

**Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant  
Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**September 19, 2002**

The September 19, 2002, Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting was held at the CAB office in Paducah, Kentucky at 5:30 p.m.

**Board members present:** Mark Donham, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Ricky Ladd, Ronald Lamb, Rebecca Lambert, Linda Long, Douglas Raper, Craig Rhodes, John Russell, Rosa Scott, Jim Smart, Bill Tanner, and John Tillson.

**Board members absent:** Gregory Waldrop.

**Ex Officio members and related regulatory agency employees present:** Tim Kreher, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Gaye Brewer, Linda Martin, Gary Morgan, and Tuss Taylor, Kentucky Division of Waste Management.

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

**The DOE Federal Coordinator present:** David Dollins.

**DOE-related employees present:** Greg Cook, Teresa Crisler, Gordon Dover, Jim Ethridge, Greg Felts, Pat Halsey, Steve Kay, Lynn Link, Kendra Payne, Glenn Van Sickle, Bob Werther, Tom Wheeler, and Stacey Young.

**Public:** Dr. Sandra Bastin, Dr. Barbara Baumgardner, Richard Dyer, Ruby English, Kristi Hanson, Charles Jurka, Vicki Jurka, Al Puckett, and Ken Wheeler.

### **Agenda**

Donham called the meeting to order. Kay asked if there were any modifications to the proposed agenda. Kemp stated that Dr. Sandra Bastin and Dr. Barbara Baumgardner from the University of Kentucky (UK) were present and would like to address the board. Young asked if she could have a few minutes at the end of the meeting to go over the draft of the CAB Annual Report. Kay added that board members should utilize the break to rank the top three issues for the Chairs' Meeting in October. **The board approved the modified agenda by consensus.**

### **Minutes**

Kay asked if there were any proposed modifications to the August draft minutes. Halsey suggested an addition on Page 8. She suggested the following change under Community Concerns: *The Board approved sending the proposed recommendation and questionnaire to the residents in the Water Policy Box.* Kemp suggested changing the wording of the first

sentence in the ninth paragraph on Page 6 to the following: *Corrine Whitehead addressed the board with comments about a large rift system she stated encompasses this area.*

Kay asked if there were any other corrections to the minutes. **The Board approved the August minutes as amended.**

### **Election of 2003 Officers**

Kemp reported she had received two nominations for Chair: Merryman Kemp nominated by Craig Rhodes via E-mail and Merryman Kemp nominated by John Tillson via E-mail. Kemp also reported she received two nominations for Vice-Chair: Douglas Raper nominated by Greg Waldrop via telephone and John Russell nominated by John Tillson via E-mail. Kay opened the floor for any additional nominations for Chair. Lambert nominated Tanner, who accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Russell made a motion to close the nominations. Lamb seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board elected Merryman Kemp as Chair by a 8-6 vote. Kay opened the floor for any additional nominations for Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Kemp made a motion to close the nominations. Donham seconded the motion. The motion carried. Raper was re-elected as Vice-Chair by a 10-4 vote.

### **Address by UK Guests**

Dr. Bastin of the UK Superfund Basic Research Program informed the Board she is part of a program that provides health related information to communities around Superfund sites. She offered her assistance to anyone interested. She stated she was aware of the risks in this area and would like to introduce dietary interventions that will help prevent risks to metal, polyvinyl chlorides (PCBs), etc. She said that she would be doing a needs assessment soon and anyone interested should contact her or Kemp. She left several brochures containing information and a list of contacts.

### **Deputy Designated Federal Official's Comments**

#### **ES&H Issues**

Seaborg reported a 2,500-gallon release of trichloroethene (TCE) contaminated groundwater occurred at the Northeast Plume Containment System line during maintenance testing due to a blown gasket. The proper notifications have been made and the incident is undergoing investigation. The occurrence will qualify as a Hazardous Material Release.

Seaborg stated there was a worker injury to report. A worker's foot was run over by a high-lift device. This incident is also under investigation.

Seaborg reported during installation of the Six-Phase system at the C-400 building area, TCE was detected in the air at the well hole. Workers backed away and the work was stopped.

Additional Health and Safety equipment is being provided for the workers. Work will resume on Monday, September 23.

### **Budget Updates**

Seaborg mentioned they were still working on an agreement for the Accelerated Cleanup Plan. He said a conference call was set up with the Commonwealth of Kentucky for tomorrow, September 20.

### **Project Updates**

Seaborg stated the Department of Energy (DOE) has revised the format for the Project Status Updates to make them more “user friendly.” A place is available for a CAB contact person if the Board would like to designate a member. Seaborg said he welcomes any feedback from the Board on the new format.

Seaborg gave a brief report:

C-410 Decontaminating and Decommissioning (D&D) – The first shipment of equipment will begin Monday, September 23.

C-746-U Landfill - The final “Environmental Assessment for the C-746-U Landfill Authorized Limits Process for Waste Acceptance Criteria” was issued at the end of August. No significant impact was found.

### **CAB Recommendation Status**

A task force is in place to develop a response for next month’s meeting to the Sewer Rehabilitation recommendation.

### **Other**

Tanner stated DOE has previously only been allowed to discuss the three projects with the Board that are not currently involved in negotiations for the Accelerated Cleanup Plan. He asked if all the projects listed in the new update packet were open for discussion. Seaborg replied that some items were open for discussion while others were not. Tanner stated that he was specifically interested in the Site Wide Sediment Control project. Seaborg said he could not discuss that project at this point since it was still involved in ongoing negotiations.

Tillson stated during the Waste Operations Task Force meeting the issue of document availability was discussed. He said a suggestion was made that possibly some documents had been destroyed during a DOE directed “housecleaning” project. He asked Seaborg if he was aware of any such document destruction. Seaborg said he had no knowledge of the issue

and that he doubted anything like that has happened since the summer of 1999. Halsey said she would check into the matter and verify what has happened during the past eight years.

Donham asked if the final “Environmental Assessment for the C-746-U Landfill Authorized Limits Process for Waste Acceptance Criteria” had been released to the public. Young said copies of the document were available in the board office.

### **Ex-Officio Comments**

Taylor reported the Commonwealth of Kentucky is currently looking at the C-746-U Landfill Risk Assessment and Performance Evaluation. He expects comments to be completed by the end of the month.

Taylor also reported they were reviewing the Authorized Limits document. He has some questions on how some of the methodologies are conducted. Taylor stated they would probably request that type of information from DOE.

### **Public Comments and Questions**

Ruby English read a letter addressed to the Board on behalf of the Active Citizens for Truth (ACT) stating their disapproval of the denial of membership on the CAB to Al Puckett.

Kristy Hanson read a letter addressed to the Paducah DOE Site Manager and the Board regarding the rejection by DOE of Al Puckett for CAB membership. Hanson asked the Board to appeal the rejection.

### **Action Items**

Regarding the proposed recommendation and questionnaire from the Community Concerns subcommittee to be mailed to the Water Policy Box participants, Young reported that the letter and questionnaire have been drafted but are still awaiting review by Donham.

In reference to item involving hiring a technical expert for the Waste Task Force, Kemp stated the task force is continuing to progress in this effort.

Kemp stated she would remain as the contact for action item regarding additional information on Bradford Road. Young will assist.

Donham reported he had responded to Smart regarding the groundwater feasibility study and that the item could be closed.

Young reported she had no further information regarding the Chairs’ letter to Roberson. She said the issue would be discussed at the Chairs’ meeting in October.

Tillson said he has not received blueprints from Oak Ridge. He expects to receive them by the end of September. Tillson also reported on the item regarding the request for information on federal buyouts of property. He stated there is no precedent and the item could be closed.

Young stated that the item involving boundaries of the Water Policy Box will be closed next month after the presentation.

Halsey proposed that an alternate (Dave Burgess) present the Conflict of Interest process to the Board. The timeframe will be discussed during the workplan portion of the agenda.

### **Environmental Projects Update Presentation**

Seaborg gave a presentation to the Board to provide an update on current DOE projects. The presentation included a brief summary on the progress of the North-South Diversion Ditch (NSDD), C-400 Removal Action, and the Scrap Metal Removal projects.

### **Questions**

#### **NSDD**

Tanner asked how much of the NSDD was natural drainage prior to the construction of the plant. Seaborg stated that he was unsure but doubted the ditch was natural. Tanner commented that he would pursue the issue further through the Water Task Force.

#### **C-400 Removal Action**

In reference to the stop of work on the installation of the Six-Phase System, Donham asked at what depth the TCE was detected. Dover said that the hole was in groundwater and the release was a result of groundwater off-gasing. Donham inquired about what kind of protective measures were being taken. Dover stated that a vacuum was installed at the mouth of the hole. He added that there is some concern that vinyl chloride is present, because TCE usually masks vinyl chloride. Samples have been taken and they are awaiting results. Seaborg added that worker safety was the issue, not an environmental release. Air samples are taken within a 30-foot diameter of the hole. Seaborg reported there was no detection of any contaminants at the sampling areas.

Smart asked if the pilot test was successful, if it would be deployed around C-400. Seaborg answered yes.

Tanner asked if the extracting well, being operated by a vacuum, only extends to the area above the groundwater. Dover reported that it extended all the way to the bottom. Tanner also asked if the placement of the sense electrodes around the extraction well was a proven technology. Dover said that based on previous studies and the soil conditions on-site, it was determined to be the best option.

Raper asked what the minimum percentage of cleanup was that will be accepted in order to consider the project a success. Dover stated that a specific number has not been set. He

reported they are planning on running power to the unit for 130 days and will then monitor the amount of TCE being detected, expecting it to drop until it is diminished.

Tillson asked if the Waste Task Force could be provided with maps showing all of the wells within a 200-300 foot radius around the C-400 Six-Phase system. Seaborg replied that the information could be provided.

Donham stated sample results showed contaminants other than TCE. He asked if the Six-Phase process would help with the removal of other contaminants. Seaborg stated the process concentrated on volatile compounds with TCE being the primary compound present, and that it would not help with the removal of non-volatile compounds.

### **Scrap Metal Removal**

Smart asked if the aluminum ingots could be recovered in the same way the nickel ingots are recovered instead of transferring them to the Nevada Test Site. Seaborg could not comment on the aluminum ingots. Donham expressed his concern regarding disposal issues. He asked if lead was still present on site. Seaborg mentioned that some lead may be in the Scrapyard.

Raper asked if other sites, such as Envirocare, are an option in the disposal of Scrapyard material. Seaborg relayed to Raper that Envirocare was investigated as an option, but, economically, Nevada Test Site (NTS) was the better choice. Seaborg added that Envirocare's facility did not cater to the disposal of metals.

Taylor inquired about NTS's visit to the Paducah site to evaluate the Waste Management Procedures. He asked if a report would result from the visit. Seaborg stated the visit was intended to prepare them for the inspection visit, which is to occur October 9-11.

Donham asked if documentation was available regarding the historical emissions from the smelter. Seaborg answered there was none at present.

### **Water Task Force**

Tanner reported the Water Task Force discussed the Scrap Metal Removal, NSDD, and the C-400 Removal Action projects. There was no discussion regarding the C-746-U Landfill. Tanner informed the Board that Gary Bodenstein will present information on the Water Policy Box at the October CAB meeting. Kay reminded everyone that the October CAB meeting has been changed to Tuesday, October 15 due to the Chairs' meeting in Oak Ridge. Tanner asked everyone to inform those not present who might want to attend the CAB meeting.

### **Long Range Strategy/Stewardship**

The task force did not meet this month.

## **Waste Operations Task Force**

Kemp reported there was much discussion regarding the NSDD and a lot of information was obtained from the regulators and the contractor. Kemp also stated that the task force has gained some insight on the upcoming cleanup projects for the NSDD sections 3 through 5. In addition, Kemp reported that the process has been started to hire a technical expert. This expert's job would be to give the task force members an independent opinion and to help better understand the data.

Tillson added the task force received a data packet on the NSDD that contained new information. Tillson asked for the same data to be compared to the Risk Base Cleanup Levels of  $10^{-6}$ . He stated he would formally request that information at the next task force meeting.

## **Community Concerns**

Halsey asked the Board if Craig Rhodes' signature on the Community Concerns proposed recommendation to be mailed to the Water Policy Box participants was acceptable. The Board agreed.

## **Administrative Issues**

Kay reported the results of the Self-Evaluation Survey have been tabulated. Each member received a copy of the results. Comments that were submitted were included. Kay stated a detailed analysis needed to be done and asked that time be allocated at the next meeting to discuss how the board would like to proceed. Kemp suggested that a committee put together a detailed analysis of the survey. Kay suggested the Public Involvement Committee assume responsibility. The Board agreed.

## **October Chairs' Meeting**

Young reported the results had been tabulated in the ranking of the CAB's top three issues to discuss at the Chairs' meeting. The results are as follows:

1. Waste Characterization and Disposition
2. "Accelerated Cleanup Plan"
3. Off-Site Contamination

## **Review of Workplan**

Halsey requested that the Board decide when they wanted Dave Burgess to address them regarding Conflict of Interest issues. Kay suggested scheduling the presentation for November. The board agreed and the workplan will be adjusted accordingly.

Donham asked to have some discussion on the C-746-U Landfill Risk and Evaluation report due to the technical content. The board decided to let the task force pursue the issue.

### **Agenda Priority Setting**

After reviewing the Agenda Priority Setting information from the Idaho board, Raper suggested drafting letters to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and DOE requesting a list of topics from each agency for potential CAB consideration for the next 6-12 months. The Board would then use these lists to build and prioritize their workplan. The Board agreed and Young will provide drafts at the next board meeting.

### **Review Next Agenda**

The board agreed to let the agenda for the October meeting stand.

### **Federal Coordinator Comments**

Dollins reminded members that the October CAB meeting had been changed to October 15. He asked the Board to review the draft of the CAB Annual Report provided in the board packets. Comments are due October 4, 2002, in order that a final draft may be prepared by the next board meeting. Dollins requested Linda Long to review the draft using her expertise in grammar, spelling, etc.

### **Final Comments**

Seaborg thanked Donham for his service to the Board as chairman for the last two years.

Raper inquired about the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Young informed the Board that the celebration would take place on October 24. She stated several political figures were expected to be present. There will be several activities, such as the unveiling of the flood wall mural followed by a firework display.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.