

Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) Meeting
Boone Community Center/Fire Station
09/29/10

Attendees: CAC – Irene Kornelly, Terry Hart, Ross Vincent, John Thatcher and Joe Schieffelin; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) – Doug Knappe, Clay Trumpholt, James Hindman, Jeannine Natterman, Deb Shaw, and David Kreutzer (State Attorneys General Office); Elected Officials - Dwight Gardner, Area Director for U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, Robert Ferriter, Boone Town trustee, and Barbara Berry, Boone Town Clerk; PCD/BPT Workforce – 19; Citizens – 10; Media - John Norton, Reporter, Pueblo Chieftain.

Irene Kornelly opened the meeting by noting that CAC member Tom Enrietta had resigned. A motion passed to notify the governor of the open seat and to accept applications to fill the seat. The commission noted their preference to have the seat filled by someone who could represent the labor community.

U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) Commander, LTC Robert Wittig stated that he had arranged to meet with the CAC on Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. to discuss PCD related issues. Wittig added that CDPHE staff had also been invited.

Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Program Manager Kevin Flamm provided an update on the proposed use of Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). Flamm explained in response to EPA, CAC, and other's input, a new Environmental Assessment (EA) was being initiated and would be developed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory to study EDT. The EA should be complete by Fall 2011.

Flamm said the new EA will include the Army's Explosive Destruction System (EDS), a selected commercial EDT, a "no action" option, and environmental modeling requested by EPA Region 8. Flamm then shared a proposed EDT path forward while noting that no decisions had been made. This was followed by Flamm explaining how the current numbers were projected to develop a figure of how any munitions might be processed through an EDT. A lengthy discussion followed.

Terry Hart thanked Flamm for not continuing with the idea of destroying 125,000 rounds using EDT, but went on to question why the figures were still much higher than in the past. Similar concerns were voiced by Vincent, Kornelly, and Schieffelin. Flamm noted that in the past a .01 reject rate was predicted for PCD, but new data pushed that number up to 1.0%. Flamm also stressed that the new figure, of 40,000 reject rounds, was rounded up to be safe and the number could be lower.

Vincent said the procurement process for EDT seemed odd and could be pre-decisional. Flamm stated that it was not pre-decisional and the ACWA program could use EDS.

Peggy Lynn, Community Involvement Coordinator with EPA Region 8 urged Flamm to listen to what was being said because the original numbers were a huge surprise to the community. She went on to ask Flamm to take the discussion to heart and meet with the community.

Kornelly asked to explore in the near future concerns related to the 28,000 boxed 105 mm rounds.

Schieffelin asked how the CAC would know that PCAPP would only process the stated amount of munitions. Flamm replied that worker safety was paramount and safety would ultimately determine how many munitions would go through PCAPP and how many would be destroyed using EDT.

Flamm had a lengthy discussion with Schieffelin and other CDPHE staff after the CAC meeting ended. They agreed to meet again and review various issues and concerns.

Conclusion: It would appear that the CAC and some community members are skeptical of the revised figures for munitions to be processed using EDT, as well as the reasoning as to how the said figures arose. It is suggested that additional outreach efforts and tools be utilized to support the ACWA PM in his efforts to educate the Pueblo community about this issue.

Note: With input from ACWA public affairs, the ORO staff spoke with Peggy Lynn after the CAC meeting and proposed additional meetings between the EPA and Flamm to further discuss the EDT issue. A PCAPP site tour was also proposed. Possible invitees include: Jim Martin, Director EPA Region 8; Carol Rushin, Deputy Director EPA Region 8; Michael Wenstrom, EPA Region 8 Environmental Justice Coordinator; Peggy Lynn (see above), and other key EPA staff.