

**PGDP Citizens Advisory Board
Water Task Force
January 10, 2003 * CAB Office**

CAB Members Present: Mark Donham (via teleconference)
Merryman Kemp
Linda Long
Jim Smart
Bill Tanner

DOE Representatives Present: David Dollins

DOE Contractor Staff: Craig Jones, Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC
Larry Young, Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC

KY Division of Waste Mngt: Leroy Chittenden (via teleconference)
Brian Begley (via teleconference)
Linda Martin (via teleconference)
Todd Mullins (via teleconference)

Support Staff Present: Kendra Payne
Stacey Young

Public: Vicki Jurka
Al Puckett

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Six-Phase Treatability Study Update

The task force heard a status report on the Department of Energy (DOE) Six-Phase Heating Treatability Study. Larry Young, the Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC lead project engineer, reported in the absence of Gary Bodenstein, DOE.

Young said construction at the site is nearly complete and the heating unit is expected to be turned on in early February. The plan calls for the system to run for 130 days with options to go shorter or longer depending on the sampling data from wells installed near the treatment zone. Smart asked if DOE would assess the results of the project after the 130-day test period. Jones said assessment would be ongoing throughout the test period.

The task force questioned the location of the monitoring wells.

Craig Jones said the current plan calls for two major rounds of sampling during the 130-day treatability study.

Bill Tanner asked about the distance of down gradient wells and the location of wells around the heating system. He suggested coordinating sampling events both up and down gradient of the test site to see if DOE can determine what impact the Six-Phase Heating study may have on the Regional Gravel Aquifer.

The task force asked that DOE make a very brief presentation at the full board meeting January 16 that includes the following information:

- Heating zone chart
- Hexagonal array line drawing
- Photos of equipment/installation
- Line drawing of the air capture system (carbon filters)
- Diagram of the condenser and other equipment
- Location of monitoring wells immediately near the test area and down gradient from the test area.

The task force also asked about the safety mechanisms built into the system. Jones said that a computer runs the heating system and that the system will shut itself down if necessary. Donham asked if the system will have to be shut down to replace the carbon filters. Jones reported the system has dual sets of filters, making it possible to change filters without shutting down the system.

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The task force asked how DOE would deal with pressure that would build up in the ground if the heating system shut down and the vapor extraction unit stopped functioning. Donham asked if there would be any fugitive emissions resulting from this project. Jones stated emissions are not anticipated but monitoring will take place to detect any emissions. Neither Jones nor Young could report on pressure issues during the meeting and agreed to follow up with that information. The task force asked that Gary Bodenstein be available at its next meeting to answer additional questions.

Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) Permit

The task force discussed the upcoming renewal of DOE's water discharge permit held under the KPDES by the Kentucky Division of Water.

Linda Martin reported that KPDES wants to extend the current permit until June 2003.

Mark Donham questioned the difference between a "report only" and a "limits" permit. Martin said under the "report only" scenario, there are no set limits that may not be exceeded in the outfalls around the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP). She said the Commonwealth of Kentucky recommends a "limits" permit for the PGDP.

Tanner asked if [DOE is still bound by Kentucky Revised Statutes \(KRS\) if under a "report only" permit](#), Martin said there are no laws pertaining to exceedences in the KRS.

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Martin said that the greatest threat to the public is via surface water run off from the PGDP. She said that DOE has pulled out of negotiations on the surface water operable

unit. Martin said the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for site-wide sediment controls would have been the first step toward stopping contaminants from migrating into off-site ditches and streams. She said the heavy metals and other contaminants are found at actionable levels in the outfalls and beyond.

Jones said that in preparation for the 1998 KPDES permit, DOE conducted a study to determine if heavy metals were leaving the site. The bioavailability of metals in receiving streams showed that heavy metals were not an issue.

The task force agreed that it needed to review the draft KPDES permit at its February task force meeting.

Martin briefly discussed Total Daily Maximum Load and said she would report on that at the February meeting.

Sewer Rehabilitation Recommendation

The task force reviewed DOE's response to the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) recommendation regarding sewer rehabilitation and repair. Tanner said he would like additional explanation from Bodenstein. Tanner cited several DOE documents that make opposite conclusions from those drawn by DOE in its response.

Donham said the Office of Management and Budget ordered federal agencies to promulgate their own regulations regarding an appeals process for the public when a person believes an agency did not use scientific data appropriately in making decisions. Donham suggested the person who promulgated those regulations for DOE come to a CAB meeting and make a presentation. Tanner said he does not believe that DOE is misusing the science; he thinks employees are simply using a different interpretation.

The task force asked the staff to obtain a copy of the regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.