

**Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant  
Citizens Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2003**

The March 20, 2003 Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting was held at the CAB office in Paducah, Kentucky at 5:30 p.m.

**Board members present:** Mark Donham, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Ricky Ladd, Rebecca Lambert, Linda Long, Douglas Raper, Craig Rhodes, John Russell, Rosa Scott, Jim Smart, Dorothy Starr, Bill Tanner, and Gregory Waldrop.

**Board members absent:** Richard Dyer, Fred Jones, Ronald Lamb, and John Tillson.

***Ex Officio* members and related regulatory agency employees present:** Tuss Taylor, Gaye Brewer, Jon Maybriar, Janet Miller, and Gary Morgan, Kentucky Division of Waste Management, Tim Kreher, West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area.

**The Deputy Designated Federal Official present:** Dianna Feireisel for Don Seaborg.

**The DOE Federal Coordinator present:** David Dollins.

**DOE-related employees present:** Tracey Brindley, Greg Cook, Gordon Dover, Jim Ethridge, Greg Felts, Bruce Ford, Craig Jones, Steve Kay, Lynn Link, Kendra Payne, Joe Tarantino, Glenn Van Sickle, Tom Wheeler and Stacey Young.

**Public:** Charles Jurka, Vicki Jurka, Randall Kepner, Kaylin Loveland, Charlie Lutz.

## **Agenda**

Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Kay asked if there were any proposed modifications. Feireisel requested that a presentation on the Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) be added to the agenda. Tanner asked that the Sewer Rehabilitation Update be postponed. **The Board approved the proposed agenda by consensus.**

## **Minutes**

Kay asked if there were any proposed modifications to the February draft minutes. There were no modifications. **The Board approved the minutes by consensus.**

## **Deputy Designated Federal Official's Comments**

Dianna Feireisel represented Don Seaborg, who is on special assignment.

## **ES&H Issues**

Feireisel said in the past there have been some administrative errors involving radiological control procedures. She reported some workers have failed to meet radiological requirements in radiological areas. Feireisel said there have not been any worker exposures but the Department of Energy (DOE) is working proactively to solve the problem.

## **Budget Updates**

Feireisel stated she did not have any new information regarding the budget. Kemp stated the Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force had received a general breakdown of the FY04 Budget request. She asked that it be made available to all Board members.

## **Project Updates**

Feireisel asked the Board if there is interest in receiving a presentation from Uranium Disposition Services (UDS), the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF<sub>6</sub>) conversion facility contractor. The Board said yes.

Feireisel reported that a broken band was found on a shipment of aluminum ingots to Nevada Test Site (NTS). The finding halted shipments until the issue was resolved. Dover said the issue has been addressed and shipments have resumed. Feireisel said there has been recent discussion regarding the Southwest Plume. She said DOE is considering converting the Permeable Treatment Zone (PTZ) wells into extraction wells and tying them to the Pump and Treat system to control the plume until the source of contamination can be positively identified.

Feireisel also reported DOE is still working closely with regulators on the Sampling Plan for the C-746-U Landfill. Feireisel said the project update information is provided in the meeting packet and offered to answer any questions.

Feireisel said DOE received the 2002 Pollution Prevention Award for the Lasagna project.

### **Questions:**

Waste Disposition – Tanner asked if all the aluminum ingots are going to be shipped to NTS. Feireisel said yes.

Groundwater Operable Unit – Tanner asked if DOE is looking into other ways to stop the spread of the plume instead of tying the PTZ wells into the Pump and Treat system. Feireisel said using the PTZ wells would contain the plume until the source of contamination is confirmed. Dover said DOE originally planned for the actions in the C-720 Record of Decision (ROD) to attack the assumed source of the groundwater contamination. He said new data shows that Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 4 may be the source. Dover stated the PTZ wells would help contain the plume until more information is available indicating the source.

Donham said the update states “regulators rejected DOE invocation of formal dispute on missed milestones for ROD D1.” He asked under what circumstances regulators could reject the invocation of formal dispute. Taylor said the procedures are outlined in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA), but the Commonwealth of Kentucky rejected the invocation because there was no cause for formal dispute. Donham asked for clarification regarding the milestones and ROD that were referenced. Taylor said the milestones are regarding schedules. Dover said the update is referring to the C-720 Groundwater Treatment ROD. Taylor said he would provide Donham with copies of the letters between DOE and the Commonwealth of Kentucky regarding the issue to give some clarification.

Scrap Metal Removal – Donham asked how DOE is reducing the size of the scrap metal. Dover said the metal is being cut into smaller pieces.

### **CAB Recommendation Status**

At the February Board meeting, Tanner reported DOE had not responded to a recommendation, submitted by the Board last year, regarding the Accelerated Cleanup Plan (ACP). Tanner reported he learned the letter was a resolution, not a recommendation, which does not necessarily require a response from DOE.

### **Ex-Officio Comments**

Taylor reported discussions regarding the Site Management Plan (SMP) between regulators and DOE have continued in a positive manner. He said DOE has submitted a

proposed plan that included new milestone dates. Tanner asked if the new proposal included more cleanup projects than the proposed ACP. Taylor said yes, and that the proposal is very different from the one proposed last year. Tanner and Russell asked if the Board could see a draft of the SMP dispute resolution before it is approved. Taylor said the plan is in initial discussion and conceptual in nature, but the intent is to have schedules set by the beginning of April. Raper asked how the Board could obtain a copy of the proposed plan. Taylor and Feireisel said they could not commit to providing the document to the Board. The Board proposed requesting a copy of the new proposal for accelerated cleanup. Young said standard procedure is that the Board put the issue on the table, then vote at the following meeting. Donham suggested the Board waive that procedure since time is limited. Kay asked if there were any objections to waiving the procedure. There were no objections. **The Board approved waiving the procedure by consensus.** The Board then considered the proposal to recommend that DOE release a draft of the proposed SMP dispute resolution prior to its approval by all parties. **The Board approved the recommendation by consensus.**

### **Comments**

Randall Kepner, a 31-year maintenance worker at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP), said he was concerned about the health care of plant workers. He said after the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) leaves the site, plant workers will not have health coverage other than Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (COBRA), which provides short-term health insurance. He said plant workers should be considered cold war veterans or be covered by a government insurance plan. Kepner stated plant workers deserve representation from the community and asked the Board to consider health care issues for plant workers. He said he appreciated the work the Board has done thus far and urged the Board to continue asking questions regarding plant operations. Donham said he agreed with Kepner. He also said there are many plant neighbors with plant related illnesses who deserve government health coverage.

### **Action Items**

Young said the Waste Operations Task Force is still developing the scope of work for a technical expert. Russell reported he has provided a suggested syllabus for training.

Young said the Commonwealth of Kentucky has not set a date for a public hearing regarding the Kentucky Pollution Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) Permit.

Young reported USEC is developing a formal response to the Board's inquiry regarding whether or not USEC will introduce a transuranic (TRU) waste stream to Paducah during reprocessing of uranium bombs. She said the Board should receive the response before the April meeting, but the answer is that USEC will not be reprocessing the uranium.

Kemp said she would provide a draft letter of support to Active Citizens for Truth (ACT) and a reply to the ACT letter regarding the Community Concerns Landowner Compensation Recommendation before Wednesday, March 26, 2003.

Kemp polled the Board to determine interest in having a dinner meeting in place of the retreat. The Board agreed to hold a dinner meeting on Friday, June 20, 2003. The location will be decided later.

Young stated Rhodes has provided reports regarding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) forming in bentonite. Dollins encouraged Rhodes to discuss the subject with DOE Project Manager Gary Bodenstein.

### **ASER Presentation**

Dover gave a presentation to the Board regarding the ASER. He gave the Board some background information on changes from previous years as well as highlights. Dover said the dose limit for a potentially affected person increased from last year. DOE has been asked by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Commonwealth of Kentucky to take some additional biased samples for uranium concentrations in sediment. Therefore, a new data sampling location was added. The new sampling point is located at the mouth of the North-South Diversion Ditch (NSDD). He said this new data is the reason for the increases and is not sure how it will trend. Dover reported PCBs in fish are declining and PCBs in deer are slightly less than last year.

### **Questions**

Smart asked if the figures shown were based on grab samples or an average. Brindley said the figures reflect an average of samples grouped together. She said the report provides further detail.

### **Comments**

Kepner said there seems to be a lot of concern about the wildlife, but not much concern about the workers. He asked if anything was being done to determine detectable levels of contamination in plant workers.

### **Chairs' Meeting Presentation**

Kemp shared with the Board the draft presentation she will be giving at the national Chair's Meeting in Denver, Colorado, March 28-30, 2003. The topic of the presentation is Intersite Shipment of Wastes and Materials. After much discussion, the Board developed a final presentation.

### **Other**

Prior to Task Force Reports, Dollins said he would like to make a few comments. Dollins stated the support staff works very hard and is responsive in helping the Board carry out its daily activities. He said he has noticed that recent meetings have grown to be somewhat harsh toward DOE and the support staff. Dollins said this has no place in a task force or subcommittee meeting. He stated this is a matter that he hopes can be

improved. Dollins also said if this trend continues, DOE will remove itself and the contracted support staff from the meeting.

Long reported that the Nevada Test Site uses a set of meeting rules she likes. She suggested that the Board obtain a copy of these and post them in our meeting room. One of the rules reminds us to be respectful of each other. Young said she would get a copy for the Board.

### **Water Task Force**

Smart reported the task force met on March 7, 2003. Smart said the details are recorded in the minutes.

Smart stated he visited the plant to observe the Six-Phase Heating System. He reported 2,000 gallons of trichloroethylene (TCE) condensate have been recovered. Smart also reported there have been some problems with the heating electrodes, but the system now is heating the zones as one unit.

### **Long Range Strategy/Stewardship**

Tanner said the majority of the March 13 meeting was spent preparing for the Denver Chairs' meeting. He stated the task force had received a response from DOE regarding agenda priority settings and would work on agenda setting at their next meeting. Tanner reported the task force received a broad breakdown (without dollar figures) of the requested FY04 Budget.

Tanner said last month he made a proposal to change the operating procedures of the Board regarding attendance and preparation for travel to workshops and chairs' meetings. **The Board adopted the revised operating procedures by consensus.**

Tanner informed the Board that two magazine articles were included in the meeting packet. One article, "*Man Against a Mountain*", is about Yucca Mountain. The other article, "Dismantling Nuclear Reactors", reports on a town that relied on a nuclear power plant. When the plant shut down, the community could not recruit new industry because the site was cleaned up only to Brownfield standards. Tanner said the articles are to give members more information. He asked everyone to think about the re-industrialization of the Paducah site.

### **Membership, Nomination and Public Involvement**

Lambert stated the subcommittee did not meet, but needs to set a meeting date.

Lambert reported that some members' terms are up this year. She said those members have been contacted and all have requested re-appointment. Lambert said the re-appointment process is underway.

Regarding membership recruitment, Lambert said there are no openings at this time, and three applicants remain in the pool.

### **Waste Operations Task Force**

Russell reported the task force discussed F-listed waste and what that means for disposal of waste generated from the NSDD project. Russell said the task force expressed interest in offering Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) training to Board members. He provided support staff with a suggested syllabus.

### **Community Concerns**

Long reported the subcommittee was given a report by Donham on smelter operations that occurred at PGDP. She was very complimentary of this report. Waldrop said the group requested an accounting spreadsheet of materials smelted that includes the monetary value. Long said the smelter operations caused an air pollution problem that has not been addressed. She said smelter emissions might be a pathway for contaminants to reach Bradford Road. Donham said calcium filters, only meant to catch fluoride, were the only form of pollution control for the C-746-A aluminum smelter. He said the smelter was unique in the DOE complex. Donham stated the information he has obtained only covers shipments of materials from Pantex. He said more metals were probably smelted at different locations within the site. Donham said Tillson has reported that there was another smelter called the induction furnace.

### **TRU Waste Recommendation**

Kay said the TRU Waste Recommendation was brought to the Board last month. He asked if there were any questions or concerns before voting to approve the recommendation. Kemp said she was not comfortable with the recommendation and that other sites may not endorse the letter to Jessie Roberson. Because several Board members left, there was no quorum. Raper suggested seeking consensus at the next Board meeting. The Board agreed to table the recommendation.

### **Administrative Issues**

#### **Review of Workplan**

Young reported Dr. Wes Birge, University of Kentucky employee conducting sampling for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, could give a presentation to the Board in May on water sampling. Young also said the Six-Phase Treatability Study will be complete in June and suggested an update for August. **The Board agreed.**

Young said she would check with UDS for availability. Raper said he would like to have a briefing on the C-410 Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) project in April.

## **Review of Next Month's Agenda**

Kay asked if there were any modifications to the April agenda. Raper asked that the C-410 D&D briefing be added.

Smart inquired about the status of the Conflict of Interest presentation. Dollins said the funding for the presentation is not available at this time. Feireisel said she would check into the funding issue.

Kemp asked if Joe Carson would be making a presentation to the Board. Young said consensus was not gathered on whether or not to request that DOE pay for Carson's travel. Kay noted that not enough members were present to seek consensus. **The agenda was approved as amended.**

## **Federal Coordinator Comments**

Dollins said he would check on funding for Carson travel. Dollins also said the support staff would be tape recording task force and subcommittee meetings to aid in accurate minutes preparation. He stated recording the meetings would help to capture all comments, especially during technical discussions.

## **Final Comments**

Smart asked if a better quality conference telephone could be provided for task force meetings. Smart said the existing unit is low quality and presents an ongoing problem. Dollins said he would address the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.