

Community Advisory Council
February 13, 2003
Action Items/Notes

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and handouts
3. Quorum
4. Administrative including approving draft notes from January
5. Subcommittee Report on P2 Conference
6. Reactors Update, Al Queirolo, HFBR, BMRR Project Manager and Chuck Adey, Reactors Project Manager
7. Community Comment
8. Peconic River Process/Steps on Path Forward, Ken White, Special Assistant to the Assistant Laboratory Director
9. Summary Report on Risk Assessment, Skip Medeiros, OU V Project Manager
10. Preliminary Report from OU V subcommittee on OU V RA
11. Advice from the CAC members to BNL on cleanup priorities for OU V.
12. Agenda Setting

1. Attendance

See Attached Sheet

Others Present:

C. Adey, J. Carter, A. Carsten, M. Cowell, J. D'Ascoli, K. Geiger, G. Goode K. Grigoletto, R. Hodgins, L. Hill, M. Holland, A. Juchatz, S. Kumar, M. Lynch, T. Maugeri, S. Medeiros, L. Nelson, M. Parsons, R. Paulsen, A. Quierolo, A. Rapiejko, T. Sheridan, K. White

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items 1 - 5 were mailed with a cover letter dated February 7, 2003. Items 6 and 7 were included in the folders and items 8, 9, and 10 were available at the meeting as handouts.

1. Draft agenda for February.
2. Draft notes for January.
3. Final notes from December.
4. Executive Summary – Draft Final Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment.
5. Biography – Dr. Praveen Chaudhari.
6. Revised draft agenda.
7. Information on EPA Fish Tissue Study (requested by J. Mannhaupt for inclusion in folders)
8. Copy of Reactor Update presentation by Al Quierolo and Chuck Adey.
9. Copy of Peconic River Path Forward presentation by Ken White.
10. Copy of Peconic River Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment presentation by Skip Medeiros.

3. Quorum

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was established when 55% of the 27 member organizations (15) were in attendance.

4. Administrative

Reed went over the ground rules and the draft agenda. He suggested the CAC move the discussion on creating a steering committee to the end of the meeting. Member Shea suggested moving the discussion to another meeting, Member Esposito seconded it and the CAC agreed.

Tom Sheridan announced that Dr. Praveen Chaudhari was selected as the new Director for the Laboratory. Dr. Chaudhari will begin his duties on April 1. Sheridan also announced that George Goode had been selected to replace Lori Cunniff as the manager of the Environmental Services Division.

Reed asked for additions, deletions, corrections or changes for the Action Items and Notes for January. Correct the date of the meeting and add that it had been stated in the presentation on education programs at the Laboratory that participation was down from the peak year of 1995. The notes were approved with the changes, there were two abstentions.

5. Subcommittee report on the P2 Conference

David Sprintzen submitted a written report to the CAC and described the committee's proposal to hold a one-day workshop in Suffolk County. He said if resources were available, one would be held at a later date in Nassau County as well. George Goode, Bob Conklin, and Chris Smith developed the workshop proposal to focus on fleet maintenance operations. The Lab has implemented many good ideas in that area and it is a wide-spread activity. The county and towns all have large DPW and highway departments, and corporations such as Fed Ex and UPS maintain large fleets of vehicles. Sprintzen went over a proposed agenda, explained that it all depended on being able to cover expenses, and asked for comments from the CAC members.

CAC members suggested that LIPA, KeySpan, and companies attempting to gain an ISO 14001 certification be added to the target audience list. Member Graves reiterated the support of Brookhaven Town and indicated that the town may be willing to help fund the effort if a letter requesting support were received. It was suggested that a broader component of P2 be included in the workshop. Member Sprintzen said that he could send a letter to Brookhaven and administer any funds received through the Research Project if the CAC approved. The CAC agreed to that path forward. Sprintzen said that he would come back with an update in March and talk about a location, timing, structure of the program, presenters, and progress with funding.

6. Reactors Update, Al Queirolo, HFBR & BMRR Project Manager, Chuck Adey, BGRR Project Manager

Al Queirolo reported to the CAC that the spent fuel from the BMRR had been shipped offsite last month. He said the BMRR is in the process of being re-categorized from a Category B Reactor to a Radiological facility since the fuel is gone. He said they are currently doing stabilization activities that include the removal of hazardous materials, chemicals, lead, and excess equipment. CAC members asked about the monitoring for tritium and what the results, if any, were. George Goode stated that it was part of the ongoing monitoring program and that he would update the CAC at a future meeting. Queirolo reported the facility will be characterized.

The CAC requested information on the parameters being used for characterization in a written report and presentation. They asked about the timeline and funding from DOE to determine the D&D and eventual disposition. Queirolo said he was not aware of the funding level beyond next year, which is \$400,000.

Queirolo reported that the HFBR is currently in a surveillance and maintenance (S&M) mode. The majority of the characterization has been completed and they are continuing to look for homes for the valuable specialized equipment once located at the reactor. Activities, including waste disposal, are being performed to maintain a safe condition. The CAC asked for a presentation on the characterization and on the groundwater monitoring data. They asked about the timeline for determining the alternatives. It was reported that the D&D for the BGRR would be done by FY 2005 and then the D&D for the HFBR is expected to start.

The CAC also reiterated their request for an update on the research that had been conducted at the reactors. They also asked for information on the BNCT research. They are interested in any effects shutting the reactors may have had.

Chuck Adey gave an update on the BGRR. He went over the activities completed to date including the characterization of Buildings 701 and 702 and removal of soils. Adey said that engineering studies are being done to provide documentation that will describe the scope of work for individual activities, provide a detailed schedule, and cost estimates. The characterization risk assessment data gathered from the other activities that have already been completed will be used for a comprehensive risk assessment that will be a key component to provide input to the Feasibility Study. The input will be used to develop a range of alternatives that will describe decommissioning options and a Proposed Remedial Action Plan for the BGRR. Adey said the Feasibility Study and PRAP are expected to be completed and to go out for public comment in January 2004. A response to the comments will then be prepared and be included in the draft Record of Decision, which is expected to go to the regulators in June 04. He said that after the decision is made on what the scope of work is we will implement those additional activities and right now we're on schedule to complete that and be done by the end of FY 05 or September of 2005.

Adey described some of the below-ground duct and filter work necessary. Argonne National Laboratory has been retained to assist with writing the draft comprehensive Risk Assessment. The CAC asked questions about the soils remediation, the contaminants found, impacts to the water table, the change in strategy, when will the Feasibility Study will be ready, and if there are readings of the radioactive levels of the filters and liner. They also asked for more information about Envirocare, the location where the waste material has been shipped. Les Hill, who has had experience with Envirocare, described their facility and processes.

Adey explained that Cesium 137 and Strontium 90, and some traces of transuranics were found and that the filters and liner had been characterized and are contaminated. The CAC agreed that an update in July, sooner if the Lab has something to report, would be appropriate.

Action Item: Presentation on BMRR and HFBR characterization and on groundwater data.

Action Item: Presentation on the effects shutting down the reactors has had on research.

7. Community Comment

There were no comments from the audience.

8. Peconic River Process/Steps on Path Forward, Ken White, Special Assistant to the Assistant Laboratory Director

Ken White explained that the process for the Peconic River cleanup was the standard CERCLA process. He said that it was over two years since the last public comment period and a lot of work has been completed, including the pilot studies, reports, and the draft Risk Assessment. White said that the process will now begin to move forward very quickly because the Lab is hoping to begin cleanup as soon as this fall.

White said the Lab was nearing the point where there is enough information to go forward and make a decision about the cleanup alternatives to be presented for public comment, but first they wanted to revisit the aspects of the cleanup that are important to the CAC members and the groups they represent tonight during the discussion on cleanup priorities.

White said the Lab would, along with the regulators, develop a cleanup approach that addresses the concerns expressed by feedback from the CAC and at the roundtables. He cautioned that each individual interest may not be directly reflected in the remedy and options because of the diversity of interests, but it will reflect the regulatory requirements, CERCLA criteria, and has at least taken into consideration all the things that have occurred over the past two years – the results of the pilot studies and the results of the other sampling activities. Then he expects rigorous feedback from the CAC. The plan would then be finalized and the document that reflects the best match of all these criteria would go out for formal public comment. White reminded the CAC that when it gets to the public comment period, whatever feedback provided will have to be in writing or recorded verbally at the formal public meeting in order to be recorded into the Record of Decision. At that point, the CAC members would be welcome to comment as individuals, on behalf of their group, or with a CAC consensus recommendation. Once the public comment period closes, the information is taken back to the regulatory agencies and the ROD comes quickly thereafter. The comment period is 30-days. The Lab hopes to be out doing work by next fall.

The CAC asked when the public comment would be initiated. Ken said some of the schedules were still being worked out and that it could be as early as April, but probably in a May/June timeframe. Reed said from the standpoint of the CAC, first of all what you've indicated is that this cleanup approach that's going to be developed from all the information coming in, will be developed by BNL, DOE and the regulatory agencies. Those agencies will get together take in all the information including the CAC's input and will come to a conclusion about what they think is the right approach forward. That approach is going to be reflected back to the CAC to get final feedback, then it will be finalized in the PRAP and carried forward for public comment. The final decision will be made by the regulatory agencies and DOE so it's important to know who the decision makers are here and how the CAC will be involved in influencing that decision. The CAC is involved in giving additional input into the process that's going to go into developing the cleanup approach, responding back in your role as the advisory group to BNL and through BNL to the agencies about their cleanup approach before it goes out for formal public comment. And then you have a role to play during the formal public comment either as individuals, individual organizations, or as the CAC, if you want to make official comment in the form of a recommendation. Member Esposito added that she felt very strongly that everyone on the CAC should have written or stated comments on OU V. She would like to see every single organization and individual comment on the plan. She said the CAC has been working on OU V for years and everyone should have input into the cleanup plan.

9. Summary Report on Risk Assessment, Skip Medeiros, OU V Project Manager

Skip Medeiros said that the Risk Assessment showed there is a need for action and described the scenarios and exposure pathway that were considered in the assessment. Medeiros explained the central tendency exposure and the reasonable maximum exposure risks determined to be present. He said that the Risk Assessment identifies human health risks in excess of acceptable EPA risk levels, uncertainties and sensitivities that drive results and conclusions, and that it will be used as a basis for developing alternatives to remove the risk. Medeiros said that the key risk driver is the mercury and PCB contamination in fish and the pathway to humans via fish consumption. The recommendations from the Risk Assessment were to evaluate the productivity of the river for fish consumption exposure, evaluate the fish consumption patterns, continue monitoring fish and deer, evaluate frequency of river water levels, and evaluate potential future fish biomass in the upper Peconic during different water levels. He said they have demonstrated a risk and are in the process of determining the capability of the river to actually substantiate that risk.

The CAC asked questions about health advisories being posted regarding fishing and swimming in the river. It was reported that the NYS Department of Health had evaluated the data and that the existing fish advisory for all of New York State's freshwaters already covered the situation. They asked about TCE and the range, habits, and size of the fish in the river, whether or not they can get past the gauging station and silt barrier, and about the biomass and high water level studies and the expectations for them. It was reported that they are being reviewed by the agencies and that they will be used to address the methodology and extent of the cleanup. Members asked what the Lab expected from the CAC. Medeiros said that he'd like affirmation that the CAC recognizes that the Risk Assessment shows that the input given to the Lab during decision-making processes about how the Risk Assessment would be conducted was in fact put into the document and that all of the things that they thought needed to be considered in the Risk Assessment were in fact considered.

Member Esposito said that all of the concerns of her organization were put into the Risk Assessment. She did say, however, that she was troubled that there still seems to be a question about whether people eat fish from the river. She said that SCDHS had an independent consultant survey people about fishing on the river and that answers to the questionnaire indicate that people are eating all types and sizes of fish from the river. She expressed additional concerns about the biomass study and how it would be used. Some CAC members expressed their appreciation to the Lab for responding to their concerns.

Action Item: Send Skip's presentation from the working group meeting to the CAC members requesting it.

10. Preliminary Report from OU V subcommittee on OU V Risk Assessment

Member Esposito said that the subcommittee didn't have a formal report and that the subcommittee was not prepared to comment on whether or not all the input was incorporated into the Risk Assessment. She indicated that they could have a report at the next meeting. It was agreed by the CAC that the subcommittee should continue to evaluate the RA and report their findings at the next meeting.

11. Advice from the CAC members to BNL on cleanup priorities for OU V

Reed facilitated a session to survey each of the members of the CAC who were present at the meeting. Each member made a statement on their principles and priorities as they pertain to the Peconic River cleanup based on the information they had up to that point, but they may not be listed in order of importance to each member. These principles and priorities will be shared with the parties as they develop their preferred approach to cleanup.

- Health – current and future generations
- Clean hotspots thoroughly, do as little damage as reasonable, and don't over spend.
- Health of current and future generations, cleanup water and soil, and the contamination in deer
- All the things that have already been listed, human health has to come first.
- Human health comes first, but agrees with cleaning the hotspots, doing as little damage and not over spending.
- Health has to be number one, but cleanup the contamination that is technically possible.
- Wetlands and environmental preservation, and it should be modified only when there is demonstrable reason that there is some credible impact.
- Develop ecological sustainable relationship with the biosphere and be responsive to the concerns of the community.
- Watch the wetlands, remember that the stream will fill up again, cleanup so that the fish and animals don't pick up contaminants – watch the wetlands, watch the water and watch the health of animals and fish.
- Determine what the health risks actually are to the best of our ability. Priority on current human health protection, assume some control of future land use and preserve the environment.
- Clean the river system to standards to protect human health and the ecosystem, cost, and a well-designed monitoring system to determine the effectiveness of what was done to ensure that what was selected was to the best benefit of the system.
- Human health is number one and minimize disruption.
- Do it right the first time and don't conserve money at the risk of not doing a comprehensive job only to find out later that other areas need to be cleaned up.
- Restoration to reasonably achievable standards and avoid the temptation to seek the ultimate restoration that could be attainable to the expenditure of unlimited funds and time.
- Address real problems, not imagined problems. The remedies should be cost effective with measurable results, not feel good gestures. Don't cleanup for the sake of cleanup. Money is not an infinite commodity. Money thrown at an imaginary problem that is not established to be a problem might have to be taken from other projects that could definitely save lives or improve health.
- Can't think of anything that hasn't been covered, agrees with all the other comments.

CAC members asked if they would be given copies of the list in the form it's written or if it would be edited. Reed said his intention was to give it back to them as he captured it.

12. Agenda Setting

A CAC member asked for a presentation in March on what we can do as private citizens to protect ourselves with regard to bioterrorism. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Lab had expertise in that area and if it was relevant to the CAC. Member Conklin said he had been getting phone calls asking for information and he thought perhaps the Lab would be a resource.

March

- Steering Committee P2 update
- Groundwater monitoring
- BMRR monitoring and characterization
- HFBR monitoring and characterization
- Research/Medical isotope impacts from reactor shutdown
- Reactor D & D update (July or when needed)
- Peconic fish/water level studies
- Peconic range of options and implications
- C-T briefing on individual responses
- Subcommittee evaluation of RA
 - CAC findings
 - Skip's question
- Quarterly Environmental Update
- Congressman Bishop (future)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

2003	Affiliation		F	L	J	F	M	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
		Chart Key X = Present O = Absent														
ABCO (Garber added on 4/10/02)	Member	D	G		x	x										
ABCO	Alternate	R	Jo		o	o										
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association	Member	Graham	Campbell		x	x										
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (L. Jacobson new alternate as of 4/99)	Alternate	Lou	Jacobson		o	o										
Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Member	A	E		x	x										
Citizens Campaign for the Environment (Ottney added 4/02)	Alternate	Je	O		o	o										
E. Yaphank Civic Association	Member	Michael	Giacomaro		x	o										
E. Yaphank Civic Association (J. Minasi new alternate as of 3/99)	Alternate	Jerry	Minasi		o	x										
Educator	Member	A	C		o	o										
Educator (began as alternate in 3/99) (A. Martin new alternate 2/00) (Adam to college 8/01)(Bruce 9/01)	Alternate	B	M		x	x										
Environmental Economic Roundtable (Berger resigned, Proios became member 1/01)	Member	George	Proios		x	o										
Environmental Economic Roundtable (3/99, L. Snead changed to be alternate for EDF)	Alternate	None	None													
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services	Member	D	Fi		o	o										
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services	Alternate	Ja	M		x	x										
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)	Member	Ed	Kaplan		x	x										
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)(schwartz added 11/18/02)	Alternate	Steve	Schwartz		o	o										
Health Care	Member	Ja	C		o	x										
Health Care (as of 10/02 per JD)	Alternate	M	B		o	o										
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Member	Mary Joan	Shea		x	x										
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Alternate	Scott	Carlin		o	o										
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/Local 2230	Member	M	Walker		x	x										
IBEW/Local 2230	Alternate	P	Pi		o	o										
L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Member	Richard	Amper		o	o										
L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Alternate	Katherine	Timmins		x	x										
L.I. Progressive Coalition	Member	D	S		x	x										
L.I. Progressive Coalition	Alternate	N	N													
Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Biss as of 4/02)	Member	Rita	Biss		x	x										

Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Rita Biss new alternate as of 3/99)	Alternate	Joe	Gibbons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Long Island Association	Member	M	C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Long Island Association	Alternate	W	E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Longwood Alliance	Member	Tom	Talbot	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
Longwood Alliance	Alternate	Kevin	Crowley	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Longwood Central School Dist. (switched 11/02)	Member	B	H	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Longwood Central School Dist.	Alternate	C	S	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
NEAR	Member	Jean	Mannhaupt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
NEAR	Alternate	Wayne	Prospect	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
NSLS User	Member	Je	Jo	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
NSLS User	Alternate	P	St	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
PACE Union	Member	Allen	Jones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
PACE Union	Alternate	Philip	Plunkett	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Ridge Civic Association	Member	R	C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
Ridge Civic Association	Alternate	N	N															
STAR	Member	Scott	Cullen	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
STAR	Alternate	Terry	Guglielmo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Town of Brookhaven	Member	Je	K	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Town of Brookhaven	Alternate	A	G	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens	Member	James	Heil	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens (open slot as of 4/99)	Alternate	None	None															
Town of Riverhead	Member	R	C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
Town of Riverhead (K. Skinner alternate as of 4/99)	Alternate	K	S	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Wading River Civic Association	Member	Helga	Guthy	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>													
Wading River Civic Association	Alternate	Sid	Bail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Yaphank Taxpayers & Civic Association	Member	N	E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>													
Yaphank Taxpayers & Civic Association	Alternate	None	N															

