

**PGDP Citizens Advisory Board  
Long Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force  
June 12, 2003 \* CAB Office**

**CAB Members Present:** Merryman Kemp  
Linda Long  
Doug Raper  
Bill Tanner, Chair

**DOE Representative Present:** David Dollins

**Support Staff Present:** Melanie Brewer  
Kendra Payne

**The following attended the meeting:**

John Anderson  
Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization

Gaye Brewer  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Ruby English  
Active Citizens for Truth

Vicki Jurka  
Active Citizens for Truth

Tim Kreher  
West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area

Danny Orazine  
McCracken County Judge Executive

Mayor Bill Paxton  
City of Paducah

Ken Wheeler  
Greater Paducah Economic Development Council

Corinne Whitehead  
Coalition for Health Concerns

Ernest Whitehead  
Coalition for Health Concerns

Jim Zumwalt  
Paducah City Manager

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

## **End-Use of Paducah Site Discussion**

Tanner stated that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) asked the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) to make recommendations concerning the end-use of the site following environmental cleanup. Tanner said the Board wants to look at the community's concerns regarding the end-use of the site. Tanner said the existing end-use plan is primarily reindustrialization. He said another possibility is to reclaim the land as a wildlife area for recreation or agriculture process purposes. Tanner asked those present for comments concerning the end-use of the site.

Paxton said he hoped the end state would be for an industrial site, preferably manufacturing jobs. He said that after the site is cleaned up, he assumes it would be ready for economic development. Paxton's main concern was to bring jobs into this area. Orazine stated that he would like to have an industrial site; however, he does not know the extent of the cleanup.

Tanner was concerned with the cleanliness of the site and whether businesses would feel comfortable moving to the site. Orazine suggested the possibility of the new centrifuge operation moving to the site. He was concerned with the layout of the land after end-use; which buildings would be restored or cleaned up, and which areas would be considered West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (WKWMA). He said he did not want the site to be a buried landscape.

Tanner said that DOE was looking heavily at the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cell as a hazardous waste landfill, which would be used primarily during decommissioning and decontamination (D&D) of the site. Tanner believes the CERCLA cell would be 110 acres and that 70 of those acres would be landfill.

Orazine agreed with the Mayor and said he is concerned about bringing jobs to this area. Paxton believes the site should be very clean due to the amount of money spent. Tanner stated there are places that cannot be cleaned up. Dollins said DOE has targeted industrial use for the site. Tanner said risk maps drive DOE cleanup. It is Tanner's understanding that the risk levels can change depending on reindustrialization or recreational use of the site.

Orazine said there are areas at the site that would be compatible with something else, for example, the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF<sub>6</sub>) Conversion Facility. He said he was not aware of other technologies that would be compatible with some of the buildings. Tanner said the General Accounting Office (GAO) 2000 Report indicated the four largest buildings would be cleaned up and left standing for reindustrialization. Tanner expressed concern with the condition of the infrastructure.

Paxton asked if the buildings had to be left standing. Tanner said no, but that it was his understanding that the Board was to comment, set a path, and recommend to DOE on the end-use of the site. Tanner said he would also like to obtain input from all Board

members. Dollins agreed and that he talked with Bill Murphie who believes the Board has the right people involved in helping make this recommendation.

Anderson said there needs to be a focus to mitigate the downsizing of the plant through reindustrialization. Anderson said that Oak Ridge, Tennessee has a successful program; however, he said there also are areas in Oak Ridge that cannot be cleaned up. He suggested the Board look at the community's desires. Tanner asked Anderson what it would take to sell the site. Anderson said he did not know. Paxton was concerned with the buildings because he felt there would not be many companies that would need buildings that large. Dollins said there are large buildings at the site and there are also electrical switchyards that could provide power to any industry. He said the switchyards are part of the infrastructure and would be an asset for any industry.

Kreher said there has been a focus on what will happen to everything inside the current security fence; however, the majority of DOE's property is outside the fence. In addition to the switchyards inside and around the fence, Kreher said there are also hundreds of acres that fall beneath the high tension power lines. Kreher believes that people would not want to build under the power lines, but that the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (KDFWR) would have an interest in managing that area as well as additional property in the future. Kreher said there are sites outside the fence that WKWMA does not manage that have not seen any development. Kreher stated he would like to see the area outside the fence used for recreational purposes.

English said there is a need for jobs in Western Kentucky, but the primary concern should be the health and welfare of the neighbors that surround the plant. She said there are medical problems in the neighborhoods. It is English's understanding that hazardous waste is only supposed to be placed in a CERCLA cell. English's concern is that hazardous waste will be placed in the non-hazardous landfill (example: Weldon Springs). She believes the city, state, and citizens should not be left responsible. English stated DOE should be left with the responsibility. Tanner asked English if she would support reindustrialization with safeguards to prevent what had happened in the past from happening again. English said yes, but she does not believe reindustrialization is possible. She believes that the site will eventually become a dumping ground.

Jurka said a Brownfield Initiative exists that slates contaminated land for reindustrialization. She suggested looking at other Brownfield sites and viewing the successes and the pitfalls. She said there are steel mills in Gary, Indiana and East Chicago that are having a difficult time reindustrializing, and contamination is far less than it is here. She believes that these areas are having a hard time bringing in new companies due to the labor pool. Jurka said she has reviewed the policy and guidance for Risk-Based End State's for DOE Sites. She said, based on those documents, the only risk-based end state for Paducah is for it to be a landfill or a dumping ground for nuclear material.

Orazine insisted that the site be cleaned up to the very best. Regarding cleanup, Tanner said a lot of things are being postponed until the United States Enrichment Corporation

(USEC) closes. Tanner mentioned items that such as groundwater and surface water contamination will not be addressed under the accelerated cleanup plan.

Anderson said an option would be to clean up inside of the fence to everyone's satisfaction, then reindustrialize outside the fence.

Gaye Brewer stated that there will be some residual contamination left in place. She hopes that DOE will be responsible for the long-term care of the facility. Tanner said DOE is under a new budget that includes funding for the Office of Legacy Management. He agreed with Brewer in that this site should be part of DOE's long-term stewardship.

Wheeler said Oak Ridge is a pioneer for cleanup in this area. He suggested that the Board contact the appropriate people in Oak Ridge for guidance. Kemp suggested contacting Kaiser Hill. Kemp said she would address this during the Chairs' conference call on June 23. Wheeler also suggested the Board look at the site in Miami, Ohio.

Whitehead read a statement from the Coalition for Health Concerns. She said their position is that the site be cleaned up to pristine background conditions. She said she received a letter from DOE a long time ago, which said that some sites are impossible to clean up and that Paducah was one of those sites. She said jobs are important to this area; however, so is the health of the community. She was concerned about a large number of cylinders that were stored in a neighborhood. She said those cylinders leaked and cleaning up the spills should have been DOE's first priority. She suggested the site be officially designated as a "National Sacrifice Area" and that the contaminants be contained by scientific methods, including the possibility of completely encasing them in concrete. Raper asked if the government recognizes the "National Sacrifice Area." Whitehead said yes and that she was concerned about the potential for biological contamination at this site.

Whitehead said that WKWMA should be careful about the use of deer and animals hunted, due to the technetium-99 (Tc-99) contamination outside of the plant fence. Tanner said there are areas of the site that have many ponds. He said the fish are removed because they are contaminated with mercury. Kreher said WKWMA tested ponds last year, and that the levels at those particular ponds were lower than previous years. Kreher said WKWMA tests the ponds biannually.

Zumwalt said he expects that the property will be useable in the long run. He was concerned with where to draw the boundaries to make the most effective concentrated industrial development area. Dollins said that the discussion is focused on future land use as opposed to present land use. Dollins said the fence could be reconfigured.

Tanner said the task force should make a presentation to the Board. Tanner said he would like to have input from community leaders, plant neighbors, and regulators to find common ground.

Kreher suggested using an independently developed map that would give DOE a guideline of the end-use cleanup program. Tanner said the end result might not be a

recommendation on end-use; however, it may be a recommendation, for example, on a 20-year plan. Zumwalt asked what the relation is between this land use planning exercise that the CAB is taking on versus the land use planning work that had been done by the local county planning commission. Tanner said that the CAB is not necessarily looking at the final use, but at the path it takes to get there. Kreher expressed concern about the state not agreeing to the accelerated cleanup plan or a similar issue in the future. Gaye Brewer said that Tuss Taylor and Carl Froede are interested in the community's views.

Jurka said she was concerned with the pilot projects at the plant. She believes the projects are not real cleanup projects. She said she does not believe the area is a useable piece of land. Jurka suggested that everyone look at the policy and guidance documents for Risk-Based End State's for DOE Sites.

Wheeler said there is a possibility of a perpetual trust fund and urged the Board to look into the option.

### **FY03-FY04 Budget Follow-Up**

Tabled until the July Long Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force Meeting.

### **Task Force Operation Procedures (Cancellations)**

Tabled until the July Long Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

### Action Items

- Staff: Provide task force with Oak Ridge contact information (Mayor).
- Staff: Provide task force with end state vision maps.
- Staff: Provide risk-based end states document to task force.
- Staff: Provide contact information for Grand Junction, Colorado LTS office (DOE).
- Staff: Provide task force with contact information for Oak Ridge SSAB.
- Staff: Provide task force with pre-plant and recent aerial photographs.
- Staff/TF: Research Oak Ridge ETPP reindustrialization.
- Tanner: Poll Board members on their visions of end-use.