

## 6/13/01 Omaha Tribal Council License Renewal Meeting Minutes

(6/21/01)

### Meeting Attendees

- Don Hutchens – Manager Environmental Affairs
- Sonia Kim – Environmental Affairs Administrator
- Elmer L. Blackbird – Chairman, OTN & I
- Amen C. Sheridan Sr. – Vice Chairman, OTN & I
- J. C. Aldrich – Member, OTN & I
- Edwin C. McCauley – Secretary, OTN & I
- Samuel Harlan – Treasurer, OTN & I

### Meeting Notes

- D. Hutchens opened the meeting with introductions and an overview of the License Renewal Process, location and activities of the Fort Calhoun Station, distance relative to the Omaha Tribal Reservation, and role of Environmental Affairs in the agency correspondence and interviews. S. Kim summarized the slide presentation items for Council members.
- The following questions and answers were posed:
  - What do you do with low-level waste?
  - Wasn't there a radiation leak when the plant shut down?
  - Do you discharge and take water out of the river for cooling?
  - What is the NRC?
  - Do you put radiation into the river?
  - Are you talking with all councils in the area, like the City Council and the County Board?
- D. Hutchens replied by answering all questions and describing fuel bundles and storage in a spent fuel pool. He also discussed biomonitoring in the area such as milk analysis and citizen radiological exposure testing. He stated that we put water back into the river with an additional thermal component.
- Is the fuel itself dry or like gelatin?
  - D. Hutchens described fuel pellets and the stainless steel rods in the assembly, with an additional description of on site fuel storage.
- Where will we put the used fuel waste?
  - Currently we store used fuel in a spent fuel pool onsite. We may need to store additional used fuel in dry cask storage onsite until another storage option becomes available. For long-term disposal, we plan to bury material at a national repository when it becomes available. Yucca Mountain in Nevada is currently under review.
- When you transport to South Carolina, do you take it by truck?
  - Regulations are set forth by the DOT and the waste is shipped in containers. The group then turned the discussion to other sources of radioactive exposure, such as household products and background environmental exposures that occur naturally.
- What are your basic questions for us? Naturally safety is a concern, waste, etc.
  - Generally, the public is most concerned with the safe operation of the facility. Our safe operation is a matter of record. We conduct drills on a regular basis, consistent with requirements of our license. The drills not only involve station personnel, but they also involve local, state and federal agencies, which have jurisdiction in the immediate area of the facility. The drills are conducted to assure safe operation. Reliability also ranks high as a

concern of the public. OPPD ranks among the highest rated plants in the country according to NRC rating criteria.

- How do we benefit from the plant activities, how does this affect us? But?? Public Power supplies the Omaha Tribe with electricity.
  - I'm not sure if we provide electrical service for the tribe, but we want to make sure that environmental concerns are addressed for everyone within a 50-mile radius of the plant.
- I can read the slide presentation, but it doesn't mean anything to me. I'd rather talk about things on how these activities involve or benefit us. The reason for bringing up the discharge temperature heat was because I used to commercially fish. In my experience, fishing has gone downhill because of the channelization of the river.
  - The plant has limited activities regarding the river. Our impact is small. We do not consume water. We merely use water. The only impact to the river water, is the heat ( $\leq 22$  degrees F) that is discharged. Given the characteristics of the River, modeling studies have shown the discharge plume quickly dissipates and does not significantly impact fish populations or movement.
- In the future, you may need a cooling tower?
  - We don't plan to change any processes today or during the term of the license renewal process.
- It looks like the license renewal is for 20 years. As technology improves how much has changed in 30 years as far as plant operations?
  - We've experienced increased efficiency, which results in an increase in power.
- Which equals more profit?
  - There's no profit involved because we're a public utility. As efficiency improves we pass the savings along to our customers. We have not had a rate hike in 7 years and plan to hold rates steady for the next 5 years, even though we are continually faced with rising fuel and maintenance costs.
- In our service area here we work with WAPA. We'll have some low rate power available to us.
  - You may want to be aware of the spring rise and summer drop, and the potential for lower amounts of power available to you. It would be prudent or beneficial to watch the Corps river activities in the near future.
- Is there a threat of earthquakes, like in California?
  - Not imminent, but we have fitted our facility with seismic restraints consistent with the standards of plants built in California.
- ONT & I: The technical stuff is not applicable to us. The everyday life stuff is what applies.
- What is the plant in Nebraska City?
  - It's a coal-fired plant, which became commercial in 1979. It's rated as one of the top five performing plants in the country. We are very proud of all our facilities. We have managed to provide safe, reliable, and cost efficient energy to our customer/owners for over 50 years.
  - EA: There is a website with information on the NRC license renewal process that you may find helpful if you are curious about regulations and more in depth discussions on the process.
- Do they list health data, statistics, and studies there?

The NRC website ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)) is an extensive website that covers operating experience, industry studies, regulatory process, licensing, and a wide-range of other information related to nuclear reactors, nuclear waste, and nuclear materials. The specific web address provided in the presentation provides additional information regarding the license renewal process including copies of each of the applications submitted to date.

- The stuff in the presentation is not interesting. The basic information is what I'm interested in. I'm more interested in how the thing works and what you do with your waste and things.
- What happened with the Boyd County nuclear dump?
  - It would have been a general site for waste disposal where no liquid or mixed waste (hazardous and radioactive waste) would be stored. Low-level radioactive solid waste would be stored in drums and then in concrete vaults. Residents had concerns and they basically lost trust in the process, which resulted in the project being stopped. Waste would have been collected from areas, which included LA, AK, KS, and NE.
- Have you ever been associated with the condemnation of land or have you always purchased it?
  - To my knowledge, we've never been involved in the condemnation of land for any of our projects. We've occasionally rerouted transmission lines in an effort to avoid condemnation proceedings.
- ONT & I: The Boyd County issue separated a lot of people. The issue is still a topic that you don't even mention to some folks around there. Land rights issues are huge and complicated.

The meeting closed with a summary of the presentation, a description of the plant, review of the license renewal process, and general dialogue on fishing, and the offer of a plant tour.

#### Action Items

- EA will forward meeting minutes to the Council members for review.
- The Council has an open invitation to tour the FCS at any time in the future. They can initiate plans for the tour by contacting Don Hutchens.
- Macy High School classes are invited to tour the facility for educational and career opportunity purposes.