



Camp Minden Technical Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes

March 10, 2015

7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Camp Minden Technical Subcommittee gathered to prepare for the final Dialogue Committee meeting March 10, 2015. After three weeks of deliberation, the grassroots organization led by concerned citizens of Camp Minden, met to propose alternative methods for the disposal of 15 million pounds of M6 propellant.

Informing the public of the committee's findings was the greatest concern. Members brainstormed methods to ensure the public-at-large would be up to speed with proposed alternative technologies and hoped to make recommendations for best practices. Goals for the meeting included: narrowing focus to technologies that are mature with reasonable timelines; identifying holes in information; and coming up with attributes (performance measures) of things that are the most important.

Sam Mims voiced the frustration of many committee members when he said, "Tomorrow the process of the dialogue is finished. After analyzing, looking, and listening we have to say what we think. I put my trust in the technologies of the companies involved. I am not asking anymore questions. I am ready to converge."

The committee concluded at 9 p.m. with the decision to pass on endorsing or eliminating specific contractors. The committee decided to focus the public meeting on defining specific attributes the Louisiana National Guard and EPA must consider when choosing a final remedy.

According to Frances Kelley, a Louisiana Progress activist, the attributes that must be defined at the public meeting include test and release standards, start-up time, and destruction efficiency.



On the Record:

"I am here tonight to get guidance moving from scientific evaluation process into the procurement process. I want to make sure that we aren't rendered irrelevant in this transition."— Dr. Brian Salvatore PhD, LSU Shreveport

"Goals for this meeting include: Narrow focus to technologies that are mature with reasonable timelines. Identify holes in information. Come up

with attributes (performance measures) of things that are the most important. —Frances Kelley, Louisiana Progress Action

“Put together a recommendation for the public at tomorrow’s public meeting.”—Wilma Subra, Subra Inc.

“It is important to pick favorite thermal technology and make a recommendation for the one we think is the best.”—Delores Blalock, ArkLaTex Clean Air Network LLC

“I hope to discuss who will do the best job?”— Dr. Slawomir Lominicki PhD, LSU Superfund Division, Baton Rouge

“Tomorrow the process of the dialogue is finished. After analyzing and looking and listening, tomorrow we have to say what we think. I put my trust in the technologies of the companies involved. I am through. I am not asking anymore questions. I am ready to converge.”—Revered Sam Mims, Citizen, Dubberly

“I think it would be good tomorrow to hear each technology presented by either EPA or dialogue group. Take one technology at a time and ask questions. Safety of method and toxicity, time schedule, and emissions. At the end of the day we give our number one and our number 2 recommendation.” —Dr. Robert Flournoy PhD, Environmental Toxicologist

“We have to come to some kind of conclusion because we are running out of time and I am prepared to offer my suggestions.”—John Stanley, Webster Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

“I would hope that tonight we can prepare for tomorrow to reach some type of conclusion. We can’t just walk away tomorrow with our hands up. We have to have one technology or three or four.”—COL Ronnie Stuckey, Louisiana National Guard

“Attributes: Test and release. Some capacity to test and correct or contain before released into environment. Startup Time. Destruction Efficiency.”—Frances Kelley, Louisiana Progress Action

Camp Minden Dialogue Committee

Minutes

March 11, 2015

10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

The Camp Minden Dialogue Committee held its second public meeting March 11, 2015 at a community house in Minden, La. The goal of the meeting was to deliberate on proposed alternative technologies to destroy 15 million pounds of unsecured M6 propellant improperly stored at Camp Minden. More than 70 community members gathered with the understanding that although they do not have the authority to choose the final remedy, government agencies are deferring to the dialogue committee to propose recommendations and serve as a voice of concerned citizens.



Six promising technologies were the focus of the four hour session. Attributes of various methods remedies including Super Critical Water Oxidation, Microwave Reactor, Rotary Kiln, HUMIC ACID Catalyzed Hydrolysis, Tunnel Furnace, and Contained Burns were examined on for possible positives and negatives. Super Critical Water Oxidation received the most support from members was because the non-incineration technology is proven on M6 and has limited air emissions. Super Critical Water Oxidation was the only remedy that Brian Salvatore, Sam Mims, Frances Kelley, and Slawomir Lominicki—the most vocal members on the dialogue committee—unanimously endorsed.

The endorsement did not come without reservations. The committee found the possible challenges to Super Critical Water Oxidation include: lack of a primary contractor/bid, wastewater needs to be handled in an environmentally appropriate manner, WWT facilities need to be able to handle the materials from the water produced, and some of the VOCs still will be emitted into the air.

A demand for continued community involvement efforts closed the meeting, with members requesting a copy of the Action Memorandum by March 18, 2015 and assistance with a Community Action Group. The EPA promised continued publication of all Camp Minden records on the Region 6 website and increased outreach efforts within the community. Louisiana Progress Action activist, Frances Kelley, demanded the Action Memo include a clause specifying no open burn.



LSU Shreveport

On the Record:

“SWO is a 21st Century technology that developed when a community like ours tried to destroy munitions without incineration. It is a gift from our predecessors.”—Frances Kelley, Louisiana Progress Action.

“I also believe super critical should be given high consideration. The technology has been used with M28 in the past. This technology can’t be beat because of the temperature at which it operates.”—Dr. Brian Salvatore, PhD,

“Everyone needs to realize that the carbon doesn’t disappear in the SWO process. It is converted into something else. It is not as rosy as everyone would like it to be. Overall I agree, it is a very interesting technology but there are limitations to it.”—Dr. Slawomir Lomnicki, PhD, LSU Superfund Division, Baton Rouge

“I do not want to see a burn or incineration. I don’t want any potential for organic compounds to go into the air.”—Frances Kelley, Louisiana Progress Action

“Can we have in writing that there will be no open burn in the action memo?” —Frances Kelley, Louisiana Progress Action

“The citizens of this area will not rest until we hear that there will be no open burn. This community has been on pins and needles for the last two years. That is the least you can do. I would hope that the agency that I expect to trust, can get open burn off the list of remedies so we can move forward.” —Rebecca Shelley

“I don’t think the Army wants to do anything but open burn. Whatever we do here will become a precedent for what the Army does later across the country. I don’t want to be in such a hurry that we result to burning because of the urgency of the matter.”—Reverend Sam Mims

“The committee was put together for the purpose to find alternatives to open burn and handling M6 almost as fast as open burn. My hope would be that you evaluate the alternatives as quickly as possible. This community is quite convinced. Now it is up to the EPA to make a decision.”—Mickey Walsh, Biologist

“We will continue to work with EPA to support oversight and ensure whatever contractor is selected complies with regulation.”—Karen Price, LDEQ

“The Army has a very limited role in this due to the AOC. We continue to support the EPA. There was additional paper on stabilization for the 50 pound boxes. The 10GPM SWO unit at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant will be provided.”—Kristina Curley, DOD Army

“The community will need TASC experts the help with compliance with AR and problems like underground water and soil contamination.”—Frances Kelley, Louisiana Progress Action

All committee members need a copy of the action memo once it is finished.