



## PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

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115 Memorial Drive • Paducah, Kentucky 42001 • (270) 554-3004 • [info@pgdpcab.org](mailto:info@pgdpcab.org) • [www.pgdpcab.energy.gov](http://www.pgdpcab.energy.gov)

### Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board Waste Disposal Alternatives Subcommittee Session Summary May 21, 2015

*The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) met at the Environmental Information Center (EIC) in Paducah, Kentucky on Thursday, May 21st at 7:10 p.m.*

**Board members present:** Ben Peterson, Renie Barger, Dick Rushing, Carol Young, Robert Coleman, Ralph Young, Mike Kemp, Judy Clayton, Cindy Butterbaugh, and Dianne O'Brien.

**DOE and subcontractors present:** Jennifer Woodard, Buz Smith, Con Murphy, Steve Christmas, Yvette Cantrell, Steve Wood, Eric Roberts and Jim Ethridge.

**Board Regulators present:** None

**Public present:** Gary VanderBoegh

**Roberts** opened the meeting and gave a brief review of the recommendation approved by the Board recommending a site for the CERCLA cell here at Paducah. He then turned the meeting over to **Woodard** for an update.

Woodard started by saying that DOE has estimated that complete D&D of the plant, except for the DUF6 processing facility, the 3.6 million cubic yards of waste would be produced. She explained that the first alternative for waste disposition was for each project to take care of its own waste. The second alternative was to have a waste program to take care of shipping all the waste offsite. The third alternative was to build an onsite waste cell. She further explained that DOE was in the process of evaluating the Feasibility Study to create a waste cell. **Woodard** then explained that DOE was in dispute with the regulators over some of the conditions mentioned in the study, and that they were working on resolving them. She indicated that there were 29 conditions that they were trying to resolve. **Roberts** asked the difference between a comment and a condition. **Woodard** explained that a comment is made after the draft document, and a condition is made after the final document is produced. She also indicated that 24 of the conditions had been resolved. She also said that the Kentucky regulators have issued a new condition recently dealing with deed restrictions and land use controls. She said that the next part of the project would be to issue the Proposed Plan that would indicate the preferred alternative. She said that DOE hopes to issue it sometime this fall (2015), with the public comment period sometime in the spring (of 2016).

**Woodard** explained that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had requested that DOE find out the groundwater level at the 5a site for the cell. If that site would be chosen for the waste cell, EPA would have to issue a waiver determined by the distance above the groundwater level that the cell would be after construction. She indicated that DOE were going to install piezometers to check the water level and would be left in place to check the level over time.

**Woodard** then explained that work at site 11 would have to be done also. A stream runs across this site, but does not flow all the time. She indicated that DOE planned to install piezometers at different points along the stream to see if there was connectivity between the groundwater and surface water. She also indicated that a similar issue causes problems at the Oak Ridge site. **Kemp** asked if the stream was an issue for the C-746-U landfill like it would be for site 11. **Woodard** indicated that the landfill actually curves away from the stream location. **Roberts** asked if there was a reason that this problem was not caught earlier in the site selection process, when other potential sites were eliminated because of issues with water. **Woodard** said that the screening criteria had to do with anything over 20% and this site was below that level, because it did not always hold water. She said that photographs of the stream were being made showing how the stream held water when it existed in the stream. She indicated that this additional work was not causing any delays in the progress of the project. **Woodard** said that this additional work was being done due to cost underruns in other projects.

**Woodard** then said that site 11 was lower in elevation than site 5a, and that DOE did consider the flood plains in their research. **Young** asked if the northeast and northwest groundwater plumes flowed around the areas. **Woodard** indicated that the trichloroethylene plume did flow slightly under site 5a.

**Peterson** asked if the schedule would be kept within reason. **Woodard** indicated that she did not expect the schedule to slide but maybe a couple of months. **Peterson** then asked if the decisions made for the Oak Ridge site had to be resolved before work to proceed in Paducah. **Woodard** said that it did not, but it was a consideration by EPA. **Peterson** then asked at what point in the schedule would not having a waste cell constructed start costing the progress of D&D of the plant. **Woodard** indicated that burial grounds SWMU 4 was tied to construction of the cell and it was not “costing” progress. She said that it would not be an issue until about the 2019-2021 time range. **Young** asked if that translated into the Record of Decision (ROD) date. **Woodard** said that DOE was projecting the ROD to be around the first part of FY2017. She also indicated that DOE thought it would take about five years to construct the cell, and their budget request was for \$300M spread across those five years. **Peterson** said that he thought it would be a good idea for DOE to keep the community, as well as the CAB, informed of the changes and development of this project to possibly make a better informed future recommendation. **Woodard** indicated that that was already being done with their regulators. She also said that the cell construction was actually a line item that had to be approved by Congress because it was new construction costing more than \$100M. She indicated that any funds approved by Congress for this project could only be spent on this project.

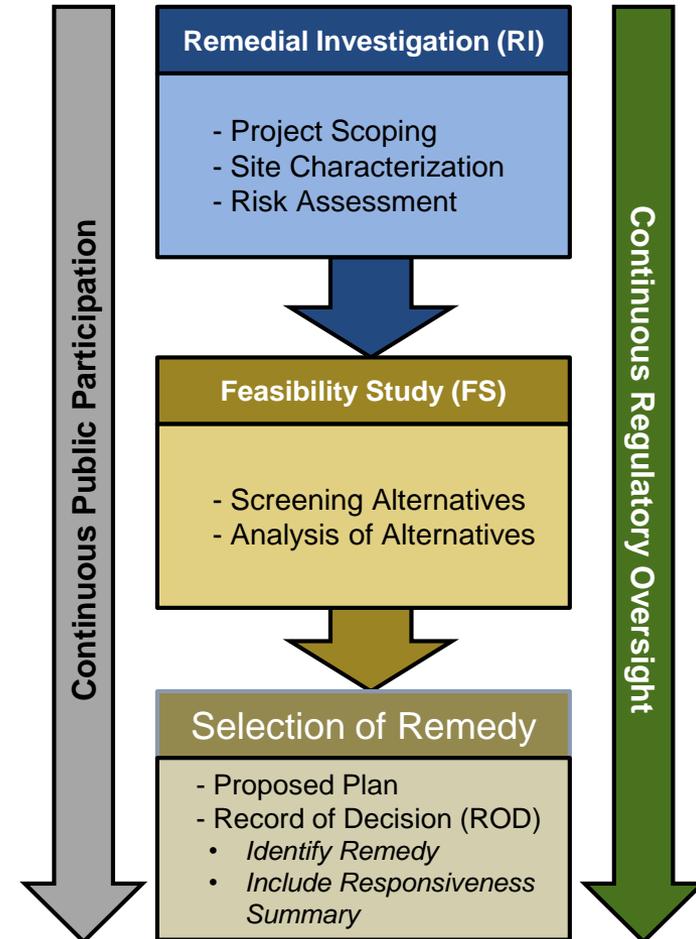
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**Peterson** reported that he had received a phone call from Congressman Whitfield’s office saying that Congress had approved an additional \$25M for DOE’s budget and had inserted language stating that DOE would need to provide an integrated plan to Congress. He also said that they expressed their thanks to the Board for the Integrated Priorities List recommendation that was sent to them.

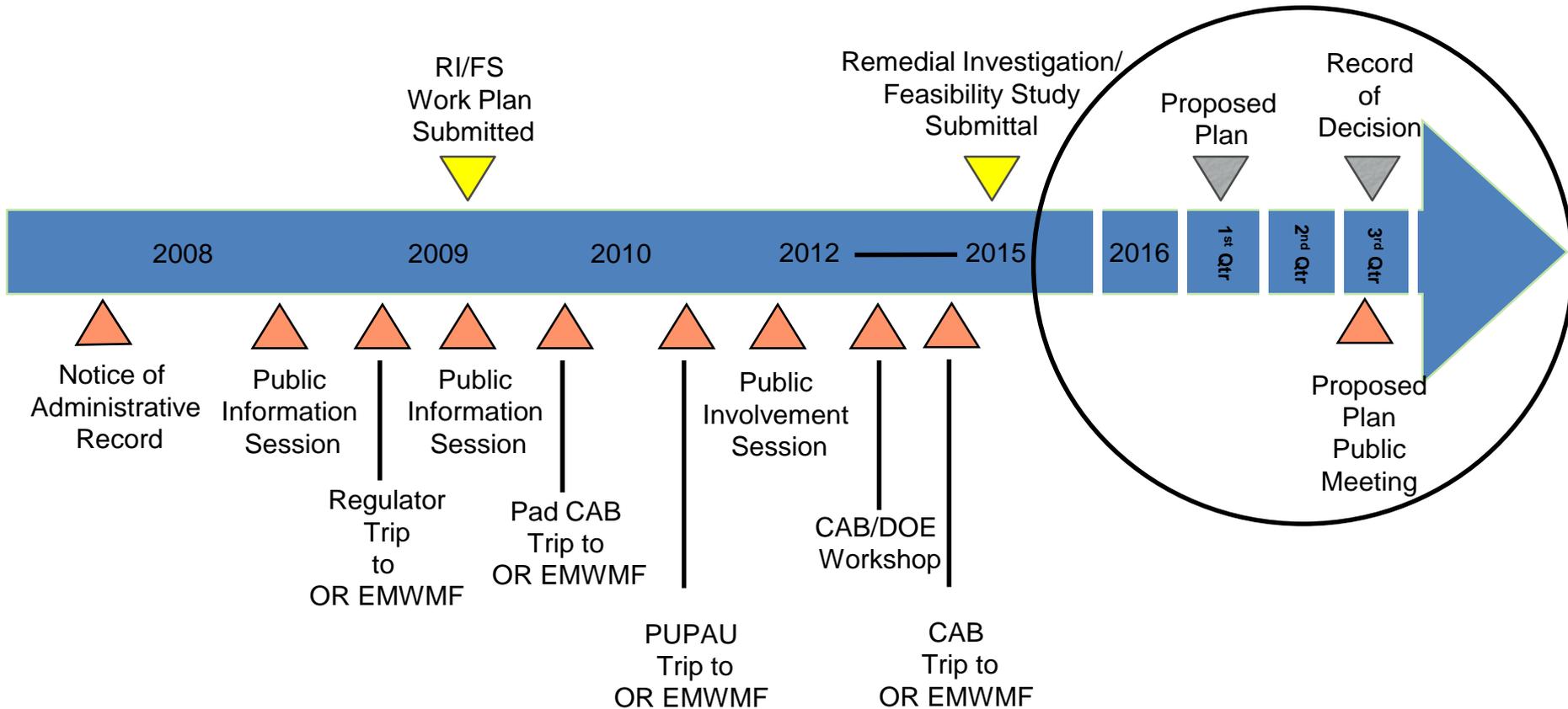
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

# Waste Disposal Alternatives

- Continued cleanup and D&D at Paducah is expected to generate around 3.6 million cubic yards of waste. A remedial investigation/feasibility study report was issued to the regulators, that examines three alternatives:
  - Waste disposal decisions project-by-project
  - Ship waste to licensed facilities off-site
  - Build an on-site engineered waste-disposal facility
- All 24 conditions that were in dispute have a tentative path forward.
- Kentucky submitted an additional condition on January 28, 2015. DOE has added the new condition to the current informal dispute.
- The proposed plan target is fall 2015 with the record of decision targeted for summer 2016.



# Waste Disposal Alternatives



\*Parties currently are in informal dispute related to the RI/FS Report – dates assume the dispute is resolved by 6/28/15.

## Waste Disposal Alternatives

- EPA submitted a request for additional information on February 10, 2015. The FFA parties have negotiated a scope of fieldwork to address the request and DOE submitted a sampling plan on May 13, 2015.
- Information to be considered by EPA as part of a Toxic Substances Control Act regulation waiver
  - 50 feet from ground surface to historically high water table
- Additional Site 5A fieldwork scope
  - Obtain depth to UCRS water at 10 locations in Site 5A



# Waste Disposal Alternatives

- Lesson learned at Oak Ridge
- Information to be considered by EPA as part of a Toxic Substances Control Act regulation waiver
  - Hydraulic connection between groundwater and surface water
- Additional Site 11 fieldwork
  - Obtain 2 months of stream and groundwater levels at 3 locations along the stream



Typical stream conditions in northern portion



Crayfish hole observed near southern location



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