



Members Attend Waste Workshop

The Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board hosted a workshop on Transuranic (TRU) Waste for members of the Department of Energy's advisory boards across the country.

Five board members, Becky Lambert, Linda Long, Doug Raper, Jim Smart, and Bill Tanner attended the workshop in Carlsbad, New Mexico on January 29–February 1.

The workshop provided advisory board members with a forum to share issues regarding TRU waste at DOE facilities.

At the Paducah site, TRU waste is not a major issue because the small amount that exists will be shipped to Oak Ridge, Tennessee for treatment. Paducah's waste will be added to the Oak Ridge inventory for disposal. The waste will then be sent to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for final disposition.

Paducah CAB members toured the WIPP facility. The DOE-owned site is an indefinite storage facility for TRU waste. WIPP receives TRU waste from sites within the DOE complex and is stored in specially prepared tunnels in the salt layer over 2,000 feet below the Earth's surface. Board members toured the above-ground receiving area and the underground storage tunnels.

As a result of the workshop, Board members from all the advisory boards developed a recommendation to DOE. The TRU Waste Recommendation lists 13 proposals to DOE regarding cost, characterization, transportation, and management issues. The recommendation was endorsed by six of the SSABs at the recent National Chairs' Meeting. Paducah did not join that recommendation.



(From left to right) Kendra Payne (staff), Linda Long, Doug Raper, Bill Tanner, Rebecca Lambert, and Jim Smart attended the waste workshop.

Board Members Attend National Chairs' Meeting

Four members of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board attended the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Management (EM) Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) National Chairs' Meeting on March 27–29 in Denver.

Merryman Kemp, Doug Raper, Linda Long, and Bill Tanner represented the Paducah CAB at the semi-annual meeting. Members from advisory boards across the nation attended the two-day meeting to discuss complex-wide and site-specific issues.

Board representatives toured DOE's Rocky Flats facility, which is a full-scale closure project. The visitors saw Decontaminating & Decommissioning (D&D) activities underway as well as the waste shipment facility.

Intersite waste shipments affects many DOE sites. Each SSAB presented the types of waste their site receives and what types of waste their site will ship to other DOE facilities. This allowed board members to get a broad perspective of the waste that is transferred between sites.

Kemp, chair of the Paducah board, reported that almost all shipments of waste from Paducah are going to commercial facilities. However, the PGDP plans to ship approximately 6 cubic meters of transuranic (TRU) waste to Oak Ridge for treatment. Kemp stated some waste generated at Paducah is planned for on-site disposal while other waste streams do not have a disposal path.

Sandra Waisley, DOE Designated Federal Official for the EM SSABs, attended her first Chairs' Meeting since assuming her role in February. Waisley said public involvement is important and that she looks forward to working with the SSABs.

Roger Butler, DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Budget, presented the 2003–2004 budget for environmental management.



Members of the Paducah CAB recently toured DOE's Rocky Flats Facility. Pictured from left to right: (Back) Stacey Young (staff), Bill Tanner, Merryman Kemp, Steve Kay; (Front) Kendra Payne (staff), Lynn Link (staff), Doug Raper and Linda Long.

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PGDP Citizens Advisory Board

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David Geiser, DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship, gave a presentation on the risk-based end states project that DOE Headquarters is working. Mike Owens, Director of Worker and Community Transition gave a brief description of the newly-created DOE Office of Legacy Management.

Chairs from the majority of the nine SSABs endorsed the TRU Waste Recommendation to DOE. The recommendation, which touched on several areas of TRU waste shipments, is a result of the TRU Waste Workshop held in Carlsbad, New Mexico in late January 2003. Paducah did not agree to the letter because the board had not reached consensus.

The next Chairs' meeting will be hosted by the Paducah CAB. A date has been set for September 25-27, 2003.

Task Forces Busy Over Winter

The **Water Task Force** is monitoring the progress of the Six-Phase Heating Treatability Study, the renewal of the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and the FY03 budget. The task force received a response from DOE on the Sewer Rehabilitation Recommendation. DOE does not plan to take action at this time. The Water Task Force meets on the first Friday of the month at noon in the CAB office.

The **Waste Operations Task Force** continues research on remediation of the North-South Diversion Ditch phases outside the security fence. The group is concerned with the Notice of Violation that was issued regarding the C-746-U Solid Waste Landfill. A permit modification for the landfill is pending in Frankfort. The Waste Operations Task Force meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force** is working with the FY03 Budget and the FY04 President's budget request. Regulators have provided the group with some insight on upcoming projects and the group will begin to set its priorities. The task force continues to focus on long-term stewardship issues. The Long-Range Strategy/Stewardship Task Force meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the CAB office.

The **Community Concerns Subcommittee** has received consensus from the Board to proceed with the Landowner Compensation Recommendation. The recommendation asks DOE to compensate landowners, surrounding the plant site, for any decrease in value of their property as a result of groundwater contamination caused by plant operations. The recommendation has been submitted to DOE for a response. The Community Concerns Subcommittee meets as needed.

Paducah CAB Supports Local Citizens Group

Active Citizens for Truth (ACT), a group of local concerned citizens and plant neighbors, has asked the Paducah Citizens Advisory Board for support of a vegetation study.

The Superfund Basic Research Program at the University of Kentucky (UK) has applied for a grant to conduct a garden vegetable study. The program will provide educational materials and will develop programs based on the nutritional implications of site chemicals gathered from basic research.

ACT would like for this study to be done near the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant with the support of the Paducah CAB. The Board remains dedicated to the health and safety of the plant neighbors and the community and would like to show its support. The CAB has submitted a letter of support to the UK Superfund Program in hopes that the study will provide information and answers to the community.