

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Site Specific Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 17, 1997

The July 17, 1997, Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting took place at Heath High School at 6:00 p.m.

The following board members were present: Nola Courtney, Mark Donham, Vicki Jones, Ronald Lamb, Linda Long, Ray McLennan, Bill Tanner, and Gregory Waldrop. Ex Officio members present were: Wayne Davis and Tuss Taylor. Facilitator Present: Steve Kay. Also present were: Todd Adams, Carlos Alvarado, Jeannie Brandstetter, Raul Castañeda, Mike Clark, Dave Dollins, Jeff Douthitt, Teresa Fields, Shelley Hawkins, Dennis Hill, Debora Jolly, Jim LaForest, Jimmy Massey, Brad Montgomery, Ben Morehead, Craig Rhodes, and Phil Smith.

The agenda was modified to include a standing item called information to allow for the distribution of handouts, the National Dialogue was added, Wayne Davis's Information was added, and the Accelerated Cleanup Plan review was postponed until August.

The first item on the agenda was the distribution by Vicki Jones of some information on a workshop on the National Dialogue. The tentative dates for the workshop are September 6-7. It is supposed to be held in the Knoxville, Tennessee area. There is no limit at this time for the number of people from each site.

The minutes from the June 19, 1997, meeting were approved by consensus.

Wayne Davis of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) presented the SSAB with a letter informing them of some recent findings that were of concern. In the past year three animals (two red-tailed hawks and a bobcat) were found on the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (WKWMA) next to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) which were found to have some level of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in either the blood or liver. No PCBs have been found in the deer sampled by DOE or KDFWR or the coyote sampled by the KDFWR in 1996. KDFWR is concerned about these findings. The Department of Energy (DOE) has already funded a study (which is in progress) to look at small mammals which is a part of the food source for the bobcat and the red-tailed hawk. Ronnie Lamb asked about the amount of PCBs used at the plant. Jimmy Massey stated that he would give the board a number at the next meeting. Ronnie asked if there had been a small animal study done in the past. Jimmy stated that he did not think there had been a similar one done in the past. Jimmy requested additional data from KDFWR on the Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC), sampling procedures, and analytical methods. Wayne stated that there had been a test done for mercury in the WKWMA in the past because of the Kentucky Ordnance Works. Clemson University is doing a study for DOE on small mammals. Vicki Jones stated that DOE tests deer, fish, and etc. to see how the plant effects the environment. Mark Donham asked about bald eagles. Wayne stated that they are usually only in the Wildlife area in the winter as visitors. The results of the study will be presented in the future.

The second item on the agenda was the Northeast Plume. Dave Dollins stated that the package being presented was to answer some questions on the Northeast Plume and is a review of the Record of Decision that was signed. Debora Jolly presented handouts and discussed the information. Mark Donham asked where the background wells are located. Jimmy Massey stated that he would find out where the wells are located and get that information to the board. This action is an interim action. It will take three to five years to evaluate. This agreement was agreed on two years ago. Steve Kay asked if there was any additional information he wanted from additional sources (sources other than site operators). Mark stated that he had expressed concerns at the public meetings. He feels that contamination is being spread through the air by atmospheric desposition. Steve Kay asked if the board was interested in getting specific information from outside sources. Mark stated that he would put together a proposal on getting specific information. Dave stated that DOE has tried to provide the board with all the information available. He also stated that DOE is not trying to say everything is okay. Bill Tanner stated that he had run a lab that tested water and he found no problems with the data. Tuss Taylor stated that the he had a handout that coincided with this data. He presented the board with a letter from Robert Daniell, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP), stating that KDEP believes that existing safeguards that were designed into the Northeast treatment system to indicate releases of radionuclides are sufficient for early detection. The Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) intends to re-elevate potential impacts to human health and the environment and identify the source(s) of the gross alpha and beta. Mark asked if this project was worth the money and is it accomplishing what it should. Preliminary data will be available after the first year. It will take 2-3 years to get the best data. The data is constantly evaluated. Linda Long stated that she felt the whole pump and treat project was a big waste of money. Craig Rhodes asked if any wells are monitored in Illinois. Municipal water supply wells are located in Metropolis were sampled. The intent is to slow down the plume. The question was asked about the amount of water treated each day. Mr. Massey stated they would get the board that data.

The next item on the agenda was the Environmental Management and Enrichment Facilities (EMEF) updates. Mark asked about the Waste Area Grouping (WAG) 6 Workplan and asked what had been accomplished. Dave Dollins stated that they had been in the field 2 weeks. There will be a quarterly Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) report. Once the field investigation is complete there will be a report in December. Mark stated that this workplan is extremely important. The goal is to try to characterize the problems around C-400. Mark asked what would happen to the main contracts now held by Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc. (LMES) when another contractor is selected. Jimmy Massey stated the contracts will be given to the next contractor on site. There will be a new contractor in place April 1998. The final Request For Proposal (RFP) went out today. Current Lockheed Martin employees will be given preference for hiring. The intent is to maintain continuity. Tuss Taylor asked what would happen to DOE and Carlos stated that the last time there was a change of contractors everything in DOE stayed basically the same.

The Community Relations Plan was the next thing on the agenda. Dennis Hill gave copies to the board. The plan goes out officially on Monday, July 21, 1997. There will be 2 additional meetings for the board to have time to comment. There will only be 3 iterations of this document. This is a planning document that will be continually updated. Steve Kay reminded the board that they have 2 roles - public (self) and as board members. It was asked if the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) and Neighborhood Council are still active. Dennis Hill stated that the EAC would probably be disbanded with the new contract. The Neighborhood Council is still active and seeking new members.

Mark asked about the status of the FFA. Dave stated there were several comments received and they are being responded to. DOE hopes to have something by Wednesday. The community relations plan will be back on the agenda next month.

The next item on the agenda was the Draft Work Plan. Steve Kay stated that the best thing to do would be to set priorities. The first item was WAG 6. The next items were WAG 22, SWMU 2, SWMUs 9 and 11. Ronnie Lamb asked if the SSAB will have any input on DOE's budget. Carlos stated that DOE would like to have someone come and talk about the plant's priorities in September. There was some discussion on having someone come to talk to the board in January from Whitfield's office. Vicki Jones will make contact. Carlos stated that he had sent Don Beck the action items from the teleconference. There will be another conference call on Tuesday night July 22, 1997, at the LMES building in Kevil. Carlos will get the ex-officio's the call in number. Gregory Waldrop asked about Vortec. Carlos stated that by next month there should be a resolution for the next step forward in Vortec. It will be on next month's agenda. Gregory asked about the media contact that was discussed at the first Al Alm conference call. Dennis Hill stated that he had not been able to arrange a meeting yet.

Tuss Taylor asked about the meeting location and was told that this could be discussed at the next meeting. The SSAB meeting location of the cafeteria has been changed two of the three times that we have met at Heath High School. Carlos suggested that the board might consider a different location since the funding is available. A list will go out with the minutes.

The next meeting will be held on August 21, 1997, at the Heath High School at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Tentative Agenda for the August 21, 1997, meeting:

Minutes

Information (Handouts)

EMEF Project Updates

Overview of the WAG 6 Work Plan

WAG 22 RI Report - Summary overview of SWMUs 7 and 30

A presentation on Budget Prioritization

Review of the Accelerated Cleanup Plan

Review of the Community Relations Plan

Update on Vortec

Review of the SSAB Draft Work Plan

Action Items

Jimmy Massey will give the board a number on the amount of PCBs used in the plant in the past.

Jimmy Massey will provide the board with the location of the Northeast Plume background wells.

Jimmy Massey will provide the board with numbers on the amount of water treated each day from the Northeast Plume.

Vicki Jones will contact someone from Whitfields office to come to talk to the board in January.

Jeannie Brandstetter will supply a list of meeting places to the SSAB.