

MINUTES

St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force
Priorities Working Group

May 8, 1996 Meeting

Berkeley City Hall
Berkeley, Missouri

APPROVED

Participants Attending

Lori Batton, City of Berkeley
 Kay Drey
 Jack Fraunhoffer, Mallinckrodt Chemical Co.
 Mike Garvin, City of St. Louis
 Donovan Larson, St. Louis County Water Co.
 Tom Manning, City of Hazelwood
 Sally Price
 Mitch Scherzinger, MDNR
 Robert Stewart, City of Berkeley

Support

Jim Dwyer, Facilitator
 Sarah Snyder, Bechtel

Agenda ItemMinutesDetermination*Call to Order*

Jim Dwyer called the meeting to order at
 9:18 a.m.

Develop Agenda

Mr. Dwyer asked the group to identify issues
 it would like to cover during the meeting.
 The following agenda was developed:

1. Ballfields remediation proposal
 - a. liability issues - not resolved
 - b. cleanup standards (50 pCi/g) -
not acceptable to MDNR
 - c. disposal
 - d. City of Berkeley - Mayor
Hoskins insists on complete
cleanup of contamination
 - e. EE/CA -- 30-day public review
 - f. DOE - will not proceed with any
major cleanup action absent a
voice of support from MDNR

2. Application of FY '96 and '97 funds
3. Cost/risk information

*Ballfields
Remediation
Proposal*

Liability Issues

Mike Garvin said the City of St. Louis would be willing to proceed with the Ballfields cleanup project if there were an airtight agreement regarding liability. He said he has proposed that the City of Berkeley indemnify the City of St. Louis and provide insurance coverage of at least \$1 million per occurrence. He said indemnification would be required to extend beyond the period in which the fields are used by Berkeley, and would have to provide coverage for all risks, not just those associated with the presence of radioactive waste.

Cleanup Standards

Sally Price said it is her understanding that MDNR is not willing to approve cleanup levels above 5 and 15 picocuries per gram at the ballfields, according to a recent conversation she had with Elsa Steward.

Mr. Dwyer said that he had spoken at length yesterday with Dave Adler. He reported that Mr. Adler had said DOE will not proceed with any major remedial action without a clear supporting voice from MDNR. Mr. Adler said even if the cities were to resolve the liability issue, DOE would still not proceed with any cleanup action without clear indication of MDNR support for the proposed remediation plan.

EE/CA

Tom Manning then moved that the working group endorse cleanup option 2b (as described in the Ballfields EE/CA) because, he said, it seems to meet everyone's needs and requirements. Option 2b calls for complete removal of contaminated material, disposal at a licensed commercial facility, regrading the stormwater ditch and

installation of drainage control measures at SLAPS.

The motion was seconded by Kay Drey.

Ms. Drey then said she could not endorse this proposal without first addressing the question of timing. She said she would be opposed to cleaning up the ballfields before the airport site (SLAPS) is remediated.

Mitchell Scherzinger inquired about the position of the City of Berkeley regarding utilization of the ballfields, if they were cleaned up as proposed.

Robert Stewart said that Berkeley's position is that all contamination must be removed. He cited several resolutions passed by the city council supporting that position.

Lori Batton said the city council has given its permission to pursue various cleanup options, including removal of hot spots and covering the ballfields with clean fill. However, she said that Mayor Hoskins has consistently maintained the position that the ballfields must be completely cleaned up.

Mr. Scherzinger then said he would prefer a motion rejecting the ballfields EE/CA.

Jack Frauenhoffer expressed a general concern about where the group is heading. He characterized the ballfields issue as the "tip of the iceberg. What we're really saying is that nothing other than full cleanup is acceptable, and it doesn't matter what the risks are. That brings up the issue of cost."

Ms. Price said that the \$1 billion estimate for complete cleanup of the St. Louis Site is a DOE estimate and it is in question because of a more competitive climate in the radioactive waste disposal arena.

Mr. Frauenhoffer said that, in the absence of other estimates, that's the number we have

to work with. "Is DOE going to be 10 percent high? Is it going to cost \$800 million instead?" He said he doesn't think it really matters. "If we go to full cleanup, then we don't need to be here, we just need to write the report and organize how to get the funding."

Mr. Dwyer reminded the working group that it also needs to prioritize the sequence of cleanup actions, because cleanup of the entire St. Louis Site is not likely to happen all at once.

Mr. Frauenhoffer said his conscience bothers him when he looks at spending \$800 million to \$1 billion when it is not risk-based. "What is the risk? Someone might get cancer sometime in the future because of the ballfields." But, he said "you can go into the inner city of St. Louis and in a small area, there are 35 young people killed every year because there is no money for neo-natal care or for drug programs. Roger Pryor was talking about air emissions and how we don't even want to spend less than \$100 million in the city to address air emissions, and yet we want to spend \$800 million on this cleanup. We need to think about our priorities."

Mr. Scherzinger stated that this is a philosophical issue and in that context he has addressed this same issue with the people he works with. He said this \$1 billion cleanup budget will provide jobs, and a third of that will come back as taxes. He also said a certain percentage of the work has to be contracted to minority businesses.

Ms. Batton said there is debate about whether St. Louis has really "hot stuff" or not. She said her understanding is that the contamination is not really that hot. "Is it hot enough at our site to be worth \$1 billion?" When she sees it all in gondola cars, she said she really likes that. But she asked if we are being cost conscious?

Ms. Price reminded the working group that there was an act of Congress passed because these sites were believed to present risks. She pointed out that DOE's projected costs for remediation in the 1994 proposed plan was in the range of \$500 million. She said that if the Task Force makes responsible recommendations, the cost will not approach \$1 billion. She said that Dawn Mining Co. should provide some competition and could reduce disposal costs.

Mr. Fraenhoffer said the cleanup guideline of 5/15 pCi/g relates to standards that would allow residential use of the property. If the standards were recalculated based on risks tied to actual use of property, the cleanup guidelines would change. He said he is concerned that when we make statements about implementing a complete cleanup of the ballfields, we are likely to follow through with similar recommendations regarding all other components of the site. He said he questions whether it's right and whether it's doable.

Mr. Scherzinger said that the cost of the ballfields option 2b is estimated to be \$40 million.

Mr. Garvin said the liability issue would not automatically be resolved, even with implementation of option 2b.

The working group then voted on Mr. Manning's motion to recommend option 2b for cleanup of the ballfields. The motion failed by a vote of 3 in favor and 4 opposed.

Ms. Batton asked that the ballfields cleanup continue to be considered but be tabled until the issue of liability is resolved.

Mr. Scherzinger said that although MDNR would prefer to see the contaminated material shipped out of state, he nevertheless voted against option 2b

because the EE/CA document presents an unrealistic timeframe and cost.

Mr. Frauenhoffer pointed out that the Task Force proposed to DOE that it would be acceptable to do a partial cleanup of the ballfields. Then we proposed in our FY '96-'97 budget recommendations that \$8 million be set aside for this project. As a result of those actions, DOE issued an EE/CA that would permit the project to proceed. The next step is for the Task Force to decide which remediation option to approve. He said he thought the group was not ready for that.

*Application of FY
'96 and '97 Funds*

Ms. Batton asked that the funds intended for the ballfields be held and not released to other projects. Mr. Dwyer said that did not appear to be possible with respect to FY '96 funds because the fiscal year ends September 30 and the funds would be subject to recapture if not expended by then.

Ms. Batton then proposed extending the cleanup of the haul routes using the FY '96 ballfields funds.

Mr. Dwyer said several potential options have been proposed for the remaining FY '96 funds:

- extend haul route cleanup project
- implement drainage controls at SLAPS
- create clean utilities corridor
- Mallinckrodt (additional cleanup)
- enhance monitoring systems (which he said Dave Adler planned to do in any event)
- Riverfront Trail

Mr. Dwyer suggested the working group might want to focus on projects that can be accomplished with the \$3 million allocated from the ballfields and that would not require an additional EE/CA. He said Dave Adler had suggested that continuation of the haul route cleanup project is the logical and

easy choice. In terms of drainage controls at SLAPS, Mr. Adler said one possibility would be to focus on the south side of McDonnell Boulevard and to install rock in order to slow the movement of contaminated sediment. He estimated the cost to be about \$200,000.

Mr. Scherzinger proposed cleaning up the Riverfront Trail to a level consistent with Option III of the matrix developed by the Task Force.

Ms. Price said she believed that, in the interest of equity, the Task Force should recommend a North County project. She said she thought the working group should recommend that DOE implement the proposed drainage controls at SLAPS and create a clean utility corridor.

Mr. Frauenhoffer said DOE can't do the utility corridors because they will be recontaminated.

Ms. Batton said that the Task Force had considered equity between North County and downtown to be important. She said she would like to see North County funds remain in North County. She said she also wanted to implement the drainage controls and spend the remaining funds on expanded haul route cleanup.

Ms. Price asked if completion of the Riverfront Trail is being held up because of the contamination. Mr. Frauenhoffer said that it will be.

Mr. Manning said that if money is spent on the Riverfront Trail, it will take all remaining FY '96 money intended for North County and redirect it into the city.

Mr. Frauenhoffer said that equity is achieved when you look at where the community gets the most back. He said one of the reasons the Task Force recommended money for

cleanup at Mallinckrodt is because there can be reinvestment in the site and there are 1,000 people employed there. There would be no reinvestment in the airport site. He said that's why the Task Force wanted to do the ballfields. "What's the advantage of a Riverfront Trail versus haul route cleanup? Is the haul route cleanup going to lead to redevelopment? Is the contamination on the haul routes stopping redevelopment?" he asked.

Mr. Scherzinger said that MDNR has indicated that the concept of interim storage is acceptable. But it is not acceptable to Hazelwood, Berkeley and the City of St. Louis. "If we could enter into a legally binding commitment with DOE and find an acceptable place to store material, we would be able to accomplish a lot more relief to properties."

Ms. Batton asked whether Mr. Scherzinger is suggesting interim storage at HISS and/or SLAPS?

Mr. Scherzinger said yes. He said there would need to be a legally binding agreement in place, including clear time frames and suitable institutional controls, and that the affected cities would need to rethink their positions regarding interim storage before such a proposal could be implemented.

Mr. Manning said the affected cities think the state should rethink its position on the issue of in-state disposal. He also said the working group appears to agree on spending money on drainage controls at SLAPS. What remains to be decided are questions concerning continuation of the haul route cleanup project and/or work on the Riverfront Trail.

Mr. Manning moved that the working group recommend that \$200,000 of the remaining FY '96 funds be spent for drainage controls

at SLAPS and that the remainder be spent on continuing the haul route cleanup.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Batton.

Because several members of the working group had to leave, Mr. Dwyer suggested that the group meet again on May 15 to address Mr. Manning's motion. He also said the working group needs additional details concerning the proposed drainage controls at SLAPS and the current schedule for completion of the Riverfront Trail.

Mr. Scherzinger moved to table the motion.
Ms. Price seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Priorities Working Group is scheduled for May 15, 1996.

Approved July 2, 1996

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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)

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