

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 4, 2003

Vermillion County Emergency Response

5:00 p.m.

CAC Members present:

Cleytus Malone
Larry Bemis
Patrick Ralston
Ramon Colombo

CAC members not present:

Orville Alexander
Pam Ferguson
Richard Setliff
Charles Strobel
Dennis Lewis

Quorum not present.

Mr. Ralston asked for a moment of silence for Jack Scott, field representative for SEMA and Jack Silotto, Vermillion County Councilman both who recently passed away.

Introduction of Attendees -

Lt. Col. Joseph Marquart, Commander Newport Chemical Depot
Patrick Haas, NECDF
Richard Rife, Parsons
Jeff Brubaker, PMATA
Tom Kutz, NECD
Rick Goetz, Parsons
Scott Rowden, Parsons
Glenn Shonkwiler, U. S. Army
Jim Mars, U.S. Army
Jim Goodall, Parsons
Terry Arthur, NECD/NECDF
Joe Whitaker, Fountain County EMA
Dave Sherfick, Congressman Hostettler field representative
Curt Lowery, Vermillion County Emergency Response
Dean Lichtenberger, Mason and Hanger
Jim Seibold, citizen
Leonard Akers, citizen
Sara Morgan, CAIN

Bob Irvine, Parsons
George B. Carey, Clintonian
Louise Dyson, CMA
Bobette Warnick, Vermillion County Emergency Response
Mary Silotto, Vermillion County Emergency Response
Ginger Corado, Parsons
Vicki Francis, Vermillion County Emergency Response
Susan Gilman, Outreach Office
Doug Stroud, NECD
Jerry Sears, SEMA
Barb Moffett, CAC Secretary, Fountain County Emergency Management

With no quorum present, approval of the April 2003 minutes will be at the September meeting.

CSEPP Update -

Rick Card - SEMA has received additional requests for 800 MHz radios. This request has been forwarded to Federal Emergency Management Agency at Region V who will then forward the request to FEMA Headquarters in Washington. There will be a new method of plume mapping installed at the counties called D-2 Puff. This software takes into account the terrain which the other software did not.

Lt. Col. Marquart- There was a transition of troops the first week of July. The soldiers from Iowa National Guard were rotated out July 14. The new unit comes from different armories throughout the state.

Flare tower - to be deconstructed at 2:00 p.m. on August 5. The public is invited to observe. The tower was constructed to vent off waste gases during the heavy water days of the Manhattan Project. It was also utilized during VX production to burn off methane. Since it is no longer needed, then in compliance with the chemical treaty, it must be razed.

News releases have gone out and flyers were distributed to neighbors close by.

Jeff Brubaker - In May of 2002, the Newport project received approval from Department of Defense to accelerate destruction of VX agent. In a little over a year, there have been tremendous strides to accomplish this goal. Both design and facility construction have been completed. A construction ceremony marking the transition from construction to systemization was held at the site in June. Systemization is underway at this time. A total of 65 of 77 systems have been turned over from construction to systemization. With regard to plans to send the hydrolysate to Perma Fix in Dayton, Ohio, the initial certification tests have been completed. The results are being compiled at this time. Preliminary indications are that Perma Fix was successful in showing that the effluent from the combination of chemical and biological treatment meets their permit discharge

limits. Newport is on a very aggressive schedule to start operations this fall. Safety continues to be top priority as does environmental compliance. Parsons thru the construction phase achieved a significant milestone accomplishing more than 3 million manhours worked without a loss time accident.

Systemization is the most critical phase of the project, where the facility is validated and equipment and personnel are ready to begin safe operations. Parsons is managing a operational readiness review process which is at the top level. This falls under a Commission Review Board - a board of senior managers that evaluates the results of the various tests that are conducted under systemization.

Destruction schedule - October 2003 start of destruction predicted for off site disposal of hydrolysate. They took a look at the main design facility and they determined they needed to do some modifications in fire protection. They are expanding the fire protection system in the CHATS processing area, the toxic maintenance area and the toxic cubicle as to the impact to the schedule to install the additional sprinkler system. They are expecting the proposal from the subcontractor later this week. Preliminary indications are about 18-20 weeks to complete this work.

Perma Fix remains their preferred option for treatment and disposal of the hydrolysate. However, public opposition continues in the community surrounding Dayton. Alternatives are being checked should PermaFix not be a viable solution. They are aggressively pursuing the installation of an on site tank farm. This would allow the project to begin neutralization and destroying the VX as soon as the tank farm, or a portion of it, is completed. They could return to some type of on site treatment and disposal. These options require increased storage capacity and some form of a waste product disposal, whether it be liquid or solid, to be disposed of at an on site permitted facility. Parsons is in process of completing a preliminary design package. They have recently done a market survey asking suppliers their level of interest and capability. The survey was sent to 28 firms. Eleven responded with interest, and they are being further evaluated to see how many of these would be asked to give a proposal.

Hydrolysate disposal - State of Indiana requires 99.9999 percent destruction and removal efficiency. The Army has adopted a more stringent requirement which is non detect with a method detection limit no greater than 20 parts per billion (ppb). There have been a number of tests performed in the last 6 months with the analytical instruments for the Newport laboratory facility. The results of these tests have been mixed. They have not been able to consistently demonstrate the 20 ppb. So they are doing more extensive studies. They expect to have results within the next couple of weeks. Their commitment remains to not ship hydrolysate from Newport with detectable VX.

Video presentation given on the neutralization process.

At the last meeting, Ms. Morgan asked a number of questions and those questions were taken back for a more technical response. From now on written comments will be forwarded thru the CAC to the project and they will reply back thru the CAC. Mr. Akers also had some questions and comments at the last meeting. Rick Rife addressed questions from Mr. Akers with a written response from John T. Stewart of Parsons. This letter is attached to the minutes.

Questions from floor -

Larry Bemis - How did Parsons build a building without fire code? Mr. Brubaker - the code is a military handbook that governs applications for any Army facility that the Corp of Engineers oversees construction. As Parson went thru design last fall and construction this spring, they thought design was adequate. It was evaluated at a senior level and determined it was best to err on the safe side. While they don't expect there to be any fire events in any of the three locations discussed, it was determined they needed to expand the system.

Sara Morgan - Received a letter that said "don't ask questions but submit them in writing." Ms. Morgan asked if those questions were sent to the CAC? Mr. Brubaker said what he received back from the CAC was they want to answer questions but want everyone to be treated equally. The last couple of meetings have generated good questions but have required very technical answers. They have tried to give the best possible answer at the meeting, but they thought it would be beneficial to allow the extra time to ask the technical experts to review the questions. Mr. Ralston commented that it was very important to have questions entered into the minutes of the CAC. Ms. Morgan said she appreciated getting the responses in writing but her question is if this is the new process did the CAC members get a copy of her questions and the responses? And did the CAC members decide this would be the process? The CAC secretary commented that the letter from Jeff Brubaker dated July 14, 2003 along with Ms. Morgan's questions from the CAC meeting dated April 16, 2003 were forward certified mail to the CAC members. Also in that mailing was a summary of toxicity studies. Mr. Ralston said he thought it was asked of the CAC to do it this way but he didn't think the CAC had agreed to this. He thought this would make it part of the official record. Ms. Morgan just wanted clarification on how this would work. Mr. Ralston wanted to be sure that questions from citizens were addressed and that they be part of the official record. Mr. Bemis thought any questions needed to be addressed during the regular meeting and not in a meeting afterwards. Ms. Morgan asked if there were citizens represented on the Commission Review Board. Mr. Brubaker said the CAC and the CSEPP community were participants in the last stakeholders meeting. There is representation thru those organizations. Specifically, Rick Card and Jerry Sears attended the first day of the stakeholders meeting. Ms. Morgan asked if the CRB meeting was open to the public, and Mr. Brubaker said generally no. Mr. Ralston asked if there should be a member of the CAC on this? Ms. Arthur said the CAC was invited to be on the CRB so Mr. Card had represented both agencies. The

next meeting should be in about 4 - 5 weeks. Mr. Rife will send notification of the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Brubaker - In regard to the certification results, it appeared that Perma Fix had successfully met all their permit discharge limits. Those results are being reviewed by an independent consultant in Ohio. Originally this report was due by the end of July but this has been delayed a couple of weeks.

Mr. Akers - received a letter that there has been a request for temporary storage. Is this correct? Not correct. IDEM said there are two distinct activities. Nerve agent destruction process and the disassembly of old manufacturing area. Mr. Akers also said the last CAC meeting was scheduled July 9 only to find out at the meeting was canceled. (However, only one notice had been to the newspapers, all other notices were canceled before publication. No other notices of the July 9 meeting were distributed.) He also requested a copy of the tape of the meeting.

Susan Gilman - Progress update at a public meeting on July 15. In mid June they held a media tour at the Depot. They also set up an information booth at the Vermillion County and Parke County Fair. They briefed a group at Cinergy. There was a ceremony held for the Iowa National Guard before they departed. Ms. Gilman distributed a commemorative card and an informational flyer about the flare tower.

Old business - none

Public comment -

Dave Sherfick, Congressman Hostettler's field representative. Mr. Sherfick said the Congressman is very concerned about Newport. He would ask that any concerns be addressed to the Congressman by contacting Mr. Sherfick.

Mr. Ralston made it clear that any one can ask questions at the CAC and that it is better that it become public record.

It was reported that Kevin Flamm is still project manager for alternative technologies and approaches. He has been selected for promotion for the new program manager for elimination of chemical weapons which is part of the chemical materials agency at Aberdeen Proving Ground. There will be a change of charter ceremony. Mr. Flamm's replacement will be COL Jesse Barber. This ceremony will be August 25. Mr. Brubaker will be inviting Col. Barber to the next CAC.

Next meeting - October 14.

Meeting stands adjourned