

Presentation of Citizen Comments to the Basin Commission Board

July 29, 2009

Written Comments

No written comments were provided.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments provided at the July 29, 2009 CCC meeting are reflected in the CCC meeting summary and paraphrased below.

In addition to the comments below, there were presentations by the following people and clarifying questions asked by meeting participants:

- Basin Updates (Terry Harwood, BEIPC Executive Director)
- Communications PFT Update (Jeri DeLange, PFT Chair)
- CCC Organizational Practices and Procedures (Jerry Boyd, CCC Chair)
- EMF Repository and Upper Basin Repository Siting Process (Andy Mork, Idaho DEQ)
- ROD Amendment, Priority Setting, and Monitoring Plan (Bill Adams, EPA)
- Lower Basin Conceptual Site Model (Ed Moreen, EPA)

Comments

Commenter

Communications from the Basin Commission and agencies need to be more proactive than reactive. Items like the EPA-DEQ letter to the editor on East Mission Flats should be provided early to CCC members and others before they appear in the papers. This will help CCC members answer questions from the public about events in the Basin.	<i>Bonnie Douglas, CCC Vice Chair</i>
All information distributed to the public from the Basin Commission and agencies should have a clear title and date so that members of the public have a better sense of what they are reading.	<i>Bonnie Douglas, CCC Vice Chair</i>
To communicate more effectively with residents in the Basin, the CCC and the Basin Commission need to meet people where they are in the community. The perception is that people are not listened to and don't know what is going on unless they are already involved in the process.	<i>Lorrie Jenicek, Cataldo resident</i>
Some people are actively disseminating misinformation (e.g., on East Mission Flats), which makes it harder to get accurate information out to Basin residents.	<i>Bill Rust, CCC member</i>
The CCC was designed to be a place where people could get information about the cleanup and be involved in decision-making. (Responding to a question from Lorrie Jenicek about what "tools" the CCC uses to outreach to the community.)	<i>Bill Rust, CCC member</i>
The approaches the CCC has used for outreach (e.g., sponsoring and attending East	<i>Lorrie Jenicek, Cataldo</i>

Comments**Commenter**

<p>Mission Flats public meetings) aren't reaching the community. Basin residents have a defensive attitude because they feel like they aren't being involved. On East Mission Flats in particular, people feel like EPA and DEQ haven't yet given a credible answer to residents' question about whether the repository will be safe or not.</p>	<p><i>resident</i></p>
<p>Citizens need to have enough interest to come to meetings and be part of the process; if they don't have that level of involvement, then they shouldn't criticize the process.</p>	<p><i>Bill Rust, CCC member</i></p>
<p>We heard about the CCC meeting in the local paper, but the announcements are frustrating because they come out the day of the meeting.</p>	<p><i>Lorrie Jenicek, Cataldo resident, and Fred Traxler, Kellogg resident</i></p>
<p>It is hard to get local people involved and interested, especially when they feel like they haven't been heard. People aren't getting answers to questions about "why" things are being done. I went to the Canyon School repository meeting where people brought up many concerns, and the only information many people got back was from the local papers, which said vague things like "community concerns were addressed."</p>	<p><i>Lorrie Jenicek, Cataldo resident</i></p>
<p>During the comment period on the East Mission Flats design, EPA and DEQ wrote and disseminated a response to all of the comments from citizens. And, citizen input was incorporated into the repository's design (e.g., lower height).</p>	<p><i>Bonnie Douglas, CCC Vice Chair</i></p>
<p>Some people oppose any repository, and they are very active and vocal outside of the Basin Commission process. What they don't get is that the repositories are necessary if the cleanup is going to proceed—repositories are part of the remedy.</p>	<p><i>Bonnie Douglas, CCC Vice Chair</i></p>
<p>The reference to "voting members" [in the revised CCC Organizational Practices and Procedures] as being those who have "completed and submitted the CCC membership application form" might suggest that people have to fill out a form even if they are already CCC members. Revising the language to read "completed and submitted...form <u>at any time</u>" would be sufficient.</p>	<p><i>Bill Rust, CCC member</i></p>
<p>I heard of a bill in Congress that would outlaw using contaminated material as fill. I will send information about it to Andy Mork, DEQ.</p>	<p><i>Fred Traxler, Kellogg resident</i></p>
<p>Money saved through lower hauling costs justifies building a "robust" bridge at the East Mission Flats repository. And, it avoids traffic on side streets. (In response to a question from Lorrie Jenicek asking whether the amount of capacity available at East Mission Flats is enough to justify building such a robust bridge.)</p>	<p><i>Bill Rust, CCC member</i></p>