

SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY-COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

HIDDEN LAKE CLUBHOUSE

OCTOBER 21, 2015

Call to Order: 7:00PM & Roll Call

CAG Members present: Ross Berman, Tim Brehm, Sharon Ford, David Karchem, Michael Kuhn, John Luker, Tom Nachtrab, Berry Seybert, Alec Uzemeck, Kathy Weiner, Abe Weitzberg & Ron Ziman. A quorum was present.

I: **Meeting Minutes:** September meeting minutes were put to a vote for approval following Alec's movement and Abe's second and were approved with one abstention.

II: **Channel 4 I Team TV Segment- Fact or Fiction?** Alec Uzemeck

Alec talked about the Channel 4 report dealing with the "Secret" cancer risk from contaminants from SSFL. It was in the form of an expose and dwelled primarily on fear factor, pointing out cancer incidences past, present and future & interviews with people who felt that Rocketdyne had caused their cancer. There were no references throughout the report .

The reporter and the CAG had exchanged emails several times prior to the airing of the segment. However, the only information in the televised report was Workgroup generated.

The highlights of the report were:

- 1: the nuclear accident: People in surrounding areas were still being exposed by the SRE accident. John Page, who was there the day of the accident is quoted as saying " It almost blew up like Chernobyl" Mr. Page, who was 19 at the time, had been working at SSFL as a trainee for 6 months.
- 2: Xenon & Krypton were the only gasses released
- 3: Sodium burning
- 4: High levels of radiation. 196 Picocuries
- 5: Dr. Dodge, the CDC and Dr. Morgenstern were interviewed
- 6: Called for a full cleanup including the Brandies Barden/Jewish University area.

Alec stated, we shouldn't be talking about 50 years ago, we should be talking about the current circumstances . The EPA found contamination in 500 odd sites. These are the sites that need to be cleaned up. The reporter "cherry-picked" items to scare people. He was invited to our meeting tonight.

Comments from CAG members: John Luker stated that he had purposefully not seen the piece. He feels that the public has the idea that the CAG doesn't want a clean-up. Also, he understands that in

response to the report, a group of lawyers advertised that they would meet with concerned citizens in Simi Valley.

As far as the negative response to the ATSDR study, John feels that some may not want the certainty of a negative or positive result of contamination remaining on SSFL.

David Karchem reported that he has looked into the proposed routes for transporting soil off of the site and Woolsey Canyon is the only route that can support such traffic. And, if a conveyor belt is used, this would make the process come under Federal control. The rail lines can transport oil & toxic substances.

Public Comments: Chris Rowe has created a website “meltdown deniers” & she states that the SRE reactor in the “meltdown” incident was running at 1 megawatt, which is the lowest power at which they could run. Wind turbines run at 3 megawatts.

Chris feels that Brandies Barden was “thrown under the bus” by the Channel 4 reporter.

IV: **The Furor Over The ATSDR Petition:** Abe Weitzberg

Abe Weitzberg petitioned the ATSDR to come back to SSFL and look at the situation now. Abe’s primary objective for the petition was to help alleviate the concerns of those in surrounding communities who are worried about the effects of SSFL contamination. ATSDR would look at pathways. This would determine the amount of clean up required.

There have been 8 Health Studies involving SSFL and it’s effects on the surrounding communities. Two of these studies, those carried out by Dr’s Cohen and Morgenstern, were the only ones who’s results correlated health effects(cancers) to SSFL. All others found **no link** between SSFL and Cancers.

The general conclusion from all of the studies is that epidemiologically, at BEST, they do not conclusively point to a link. The data is not significant to draw any conclusion about health effects.

Since the petition to ATSDR has been made public , they have been inundated with communications primarily from those who do not want another study (??)

The Yram Cohen Pathway study was critically reviewed at the request of Boeing. This review resulted in 50 pages of questions for Dr. Cohen. These questions remain unanswered. The doctor’s response was that he was not “paid to do that”.

Questions from the Public: Chris Rowe stated that Dr. Cohen should have responded to ATSDR.

Christine Walsh asked Abe what his purpose was in petitioning the ATSRD as they have already stated that they would not give him the answers that he is stating that they will give him.

Abe replied that: ATSDR would weigh in as to which clean-up options would be protective.

The ATSDR report would be helpful to those who have not already made up their minds.

The report could also shed light on a possible pathway which would be helpful.

The CDC, under which ATSDR is overseen, has been maligned & accused of collusion because they worked at SSFL. And in fact the ATSDR has been accused of a whole list items involving the way that they operated Bonnie Klea stated.

Ron Ziman responded that, yes, ATSDR had been accused of several things ???? but most accusations didn't prove true. They are now function under tighter oversight by the CDC.

John Luker comments that it seems that if anybody says anything positive about Boeing... They are called corrupt.

Ron Ziman comments that human nature wants cause and effect and his hopes is for the ATSDR to do a "meta-analysis" of prior health study data. (?) He also comments that ATSDR will be conducting their work in a rigorous manner.

John Luker added that the governmental agencies will pay for testing of personal property. And added that most people do not want to do this because it may show that their property has some contamination and therefore has less value.

V: Recent CAG Activity & Group Discussion: Alec Uzemeck

Recently, CAG members have been busy with the following activities:

Abe Weitzberg has been writing letters to newspaper editors in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

John Luker has been visiting legislators

Tom Nachtrab has been working on updating our website.

Alec has created a website for SSFL articles and comments

We are exploring creating a Facebook page.

With no further CAG or Public discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Weiner

SSFL CAG Secretary

