

**Site Specific Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2001**

The February 15, 2001, Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting was held at the Information Age Park Resource Center in Paducah, Kentucky, at 5:30 p.m.

The following board members were present: Kit Atkinson, Nola Courtney, Judy Ingram, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Ronnie Lamb, Linda Long, Leon Owens, Doug Raper, Craig Rhodes, Rosa Scott, Jim Smart, John Tillson, and Greg Waldrop. *Ex Officio* member present was: Don Seaborg, Department of Energy (DOE). Gaye Brewer was present for Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM). The facilitator present was Steve Kay. The DOE federal coordinator present was Pat Halsey. Also present were the following members of the public and employees, contractors, and subcontractors of the DOE: Greg Bazzell, Greg Beyke, Gary Bodenstein, Jim Chestnut, Greg Cook, Gordon Dover, Ruby English, Phillip Foley, Mark Gage, Bruce Gardner, Mary Hall, James Harkin, Steve Houser, Chuck Jenkins, Sam Leone, Eric Morti, Ginger Mullins, Herman Potter, Al Puckett, and M'balia Tagoe, David Tidwell, Shirley Speer and Stacey Young.

Agenda

Kay opened the meeting at 6 p.m. and asked for introductions. He said that Mark Donham, chairman of the SSAB, was in Denver at a work-related conference. Kay asked if there were proposed modifications to the tentative agenda. Smart said he had an item he would like to address during the administrative issues. **The modified agenda was approved by consensus.**

Minutes

There were no modifications to the January SSAB minutes. **The January minutes were approved by consensus.**

Site Manager's Comments

Seaborg addressed the status of the action items from the January meeting.

Halsey explained that placing the newspaper article about candidates for membership had been her responsibility. She said she had drafted an ad, but DOE legal questioned the practice. Kay suggested the membership issues be addressed later in the meeting during the administrative issues. Seaborg noted that Fred Butterfield had been invited to the Board retreat but Martha Crossland would be able to attend instead.

He said there had been one occurrence report since the last Board meeting. Bazzell of the DOE site office discussed the report. He explained that USEC and DOE have an agreement that either would be notified of work to be done in certain areas. USEC had failed to notify DOE. (report attached) He also commented on how DOE was having USEC remove the toolbox from the DMSA. (reported at January meeting.)

Puckett had a question regarding a potential cut in funding for environmental work. Seaborg asked to defer that until later in the meeting.

Seaborg commented that the CORE Team had had a good discussion of the Baseline and had identified some other things they would like added.

Regarding the DMSAs, Bechtel Jacobs Company is preparing a readiness review and will begin work shortly if the review goes well.

He commented that the site office had received 20 to 25 calls since the public meeting regarding Worker's Concerns. He said the local site office is going to try to help close the gap in requests for information.

He said the DOJ investigation was ongoing.

Smart asked for an update on the nickel ingots project. Seaborg said DOE had no new developments and still had not received a proposal from CVD.

Tillson said the written summary of the concrete pile at C-333 provided to board members said that it was composed of concrete strips and cradle strips. He questioned Seaborg if that was all it contained. Seaborg said that was what he was told. Tillson wanted to know more about the scanning of the rubble. He asked what the analytes were scanned for and expressed concern about PCB contamination in the rubble. Seaborg said he would get the answer.

SSAB Recommendations Status

No comments.

Project Status Updates

Dover commented on Scrap Metal. He said the D2 EE/CA would be issued late in March. There is a public meeting tentatively scheduled for April 5. The schedule had been delayed

pending resolution of sedimentation basin issues, he said. It now looks like the work should start in late September.

Dover said Bechtel Jacobs has put together a proposal to see if there was some work they could do that does not compromise the CERCLA process, but would allow them to be in the field sooner. Key areas would be the removal of the classified aluminum ingots, installation of sedimentation basins and site preparation to allow work to begin next spring.

Tillson asked if there was any plan to send the scrap metal anywhere besides Envirocare. Dover said there were other possibilities, such as the Nevada Test Site for radioactive scrap and the C-746-U landfill at Paducah for metal not considered a radioactive waste.

Seaborg commented on Puckett's question regarding potential budget cuts. Halsey said that every agency across the board would be affected. Halsey said it would be consistent across the DOE complex if it happens.

Presentations

Waste Disposition Environmental Assessment

Bodenstein said the document was in final stages of preparation and should be ready in March. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20.

6-Phase Heating

Beyke, a representative from Thermal Remediation Services, Inc., made a presentation 6-phase heating technique. He explained the process and asked for Board input on the four possible methods to extract TCE vapors from the soil.

Tillson questioned the 100,000 pounds of TCE that Beyke estimated would be collected during the test. He asked if they were expecting that much in the area they would be testing near the C-400 building area.

Smart said that 100,000 pounds equals about 17,000 gallons, which equals about three tank trucks of TCE. He asked if the waste was DNAPL. Several uncertainties were expressed about the amount of TCE estimated to be in the ground. Beyke said they would be considering more data. Tillson commented TCE shipments were logged in when delivered to the plant. Tillson said that 100,000 pounds was a huge amount of TCE to have been spilled.

Lamb asked if the method took TCE out of water. Beyke said it is equally effective for soil or water. Rhodes asked if vapors could escape any other way. Beyke said that the TCE would not flow against the vacuum.

Tillson questioned the size of the test area. Beyke said it would be approximately 45 feet in diameter. He also had a question about radioactive substances, particularly radon, in the vapors. Bodenstein said DOE would get Tillson the data.

Waldrop asked if the test radius extended under the C-400 building. Beyke illustrated on the board that it is not under building.

Ingram asked if one vapor technique was more efficient than the others. Beyke said that each technique had different pros and cons, but all are equally effective at removing TCE vapors. Tillson asked how other sites where 6-Phase has been used compared to the PGDP. Beyke said there was not much of a comparison because of the nature of the geology under the plant. Dover asked if the vapor treatment equipment could be used at other cells if the technology proceeds to full deployment. Beyke said no because the systems would be rented just for the duration of the test. Seaborg asked what is unique or different at the Paducah site. Beyke said the depth of the TCE contamination is one of the main differences. Bodenstein said the 60% design would be out for review February 22 and it would answer a lot of questions. Comments will be accepted for two weeks. The 6-Phase test is to run about 130 days.

746-U Landfill

David Tidwell of Paducah DOE Site Office said that DOE is doing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the C-746-U landfill. He said the plant has always had some

place to dispose of industrial waste. In the eighties and early nineties, it was the C-746-S and T Landfills. The State of Kentucky passed legislation that required landfills of this type to have a vinyl liner and a leachate system. Design of the C-746-U Landfill began in 1995 and it opened in 1997. In 1995 there was a site-specific study considering the disposal of material with residual radioactivity. Such disposal occurred between 1997 and 1999. New guidance on DOE Order 5400.5 was issued after the EA was completed in 1995. When the DOE EH Team visited Paducah in late 1999, it noted that the site had not implemented the new guidance. The site then halted most disposals at the landfill while it prepared the Supplemental EA to implement the guidance. The guidance requires DOE to look at the exposure to the maximum involved individual in this process, which turns out to be the person hauling materials to the landfill cells. That order says that that person cannot receive more than 25 millirems per year. DOE has lowered that to one millirem per year.

Tidwell introduced Sam Leone, of Bechtel Jacobs Company. Leone said the Supplemental EA for the C-746-U Landfill would be issued in the next couple of weeks for public comments. DOE will consider the comments and issue either an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact or a decision not to proceed at all with proposed action. He said the 2001 Supplement to the EA would address the implementation of DOE order 5400.5, the authorized limits process. It will allow material with residual radioactivity to be disposed of in the landfill. This would not cause exposure above the limits set by the DOE orders and the ALARA principle. It will not cause detrimental effects to the groundwater, nor require further remediation. Ingram asked what could be radioactive and not be detrimental to groundwater. Leone said very low levels of contamination. Tillson asked if the limit of acceptable radioactivity for the landfill was going up. Tagoe said it would be considered waste stream by waste stream. Tillson stated that as an operator he could put more radioactivity into the landfill. There will be a public meeting March 1, 2001.

Worker Health Protection Program

Owens thanked Seaborg, Halsey and Donham for adding this program to the agenda. He introduced Phillip Foley of PACE who gave a brief overview of the Worker Program.

Foley said the program had started in 1996 with the interviews of workers and former workers. The program began offering physicals in 1999. Physicals are given at Prime Care in Paducah by Dr. Conyers and Jackson Purchase Medical Center in Mayfield by Dr. Gibson. The physicals are confidential. Foley explained how the program offers a two-hour workshop to help people with paper work. An example of the materials used was included in member's handout packet. He noted when the CAT Scan equipment was to be on site and invited the Board members to tour the equipment.

He said many people had called with inquiries about the \$150,000 compensation to be offered by the government. Puckett asked if a person had to have cancer or if a person had been exposed could they get the \$150,000. He asked if other diseases were considered or just

cancer. Foley said Beryllium disease and cancer were the only diseases being considered at this time. He said the Department of Labor has to write the rules how this would be implemented.

Tillson said he would like a list of cancers and exposures that caused them.

Agenda

The Waste Disposition Environmental Assessment was added as a presentation for the March meeting.

Workplan

Seaborg asked if the Board wanted to put a presentation by the ASTDR on the agenda. He said he had been told the report would be out in two weeks.

Chairs Meeting Update

Long gave an overview of the Chairs Meeting in Las Vegas which included a tour of the Nevada Test Site. She said she had listed the Board's three main issues as the Community Concerns, seismic issues as they relate to the CERCLA Cell, and the timeliness of the site cleanup.

She said the meeting had been very informative and she had literature and a film if anyone would like the information. She said she learned a lot about how other boards were doing things differently than the Paducah Board. She said the next meeting is in Santa Fe in August.

Halsey recommended that several of the Board members make plans to attend the Santa Fe meeting. She noted there was plenty of travel money available. Halsey thanked Long for attending and said she represented the Board well. Halsey also noted that Board recommendations should be sent to DOE and courtesy copied (cc) to anyone the Board chooses.

Retreat

Young covered the handout regarding the lodging, food and expenses of the upcoming retreat. Halsey asked if the committee could get together and discuss the agenda for the retreat. Kay stated that the committee had had a conference call and come up with a tentative agenda, which he distributed.

Martha Crossland, DOE Headquarters, will attend and discuss FACA.

Kay suggested that a copy of the bylaws be provided so it can be modified or whatever is needed to establish a current document. The meeting time for Saturday morning was changed to 8:00 a.m.

A copy of an actual transcript of the Membership portion of the January meeting is to be provided at the retreat for discussion of how the minutes are written.

Waldrop suggested having some of the subcontractors present to discuss the work at the plant. Tillson said the purpose of the retreat was so the Board could focus on Board issues. Kemp agreed with Tillson.

Halsey suggested looking at the Workplan. The book "*Doing Good Better*" was suggested again by Kemp as a good tool for the Board.

Item for discussion by Jim Smart

There is a seminar in mid-October in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, regarding handling of UF6. Proposal was made to send Smart to the seminar. **Proposal was approved by consensus.**

Subcommittee Reports

Community Concerns

Rhodes said the subcommittee had met and decided on a list of data it needed to know in order to proceed. The committee wanted to know the extent of danger in the groundwater, surface water and air. Rhodes gave a list to Seaborg requesting the information. He said Owens would have information on Worker's Health Project and it would parallel with the Community Concerns. Rhodes said this needs to left on the agenda.

Community Relations

No comment.

Consultant

No comment.

Membership

Courtney said the Board had addressed the six new applicants and the removal of Kit Atkinson. Halsey explained how she had taken that action item at the last meeting and Kay said it was essentially out of the Board's hand at this time. Halsey said she had sent the removal letter DOE Headquarters, but the Board had the option of withdrawing its action. Atkinson said there was no excuse for missing the amount of meetings he had missed but in the future, he would start attending again. Waldrop made the proposal to rescind the proposal to remove Atkinson from the Board. **The proposal was approved by consensus.**

There was discussion about an action approved at the January meeting to post an advertisement in The Paducah Sun seeking comment on proposed new board members. Halsey said that was her action, but after consultation with DOE legal counsel, she was advised against placing the ad requesting information concerning any individual because it may violate privacy laws. Courtney said the Membership Committee was only attempting to follow the Board's by-laws, but she preferred to not place the ad. The Board discussed removing the statement about seeking public comment on proposed new members from the by-laws.

Proposal was made and approved to remove from the bylaws the requirement to advertise prospective members before the board acted upon their applications.

Courtney asked about the recommendation for the new candidates. Kay read the bylaws again. Proposal was made to recommend Judith Duff and Sharon Lambert. Proposal was modified to have all six applicants be submitted to DOE for approval, listed in order of preference. The preference was: Duff, Lambert, Russell, Tirey, Gregory, and Mansfield. **Proposal approved by consensus.**

New Conflict of Interest forms would be made available and sent to all members who need to be resubmitted.

Meeting adjourned.