

Community Advisory Council
April 10, 2003
Action Items/Notes

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and handouts
3. Quorum
4. Administrative Items
5. Dr. Praveen Chaudhari, Director, BNL
6. Update on the Top to Bottom Review, Michael Holland, Manager, DOE/BAO
7. Laboratory and Environmental Management Program Direction, Les Hill, Director, Environmental Management
8. Community Comments
9. Update on Peconic River Cleanup, Les Hill, BNL
10. Presentation on Methyl Mercury, Terry Sullivan, Environmental Research and Technology
11. Discussion on the NYS Oversight Committee
12. Agenda Setting

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present:

See Attached Sheet.

Others Present:

M. Bebon, D. Bennett, P. Bond, J. Carter, H. Carrano, Dr. Chaudhari, J. Clodius, Y. Collazo, F. Crescenzo, J. D'Ascoli, R. Desmarais, K. Geiger, G. Goode, K. Grigoletto, L. Hill, R. Hodgins, M. Holland, A. Juchatz, P. Kalb, S. Kumar, M. Lynch, R. McGrath, L. Nelson, M. Parsons, R. Paulsen, A. Rapiejko, T. Sheridan, T. Sullivan, K. White, C. Wirick

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items 1 - 5 were mailed with a cover letter dated April 4, 2003. Items 6 – 9 were placed in the members' folders, and items 10 and 11 were available at the meeting as handouts.

1. Draft agenda for April.
2. Draft notes for March.
3. Final notes from February.
4. Copy of the NYS Oversight Committee legislation.
5. Copy of information on bioterrorism from Jean Mannhaupt.
6. Revised Draft Agenda.
7. Copy of Initial Methyl Mercury presentation.
8. Copy of Memo transmitting principles and priorities and RA recommendations to Dr. Praveen Chaudhari.
9. Copies of CAC attendance sheets from February and March.
10. Copy of BNL Integrated Cleanup Strategy presentation by Les Hill.
11. Copies of groundwater plume maps and contaminant information requested by the CAC .

3. Quorum

The meeting began at 6:44 p.m. A quorum was not present.

4. Administrative

Reed went over the ground rules and the draft agenda. The CAC members and those in attendance introduced themselves.

Discussion and approval of the March 13 meeting notes was postponed until the May meeting.

Jeanne D'Ascoli reported that there was a misunderstanding about transmitting the survey of the CAC member's principles and priorities on OU V. She noted that the information had been forwarded to Dr. Chaudhari and would be formally sent to the DOE Area Office. D'Ascoli read an email from David Sprintzen regarding the P2 conference. He said that due to George Goode's new role at the Laboratory his availability is limited.... Nevertheless, a P2 program will be held sometime this summer either at BNL or at Cornell. D'Ascoli said the information had previously been given to the subcommittee.

Jeanne also reiterated that URLs for two websites with bioterrorism information had been given out at the last meeting. Further action on the topic was postponed as Member Shea who had asked for the panel discussion, was absent.

5. Introduction of Dr. Chaudhari

Dr. Chaudhari noted he has already heard a good deal about the CAC and the issues it considers most important, including environmental issues. He said he was looking forward to interactions with the group and receiving advice from the CAC. Since Dr. Chaudhari arrived at the Lab two weeks earlier, he already has had several encouraging meetings with local officials and DOE staff and has had the opportunity to meet with many of the Lab's staff. He talked about his experience and background and closed reaffirming his belief in the importance of the CAC.

6. Update on Top to Bottom Review, Michael Holland

Mike Holland gave an update on the Top to Bottom review that had been conducted by the Department of Energy (DOE) last year. He said that the Secretary commissioned the review because he was not satisfied with the progress of cleanup activities at DOE facilities across the country. The Secretary challenged Environmental Management (EM) to take a look at cleanup activities and try to do a better job at actually getting out into the field and doing work while being more effective, more efficient, protecting human health, the environment, and workers.

Holland said that what that means for Brookhaven is that the Laboratory is about to enter the last 30 months of its cleanup program. Brookhaven has continuously looked at its cleanup program and tried to find ways to do it better, to accelerate the cleanup, and to try to complete the job on time and on budget. There continues to be a significant challenge as there are still decisions to be made on the Peconic River, soil remediation, groundwater remediation, and the decommissioning of the reactors. The challenge is to make those decisions in the best possible manner so that forward progress can be made and the work can get done.

Holland discussed the workshop "*The Pathway to Completion*" that was held two weeks before. Staff from the Laboratory, the DOE Brookhaven Area Office, Chicago Operations Office, EM Headquarters, and staff from DOE facilities at Rocky Flats, CO and West Valley, NY attended. He said one of the things discussed was establishing a land use vision. A land use vision can be applied to the cleanup program to help with decisions. He said that the cleanup at the Lab must be completed and done safely and effectively and with the CAC's input. Holland said that a *Plan for Completion* must be put together by September.

CAC members asked: is additional funding going to be provided to complete the work sooner; if done meant the remediation was started or completed; what would be expected of the CAC in regard to the *Plan for Completion*, information on plans for the HFBR and BGRR, and if there was a way to expedite or accelerate the decisions and reviews by outside influences (regulators).

Holland said that they planned to look at the remaining work and prioritize it in a way that the work could be completed with the funding provided. He said there will be specific parts of the *Plan to Completion* that will be reported on to the CAC. The CAC's input will be obtained from the Lab Director and will factor into the decisions. Holland said that the HFBR and BGRR were not covered under a ROD process, but the scope of work that's already been laid out is to be accelerated so that it will be completed by 05. To accelerate decisions, Holland said they are looking to work in a more collaborative manner with the regulators: the County, New York State, and the EPA.

7. Laboratory and Environmental Management Program Direction, Les Hill

Les Hill described the integrated cleanup strategy for the remainder of the cleanup program. He said that the program at Brookhaven has evolved, like many other programs across the country, on a piece meal basis - one project at a time, one Area of Concern at a time. It is necessary now to pull it all together to meet the Secretary's challenge of completing the work in 30 months. Hill talked about the remaining decisions, the project uncertainties, and anticipated funding. He said that the differences will be that they will use an integrated approach, it will be end-state driven, and risk based with a consistent foundation. This will be accomplished by using the BNL land use vision, project reviews, an end state objective, and then doing the work.

Hill said the implementation of the Top to Bottom Review began a few weeks ago, that internal discussions have begun as well as discussions with regulators and that discussions with the community begins tonight. He reported that the schedule and path forward is being developed and that all work and planning underway will continue. He asked the CAC to continue to act as advisor to the Laboratory and added that specific advice will be sought on each step of the process.

The CAC asked questions and expressed concern about how the integrated plan will fit into the regulatory processes; if the regulators will even buy on to the new process; that the work not just be done, but that it be done correctly; how the low level radiation and the human health risk factor will be taken into consideration; and if there was adequate funding to complete the work within the 30 month timeframe.

Hill said that he felt it was just as important to the regulators to get the cleanup done. He talked about sitting down with the members of the Interagency Agreement and talking about needs and making compromises. Hill said that he had looked at the budget forecast from this year through FY05 and is confident that he has the financial resources necessary to do the work.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked that some of regulators be invited to address the CAC next month and give their reaction to the change in process and talk about whether they think that something can really get done in 30 months.

Action Item: Contact regulators.

Reed thanked Les and put a place-holder on the agenda for future updates.

8. Community Comments

There were no comments from community members.

9. Update on the Peconic River Cleanup, Les Hill.

Les Hill reported that the survey on priorities for cleaning up the Peconic, provided by the CAC, had been given to the regulators at their meeting a couple of weeks ago. Currently, the Lab is speaking with the regulators and as soon as a strategy is developed he expects to ask the CAC for input.

10. Methyl Mercury Presentation, Terry Sullivan

Terry Sullivan's presentation was on the initial methyl mercury data from the Peconic River. It was a follow-on to the talk he gave on mercury in the environment last October. He described the mercury cycle discussing how and where manmade and natural mercury occur. He described how methyl mercury is formed and said that there is concern about it because it is the type of mercury that bioaccumulates and enters the food chain. Sullivan explained the typical mercury concentrations found in air, water, sediments, and soil.

Sullivan reported: supplemental sampling was done in the Peconic River in September of 2001. Some sampling was also done for the PCBs and metals and that this was the first time that data was collected on methyl mercury. At least one sample was taken from several areas between the Sewage Treatment Plant and the area offsite. It was no surprise that there were elevated levels of mercury in the river, however, the next step was how that compares to methyl mercury. The levels in the river are at the high end of what might be seen in a natural system. The methyl mercury is a little higher but not as high as the total mercury. When questioned why, Sullivan said that there are theories on the benthic community, that the chemistry isn't right, on bacteria, and on dissolved oxygen. He said they have not looked in detail as to why it's low, but this is consistent with other areas that have high levels of total mercury, and where the methyl mercury doesn't go up linearly with total mercury. He said that most of methyl mercury is in the sediment.

Member Garber asked about fish ingesting the mercury. Sullivan said that the levels are slightly elevated. The average fish concentrations are .7 ppm or in that range. The average for the east coast in the State of New York is .3 ppm. The level in fish is higher than expected particularly given the size of fish.

CAC members asked: where the samples were taken, if he would eat fish from the river, how the sediment samples were taken, what the human health effects are, if the effects of mercury were different for healthy people, if there was data for the mercury in the water column, if the fish population affects the concentrations, and if humans normally have mercury in their systems.

Sullivan spoke about how human health risks include impairments in the cognitive and motor skills of young children, how the EPA calculates exposure, testing hair to determine the level of mercury in the body, and studies that look at the mercury loading in the body for people who don't eat fish and people who do. Fish clearly increase the mercury level.

Member Kaplan asked what the bottom line was on whether or not mercury was a problem. There are definitely elevated levels of mercury in the Peconic and there are slightly elevated levels of methyl mercury. This is consistent with the high levels seen in fish compared to what would be expected. Sullivan said, "Whether that's a risk, that's another question. It depends on how much the build up is, how much fish is in the river, and so on. In terms of the data, we are seeing the signature of mercury."

Member Kaplan asked what would make sense in cleaning up the mercury in the Peconic sediment? Speculating in very general terms, Sullivan said that what makes sense is what everybody agrees to. It isn't clear-cut, it isn't just a scientific decision on the data alone because the data isn't complete. Everything has to be balanced.

Member Garber asked if there was any sampling information on the Carmans River, Sullivan said he doesn't have any information now, but there are plans to collect data this summer.

11. Discussion on the NYS Oversight Committee

Member Conklin reported that he had talked to Assemblywoman Acampora's aide and was asked for a letter from the CAC outlining the questions being asked. It was agreed that the subject would be taken up at the May meeting and questions would be identified and sent in.

12. Agenda Setting

May

- P2 Committee Update
- Cleanup Plan Update
- Regulators Views on Cleanup Strategy
- Discussion on the steering committee
- Presentation from Applied Science
- Visit with Congressman Bishop
- HFBR/BGRR (D&D)
- Quarterly Environmental Update
- Effects of Reactor Shutdown on Research/Science
- Bioterrorism
- Update on Mercury Measurements/Monitoring
- Mercury Health Effects Associated w/Peconic River levels
- State Oversight Committee Discussion

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

2003	Affiliation	Fi	Last Name	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	Garber	x	x	x	x								
ABCO	Alternate	R	J	o	o	o									
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association	Member	Graham	Campbell	x	x	o	x								
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (L. Jacobson new alternate as of 4/99)	Alternate	Lou	Jacobson	o	o	o	o								
Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Member	A	E	x	x	x									
Citizens Campaign for the Environment (Ottney added 4/02)	Alternate	J	O	o	o	o									
E. Yaphank Civic Association	Member	Michael	Giacomaro	x	o	x	x								
E. Yaphank Civic Association (J. Minasi new alternate as of 3/99)	Alternate	Jerry	Minasi	o	x	x	o								
Educator	Member	A	C	o	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	o	o								
Environmental Economic Roundtable (Berger resigned,Proios became member 1/01)	Member	George	Proios	x	o	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	o	o								
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services	Alternate	J	M	x	x	x	o								
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)	Member	Ed	Kaplan	x	x	x	x								
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)(schwartz added 11/18/02)	Alternate	Steve	Schwartz	o	o	o	o								
Health Care	Member	J	C	o	x	o	o								
Health Care (as of 10/02 per JD)	Alternate	M	B	o	o	o	o								
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Member	Mary Joan	Shea	x	x	x	o								
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Alternate	Scott	Carlin	o	o	o	o								
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/Local 2230	Member	M	Walker	x	x	x	o								
IBEW/Local 2230	Alternate	P	P	o	o	o									
L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Member	Richard	Amper	o	o	o	o								
L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Alternate	Katherine	Timmins	x	x	o	o								
L.I. Progressive Coalition	Member	D	S	x	x	o									
L.I. Progressive Coalition	Alternate	N	N			o									

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