

Obituary: Donald Garber

Donald Garber, who retired from BNL's Department of Nuclear Energy on June 25, 1982, died on March 12, 2016. He was 79 years old.

In his retirement, Don Garber was a key member of ABCO, the Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organization, an umbrella organization that supports and enhances the civic voice in the Town of Brookhaven.

As ABCO's representative to BNL's Community Advisory Council, Don Garber wrote the following article that appeared in the February 2007 issue of ABCO's newsletter, *The Civic Sentinel*:

Brookhaven Lab CAC

By Don Garber

Our involvement with the lab spans almost 12 years. Earlier BNL administrations actively reached out to ABCO and we had a representative of the Lab at almost all of our meetings.

When Dr. John Marburger took over the directorship of Brookhaven National Laboratory over 8 years ago, he created the Community Advisory Council (CAC). Marburger had formed a similar group when he was President of Stony Brook. All subsequent BNL administrations have continued supporting the CAC.

This CAC group has representatives of over 30 stakeholder groups and has met continuously on the second Thursday of each month for all these years. ABCO has been represented on the CAC as well as a number of ABCO member groups such as Ridge, East Yaphank, Longwood Alliance, Wading River, CHEC, Pine Barrens and others. The delegates to the CAC have differing concerns about radiation and health risks. Despite these differences, we developed an excellent working respectful relation amongst all these diverse groups. We have found a talented facilitator that flies in from Denver to conduct our meetings. The group has no chair and if a decision is to be rendered, we attempt to come to consensus.

We set our own agenda. Some of the topics are requests by the Lab Director for guidance. Some are for a group response to various Environmental Impact Statements or updates on

clean-up programs. Some topics are in response to a CAC request for a briefing on the Lab's programs.

These meetings begin at 6:30 and often go well past 9:00pm. For example, our agenda at our last meeting included:

We had invited representatives of the various regulatory groups to answer questions on the Five Year Review. Representatives of EPA, NY State DEC and Suffolk County Health Services were guests. The purpose was to ascertain what if any concerns the regulators had with the clean ups.

- Groundwater Update: Review of Treatment System Status, Performance, and Proposed Modifications. This was a detailed presentation with many graphic handouts detailing the clean up status of the various plumes. We discussed the possible need for tweaking the pumping well locations.
- A presentation on the Life Sciences Programs at BNL. This was by all accounts a fascinating presentation on numerous programs. Just a short sampling:
- Creating an especially efficient growing tree for Ethanol production from cellulose. (Ethanol from corn is an energy disaster.)
- Delivering medications for Parkinson's disease treatment using nanotubes filled with L-Dopa like medication. These tiny tubes are attached to functional units that seek out just where the medication is needed and diminish the bad side-effects from the usual broadcasted medication delivery.
- A vaccine for Alzheimers that is in a clinical testing.