological contamination from the site and the conjunction of planned activities will produce a high probability that significant levels of radioactive contamination will not be found in the WMA.
Russell: Has a radiological survey of this area ever been conducted?	Knerr: Other than the previous flyover, a comprehensive survey outside the fence has not been conducted.
Burnett: What is the status of the End State Vision document?	Bonczek: The document will be distributed next week.

Federal Coordinator Comments

Seifert presented an appreciation letter to Lee for developing a forum at West Kentucky Community and Technical College to advance the community outreach efforts of the CAB.

Liaison Comments

Environmental Protection Agency

Ballard said he is glad to work with the CAB and asked members to call him anytime with questions.

Lee requested that EPA present their regulatory stance on the TCE degradation at the June Working Session.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Kreher said KDFWR would prefer not to have to contact DOE or its contractors to provide support every time they plan on disturbing a portion of the WMA in the future. If that can be prevented now, he would prefer to do so.

Lee asked Kreher what he suggests that DOE do in addition to the walkovers to identify all subsurface radiological contamination. Kreher said that in the past there have been agreements that there was no concern on rubble used for erosion control in the WMA and a couple of years later KDFWR was notified that there was a concern. The point is that elevated radiological contaminants were found after the earlier flyover. KDFWR does not want the same thing to happen after this flyover. Kreher said he is not implying that DOE should remove all rubble piles. If DOE wants to provide support to KDFWR every time they plan on disturbing a portion of the WMA that is fine, as long as it doesn't take two months to get someone out after they are contacted. Lee asked if Kreher is looking for a written agreement from DOE. Kreher said he does not have a perfect solution.

Radiation Health Branch

Brock said the Radiation Health Branch is involved with the walkover survey. Soil and gravel samples have been taken in addition to the smears of concrete.

Public Comments

Vander Boegh said he has initiated a citizen's investigation into the soil piles. A flyover survey was conducted in 2000 indicating some hot spots and another flyover survey is planned. The flyover survey will not detect anything six inches below the surface. It will not show four or five feet down but will pick up the radiological hits from the groundwater where the piles are located.

Vander Boegh said the CAB is set up to represent public issues and the community wants someone to listen. Mayes said the public has the opportunity to have input at every CAB meeting but the CAB has a limited scope and he has been asked to ensure the public sticks to that scope.

Scott, former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) worker, said he had written a letter to the editor of the Paducah Sun regarding the Worker Compensation Program. (Attachment 1) His father had multiple illnesses from exposure to numerous things at the PGDP and his family has been turned down many times by this program and hopes that a congressional hearing will be conducted on this issue.

Lahndorff, former PGDP worker, said she understands that the Worker Compensation Program is not part of the CAB's scope because the program is administered by the Department of Labor, but DOE created the worker compensation dose reconstruction, on which the compensation is based. Sick workers are being denied compensation due to their dose reconstruction of their exposure to highly radioactive elements. She said there is no way to accurately guesstimate the amount of exposure any one worker contacted during their work history at the PGDP due to improperly recorded or lack of records. She asked the CAB to recommend that DOE eliminate dose reconstruction as a part of the compensation program and pay those who were in a position to be exposed. Lahndorff provided a written statement to the CAB on the Worker Compensation Program. (Attachment 2)

Lahndorff requested that the CAB provide answers to the following questions regarding the cylinder wash sludge that was discussed earlier in the presentation. (1) When were the drums generated, (2) type of drums, (3) condition of the drums, (4) threat posed to current workers, and (5) are the drums currently there. Ms. Lahndorff also requested the CAB define background levels in the former Kentucky Ordinance Works (KOW), explain how background levels are determined and regarding significant levels of radioactivity found in the KOW, (1) what has been found to date, (2) has it been classified, and (3) what has been done with that material.

Russell said the CAB has a very specific and limited mandate and the CAB has no standing with regard to the Worker Compensation Program or the Worker Protection Program. He said he is very sympathetic with the public but he as well as the other CAB members are unable to comment on either of the worker programs. The CAB does not want to limit the public to speak in any way but the CAB is limited very strongly by their mandate. Ms. Lahndorff said she doesn't expect the CAB to be able to do anything specific to help the sick workers but this was a chance for their voices to be heard. Scott said he also does not expect the CAB to be able to help the workers but it was the first time former workers could voice their concerns on tape. Mayes said the public has the opportunity to have input at every CAB meeting but the CAB has no control or authority over the worker programs. Lee asked who has the authority. Russell said the Department of Labor. Lahndorff said she has been turned down numerous times with the Department of Labor due to dose reconstruction.

Administrative Issues

Motions

Burnett presented a recommendation to DOE regarding public participation in waste disposal option decisions. The CAB recommends that DOE incorporate the following considerations into its plan for public involvement:

- Anticipated timeline for the project including public input periods
- Materials to educate the public on the community impacts of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) cell. These should include the benefits, concerns, and consequences for both on-site and off-site disposal and alternatives to the CERCLA cell.
- Clearly defined goals and expectations for each CERCLA Process Step of the public involvement process
- Broad based communication tools (newspaper, radio, and electronic media) for public outreach. Utilize existing databases to mail public meeting notices to local community.
- Glossary to explain acronyms and technical terms specific to the waste disposal alternatives to be provided at public outreach activities (i.e. on-site, off-site, Subtitle C Landfill, Subtitle D Landfill).
- Detailed waste cell siting maps and a 3-D model for public meetings.
- Update the plan as the public involvement process evolves.

The Board approved the modified recommendation.

Clayton presented a recommendation regarding creation of a Lay Down Yard for recyclable metals. Knerr said designating an area or areas for recyclable metals is worth pursuing and suggested that the CAB consider some language supporting the use of Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization as a mechanism for accessing non-contaminated scrap metal that comes out of non-rad areas. The agreement primarily focuses on equipment but may look at recyclable materials. That information will be provided to the CAB.

Smart was concerned that a Lay Down Yard would turn into a another Solid Waste Management Area that would have to be remediated. Russell suggested designating a Recycling Coordinator to identify and achieve goals for recycling. Knerr said contractually the subcontractors identify cost effective ways of dispositioning materials and that includes evaluating whether the materials should be recycled. DOE does routinely discuss efforts for good stewardship to the tax payer dollar and to the environment by recycling. The difficulty is that most of the time it is more expensive to recycle materials that are radiologically contaminated. Russell will draft a recommendation emphasizing the Board's position on recyclable materials as a whole and incorporate the Lay Down Yard recommendation into the broader recommendation.

Clayton said the recommendation on Goals for Public Participation in Waste Disposal Option Decisions was distributed via email to the CAB for comment. Assistant Secretary James Rispoli requested at the Spring 2008 Chair's Meeting that local boards take a closer look at how DOE communicates with the public and this recommendation addresses that request. This recommendation will be reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting.

June Working Session

The proposed June Working Session agenda includes an update on TCE degradation and the Waste Disposal Options Public Outreach Plan. A training session on the Data Warehouse will follow the working session. Other suggestions were an update on the monthly Senior Managers Meeting and a briefing on the Flyover and Walkover Radiological Survey Work Plans. The agenda will be finalized at the Executive Committee meeting.

Annual Planning Retreat

Knerr suggested holding the Annual Planning Retreat in Oak Ridge along with a tour of the CERCLA cell and the American Museum of Science and Energy and interaction with the Oak Ridge CAB. The staff will poll the Board for a date for the retreat and for interest in holding the retreat in Oak Ridge, having an on-site meeting or having an off-site meeting near Paducah.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.