

Community Advisory Council
November 8, 2001
Action Items/Notes

Final

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and handouts
3. Quorum
4. Administrative
5. Presentation on Security at Brookhaven, Russel Reaver, Manager, Safeguards and Security
6. Presentation on Urban Anti-terrorism/Technical Support, Joseph Indusi, Chair, National Security and Nonproliferation
7. Presentation on Structural Studies of Anthrax and Other Bacterial Toxins, Paul Friemuth, Associate Chair for Safety and Training, Biochemist, Biology
8. Update on BGRR Findings, Les Hill, Manager, Environmental Restoration/Waste Management
9. Community Comment
10. Discussion on Energy
11. Peconic River Subcommittee Report on OU V
12. Update on the Peconic River, Skip Mederios, Group Manager, Peconic River
13. Community Comment
14. Rauch Foundation
15. December Agenda

1. Attendance:

Present:

Members- A. Capozzi, R. Clipperton, B. Conklin, J. Corrarino, , M. Giacomaro, H. Guthy, J. Heil, E. Kaplan, G. Proios, M. Shea, D. Sprintzen, M. Walker.

Alternates- R. Biss, J. Grindrod, B. Henigin, J. McLoughlin, B. Martin, J. Minasi, K. Timmins

Others- C. Adey, M. Bebon, P. Bond, A. Carsten, J. Carter, T. Daniels, J. D'Ascoli, S. Feldberg, K. Geiger, K. Grigoletta, L. Hill, M. Holland, J. Indusi, M. Lynch, S. Medeiros, M. Parsons, R. Paulsen, G. Penny, A. Rapiejko, K. White.

Absent:

Members- R. Amper, M. Barrett, G. Campbell, M. Cohn, S. Cullen, A. Drake, A. Esposito, N. Essel, D. Fischler, J. Gibbons, A. Jones, J. Jordon-Sweet, J. Kassner, C. Kepert, J. Mannhaupt, P. Martino, C. Swenson, T. Talbot, F. Towle, J. Tripp.

Alternates- S. Bail, S. Carlin, A. Cooley, K. Crowley, W. Evanzia, A. Graves, T. Guglielmo, L. Jacobson, R. Johannesen, G. Miglino, J. Pannullo, P. Pizzo, W. Prospect, K. Skinner, L. Snead, P. Stephens

2. Correspondence and Handouts

(Items 1 – 3 were mailed with a cover letter dated November 2, 2001. Items 4 –7 were included in the folders and item 8 was available as a handout.)

1. Draft agenda for November.
2. Draft October notes.
3. SER 2000 Summary Booklet.
4. Revised draft agenda.
5. Action Item 99-53. Stakeholder correspondence to Michael Holland and L. Hill dated October 3, 2001 and response dated November 2, 2001.
6. Presentation on Peconic River Update, Skip Medeiros, Group Manager, Peconic River.
7. ATSDR information on Public Health Assessments (See “Administration.”)
8. Presentation on BGRR Reactor Status, Les Hill, Manager, Environmental Restoration/Waste Management.

3. Quorum

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established when 17 of the 31 member organizations were present.

4. Administrative

Member Grindrod asked for an update on Dr. Marburger and the search for his replacement. Marge Lynch reported that Jack and his wife were adjusting well to life in Washington. She reported that two of the candidates for director have been to Brookhaven and have met with members of the search committee and she said that it might be possible to have a new director by January. She mentioned that it also might be possible to have a “holiday” wine and cheese celebration in Berkner for Dr. Marburger in place of the cancelled September party. If this is planned the Lab will notify CAC members.

Jeanne D’Ascoli discussed CAC meeting attendance. She listed the organizations that had missed meetings since March – ABCO, Environmental Defense Fund, the LI Builders Institute, and since May, One-in-Nine. The SC Legislative District #3 representative hasn’t attended meetings since May of 1999 but is still on the list so therefore affects quorum. She agreed to write these organizations to determine their interest in continuing or appointing new representatives.

Gail Penny provided an information packet on the ATSDR. It included an explanation on who they are and what they do. ATSDR is performing a Public Health Assessment of Brookhaven as required by Superfund law. This is independent of the risk assessment work done under the Superfund cleanup program. Gail pointed out the Dear Stakeholder letter and mentioned that written comments would be accepted by the ATSDR through December 1.

The July 12 and October 11 meeting notes were approved as written. The July notes were approved unanimously, there was one abstention on the October vote.

Reed introduced Bruce Martin (Adam’s father) who is filling in as the educator alternate while Adam is at school. Adam also will remain an alternate for that position.

Action Item: Send letter to those CAC members who have not attended meetings since March.

5. Presentation on Security at Brookhaven, Russel Reaver, Manager, Safeguards and Security

Russ Reaver described the Lab's initial response to the events of September 11 and current security precautions being taken explaining that a lot of additional security measures are in place. Some are visible, some are not. He described 100% ID checks and vehicle checks and searches at the Main Gate and discussed the steps being taken to ensure building safety. Additionally, the Lab is taking measures to ensure that incoming packages are examined. CAC members questioned how foreign nationals were screened. Reaver responded that visitors had to be invited or appointed and that the screening was done by the sponsoring department/division. Their Visas and passports are checked. The names of foreign nationals are entered into a database and checked by counterintelligence folks and the FBI. Reaver was asked if there were precautions in place to protect from an air attack. He explained that the protective measures of air space restrictions were taken for DOE facilities that have nuclear weapons of Category I and for the NRC's nuclear power plants.

6. Presentation on Anti-terrorism Support, Joseph Indusi, Chair, National Security and Nonproliferation

Dr. Indusi described the Technical Support Organization established by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1968 to consider the risk from nuclear materials. That group became the department that he now chairs. Ten years ago three scientists from the department went to Geneva to assist the U.S. Ambassador in negotiating a treaty to ban the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Since then there has been an interest in terrorists and terrorist acts. Indusi discussed the capabilities at Brookhaven, the RAP team, and risk assessment. He explained the process of risk ranking and talked about other programs at the Laboratory that deal with the ability to aid in the efforts against terrorism. He discussed several detection capabilities that the Lab has developed.

7. Presentation on Structural Studies of Anthrax and Other Bacterial Toxins, Paul Friemuth, Associate Chair for Safety and Training, Biochemist, Biology

Dr. Paul Friemuth focused his talk on anthrax toxins. He clarified that he was not talking about the bacterium itself, but the active toxin substance that really causes the problems when humans become infected with the anthrax bacteria. Friemuth stated that it's really the toxin that does the damage rather than the organism itself. He said that BNL has studied the structural biology of the anthrax toxin. This is the kind of research that can be done at the NSLS. Paul described the properties of the toxin, told how it binds to the surface of cells and destroys essential components within the cell leading to the death of the cell. Antibiotics that target the B. anthracis organism itself will kill the bacterium and destroy its ability to make the toxin. He showed the steps of how toxins attack cells and discussed vaccines stating that early treatment results in less toxin being produced. The results of BNL experiments were discussed and the research was described as part of the counter-terrorism program of DOE. Friemuth also said that informing the medical community of the mechanism and activity of these toxins could help in the development of antidotes and vaccines.

8. Update on BGRR Findings, Les Hill, Manager, Environmental Restoration/Waste Management

Les Hill talked about the path forward for the BGRR. He said that the above ground ducts were being packaged for shipment offsite. He noted that a final decision on the EE/CA for the lower canal has not been reached. The Lab will be providing the CAC additional information on the below grade ducts and the factors that might have an impact on them; additional samples have been taken to further characterize the soil, concrete, and steel to aid in making decisions for removals and decommissioning. Hill also talked about funding and noted that FY02 should be okay, but any changes in FY03 could present a problem for cleanup and the BGRR in particular.

9. Community Comment

There were no comments from the audience.

10. Discussion on Energy

CAC member Proios mentioned a public hearing being held by the Energy Committee created by the Legislature on November 19 from 3 to 7 p.m. to help the county come up with an energy policy. He thought some work done by the subcommittee should be presented. There was some discussion of the different groups formed to address the energy issue. Reed questioned whether there was anything that the CAC should do to participate in the public meeting, or if it was enough that individual groups attend. A CAC member asked if the results from the Energy Forums could be put together in a binder for a record. Jeanne D'Ascoli agreed to look over the package to see if it could be condensed for wider distribution to members.

Action Item: Review Energy Forum material for December meeting.

11. Peconic River Subcommittee Report on OU V

Ed Kaplan gave an update from the OU V subcommittee. He explained that the subcommittee had met and discussed the letters to the regulators and the responses, and the inconsistencies pointed out in the IT reports. He explained that the committee wanted to focus on the regulatory, scientific, and the stakeholder issues and how they overlap. He said that the subcommittee members will participate on the Working Group. Kaplan mentioned that he had been focusing on the 1992 Interagency Agreement as a starting point. He said that no conclusions had been formed at this point and that there needed to be additional meetings.

12. Update on the Peconic River, Skip Medeiros, Group Manager, Peconic River

Skip Medeiros gave updates on the sediment trap, vacuum guzzler, electrochemical pilot study, phytoremediation and wetland reconstruction. He described the design of the sediment trap, its function, and said that a work plan would be sent out next week with installation expected in January '02.

Regarding the electrochemical process, Skip stated the contractor said they believed they can vibrate the electrodes into place and that chelating agents will not be required. He noted that there are some remaining uncertainties with the process, including:

- Whether or not radionuclides will plate onto the electrodes.

- That contaminants – radionuclides, cesium for instance, that are now distributed throughout the wetland at relatively low concentrations would gather and that concentrations would increase, which would require that they be removed. The contractor has never done this type of work in an environment where radionuclides are present so they do not have an experience base to draw upon.
- The potential impact to the plants by the pH changes that may be caused by the electrochemical process.
- The impact to beneficial organisms that live in the mud in the area. The Lab understands that there is a relatively quick response in that these organisms re-colonize relatively quickly, but the exact impact is unknown.

Medeiros reported that the work plan for the vacuum guzzler had been sent to the NYSDEC on November 7 and is in the process of being reviewed. Member Grindrod asked if copies of the work plans could be distributed after they are reviewed and approved and Skip replied that he expected they could be posted on the web.

There was no further update on phytoremediation - the Lab is still waiting for data to determine if bioaccumulation in the above or below ground biomass of the plants on site was occurring.

Skip discussed a wetland reconstruction project in Glen Cove and described the process involved in completing it.

Skip noted the regulatory criteria are being revisited and the risk assessment assumptions are being reevaluated. The Lab is looking at the regulatory drivers for several remedial action objectives including protection of human health from ingestion of fish. In response to a question from a CAC member Medeiros said that a new risk assessment would be completed on all the data that has been collected on OU V, including all previous data and the most recent sampling results. Shortly, the Lab will have available data that has been quality checked and will be sharing it with the regulators. Skip noted that sampling results are still coming in and they should have them all available by the end of November. He mentioned that the State is in the process of evaluating the results from the fish sampling and that they would be discussed at the end of the month also. Finally, he mentioned that the Working Group would be meeting in early December.

13. Community Comment

There were no comments from the audience.

14. Rauch Foundation

CAC member Sprintzen raised an issue regarding the Accelerated Cleanup committee. He questioned an invitation that CAC members received from the Rauch Foundation to a celebration honoring the CAC for the accelerated cleanup and made reference to a \$25,000 grant to the Pine Barrens Society. He said it was his understanding that the Foundation grant had been given to the LIPBS to run the accelerated cleanup committee of the CAC and that's why the CAC was being honored. He asked for a clarification of facts and requested an accounting of the grant. He expressed concern that the CAC and the subcommittee had not been informed about the grant when it was received and that it has the appearance of not being 'above board.'

15. December agenda

A suggestion was made from a CAC member to begin looking at FY03 funding and a request was made for a presentation on the various scenarios/alternatives/impacts. It was agreed to put the item on the agenda of the December meeting. There were no further comments.

BGRR Update

BGRR Canal EE/CA

Accelerated Cleanup – Budget Options and Impact

Accelerated Cleanup Pine Barrens Grant

Membership

OU V Subcommittee Analysis & Recommendations

OU V Pilot Studies Update

OU V Sampling, Risk Analysis & Cleanup Goals Update

Gas Pipeline Potential (Jan.)