



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

89001771

FEB 09 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR: B. J. Youngblood, Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management/NMSS

J. J. Linehan, Deputy Director
Division of High-Level Waste Management/NMSS

FROM: R. L. Ballard, Chief
Engineering Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management/NMSS

SUBJECT: NEWLY FORMED NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COMMITTEE ON
REMEDiation OF BURIED AND TANK WASTE

The first meeting of the newly formed National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee on Remediation of Buried and Tank Waste was held on January 6-7, 1993, at the NAS Georgetown facility. The Committee is an outgrowth of discontinuance of two Panels of the Board on Radioactive Waste Management that dealt separately with Hanford (HNL) and Idaho (INEL) Waste issues. The new Committee is being chaired by R. Budnitz and the NAS Staff officer is Bob Andrews. The stated mission of the 15-member Committee is to study the issues of buried and tank radioactive wastes at relevant Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear weapons facilities from a national and integrated perspective.

The Committee was reportedly organized at the request of DOE, and the first meeting was structured by DOE primarily to provide detailed briefings of the status of the nuclear waste clean-up efforts at HNL and INEL. A copy of the initiating letter and meeting agenda, as well as Committee membership, is enclosed. A number of observations of general interest follow:

- The DOE program objectives were introduced by R. Pat Whitfield, Deputy Assistance Secretary for the Environment, who provided an extended discussion of the overall clean-up program.
- While the problems involve radioactive materials, the principal focus of attention by DOE and the Committee appear to relate to the CERCLA and RCRA statutes. Tri-Party remediation agreements have been made with EPA and the State at both sites. The agreements are for a 30-year goal (2019) for clean-up of all contaminated sites with the objective of removing the facilities from the National Priority List upon conclusion.
- The Tri-Party Agreements at both sites were initiated as part of DOE's Environmental Restoration program. However, residual safety issues at HNL (primarily H₂, Ferrocyanide, and tank overheating) resulted in temporary reassignment of that program back to the Waste Management program (under John Tseng) until safety issues are resolved.

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PDR WASTE
WM-11 PDR

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The Environmental Restoration Budget reflects substantial growth since its inception:

1988 - \$98 million	1989 - \$159 million
1990 - \$400 million	1991 - \$800 million
1992 - \$1.2 billion	1993 - \$1.8 billion

- A point of discussion related to the high costs of government clean-up (\$78 per hour (loaded) compared to \$30 per hour for private industry). DOE attributed most of the high costs to greater oversight of the programs. (A similar high hourly cost was noted by the TRB at the Yucca Mountain site).
- The environmental restoration programs at both sites will be using a systems engineering approach. However, INEL's program appeared to be much further along than is the program at HNL, based on the content of the various presentations.
- The states of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon were represented at the meeting, and Tony Mesolina of Washington State actively participated. Ray Clark of EPA was also in attendance.

The Committee's closing discussion related to its basic charter. DOE wanted the Committee to focus on a peer review or overview of the restoration program, and to avoid the role of a technical consultant. The Committee on the other hand, expressed reservations about program review from a policy perspective, and indicated its preference, based on the composition of the Committee membership (scientists and engineers), to provide technical oversight. The matter was not resolved during the meeting.

The Committee is scheduled to meet quarterly, and tentative schedules were established. There appears to be little or no need for active involvement on the part of the NRC, based on the results of the meeting. However, the great deal of technical information that will be presented by DOE provides an excellent opportunity for the technical staff to become familiar with the waste remediation programs, and related problems that we may need to deal with in the future. Consequently, staff participation in selected future meetings as observers would appear to be beneficial.

Viewgraphs of DOE presentations related to the HNL and INEL waste clean-up programs are available for those who have an interest.

R. L. Ballard, Chief /s/
Engineering Branch
Division of High-Level Waste Management/NMSS

Enclosure:

As stated

cc: R. Bernero W. Brach, LLW HLWM Branch Chief P.Nair(CNWRA)
J. Russell(CNWRA) HLGE Section Leaders

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DATE	2/9/93										

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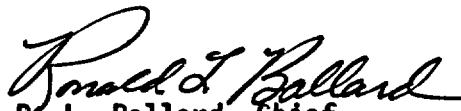
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Enclosure:
As stated

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J. Russell (CNWRA) HLGE R/F HLGE Section Leaders

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESOURCES
2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418


BOARD ON
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
(202) 334-3066 Fax: 334-3077

Office Location:
Milton Harris Building
Room 456
2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. 20007

18 December 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invited participants

FROM: Bob Andrews, Senior Staff Officer 

SUBJ: Committee on Remediation of Buried and Tank Waste; first meeting

You are invited to participate in the first meeting of the Committee on Remediation of Buried and Tank Waste, Wednesday and Thursday, 6-7 January 1992, in Room 130 Green Building, National Academy of Sciences Georgetown Facility, 2001 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, DC. This Committee was organized upon conclusion of the terms of the members, and discontinuance, of the Panel to Review Planned DOE Disposal of Radioactive Waste in Single-Shell Tanks at Hanford and the Panel to Review the DOE Assessment of Pre-1970 Buried TRU Waste at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). The Committee's mission is to study the issues of buried and tank radioactive waste from a national and integrated perspective (see attached Committee work statement and membership list). Status reports from Hanford and INEL will be presented at this meeting, and I expect that the Committee will focus initially on issues addressed by the previous panels.

A preliminary agenda for the meeting is attached. All participants are invited to attend a hosted reception at 6:00pm on 6 January. You are invited to participate in the public comment segment at the end of the second day.

To assist us in planning, please notify Shelly Myers, Committee Secretary, or me, if you or a designated representative from your organization plan to attend this meeting and the reception.

attach

cc: R. Budnitz
R. Andrews

DISTRIBUTION LIST

DOE Headquarters

R. P. Whitfield, U.S. Department of Energy - EM-40
John Lehr, U.S. Department of Energy - EM-442
Mary Harmon, U.S. Department of Energy - EM-442
Julie D'Ambrosia, EnviroTech Associates, Inc.

DOE Field Offices

Kenneth Bracken, U.S. Department of Energy - Richland
Sandy Trine, U.S. Department of Energy - Richland
Jerry Lyle, U.S. Department of Energy - ID
Alice Williams, U.S. Department of Energy - ID

Other Federal Agencies

Gordon Burley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Priscilla Bunton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Paul Day, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Wayne Pierre, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10
Douglas R. Sherwood, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10
Newell Trask, U.S. Geological Survey - Reston
V. Schneider, U.S. Geological Survey - Reston
Jerry Parker, U.S. Geological Survey - Tacoma
Ward Staubitz, U.S. Geological Survey - Tacoma
Larry J. Mann, U.S. Geological Survey - Idaho Falls
Regis Boyle, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Chad Glenn, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dermot M. Winters, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
William P. Barnard, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board
Paul Chapp, ATSDR
Mark M. Bashor, ATSDR
Dave Berick, Senate Office Building

State Agencies

Steve R. Hill, State of Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Toby Michelena, Washington Department of Ecology
Mary Lou Blazek, Oregon Department of Ecology
Ralph Patt, Oregon Department of Water Resources
David Stewart-Smith, Oregon Department of Energy

Indian Nations

Cheryl Olsen, Snake River Alliance
Ron Halfmoon, Nez Perce Tribe
Russell Jim, Yakima Indian Nation

WORK STATEMENTTo Be Included in the "Organization & Members" DirectoryCommittee Code _____
(Committee Membership
Records Office Use Only)Commission on Geosciences,
Environment, and Resources
Major Unit
Board on Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
Division, Office or BoardCommittee on Remediation of
Buried and Tank Waste
Committee
Sub-UnitDr. Robert S. Andrews
Staff OfficerWORK STATEMENT

The Committee will review and evaluate plans and actions by DOE to remediate buried and tank-contained defense radioactive wastes at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Hanford (Washington) Reservation, and other relevant DOE sites and facilities that make up the Nuclear Weapons Complex. It will also provide scientific and technical review and evaluation of current and developing remediation technology and methodology from a broad national (and global) perspective.

Include in "O&M"? ☒ Yes ☐ NoIndex Selection Environmental Remediation

Index Selection _____

September 4, 1992
(Date of Statement)_____
(Date of previous statement)

Approved By:

A. Ratten by J. Mehler
Executive Director, Major Unit

COMMITTEE RECORDS FORM #3

(2/86)

COMMITTEE ON REMEDIATION OF BURIED AND TANK WASTES

ROSTER

CHAIRMAN

Robert J. Budnitz, PhD, 1995
Future Resources Associates
(environmental systems & technology)

Thomas A. Burke, PhD, 1995
The Johns Hopkins University
(public health)

Robert J. Catlin, BS, 1995
University of Texas
(health physics)

James H. Clarke, PhD, 1995
Eckenfelder, Incorporated
(waste disposal technology)

Thomas A. Cotton, PhD, 1995
J.K. Research Associates, Inc.
(social science/public affairs)

Rodney C. Ewing, PhD, 1995
University of New Mexico
(geology)

Donald R. Gibson, Jr., PhD, 1995
TRW Environmental Safety Systems
(engineering systems analysis)

James H. Johnson, Jr., PhD, 1995
Howard University
(civil engineering)

Debra S. Knopman, PhD, 1995
U.S. Geological Survey
(engineering systems analysis)

Thomas M. Leschine, PhD, 1995
University of Washington
(environmental science)

NAS Fred W. McLafferty, PhD, 1995
Cornell University
(chemistry)

W. Hugh O'Riordan, JD, 1995
Davis Wright Tremaine
(regulatory practices)

NAE Paul A. Witherspoon, Jr., PhD, 1995
University of California, Berkeley
(geohydrology)

Benjamin Ross, PhD, 1995
Disposal Safety Incorporated
(risk assessment/analysis)

Raymond G. Wymer, PhD, 1995
Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Retired)
(chemical engineering)

October 28, 1992

PRELIMINARY AGENDA [DRAFT]

**Committee on Remediation of Buried and Tank Waste
First Meeting, 6-7 January 1993
National Academy of Sciences, Georgetown Facility
2001 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., 130 Green Building, Washington, DC**

Wednesday, 6 January

Executive Session

**8:15am Business meeting
11:30am Lunch – Green Building Refractory**

Open Session

**1:00pm Welcome, introductions, and remarks – Bob Budnitz
1:30pm DOE EM-40 perspective – Pat Whitfield
2:30pm Past history on buried and tank waste – John Lehr
4:00pm Hanford history and the tank program – John Tseng/Ken Bracken
5:30pm Adjourn for day

6:00pm Reception for all participants – Green Building**

Thursday, 7 January

Open Session

**8:15am INEL history and the buried TRU waste program – Alice Williams
9:30am Regulatory environment
Hanford – Ken Bracken
INEL – Alice Williams
DOE HQ perspective – John Lehr
11:00pm Other DOE buried and tank waste – John Lehr**

Executive Session

11:45am Lunch – 130 Green Building

Open Session

**1:15pm Possible issues for Committee study – John Lehr
2:45pm Wrap-up session – Bob Budnitz
Plans for next meeting
Public comment
4:00pm Adjourn meeting**

18 December 1992

CONTACT: W D SouzaPHONE#: 504- 3392MAIL STOP: OWFN 4-H-3

89001771

DOCUMENT NAME: G:IRLB\NAS.DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST
DIVISION OF HIGH-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENTThis checklist is to be submitted with each document sent for typing or for distribution

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2. If it is a final draft, does it have the concurrence of a Branch Chief or higher? Yes X No___
3. Is this a ticketed item? If Yes, ticket number _____

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OWRA	Yes <u>X</u>	No___	_____	_____
ILS	Yes <u>X</u>	No___	_____	_____
ACW	Yes <u>X</u>	No___	_____	_____
Proprietary	Yes___	No <u>X</u>	_____	_____
PreDecisional	Yes___	No <u>X</u>	_____	_____

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Please list the names of all individuals who should be on concurrence:_____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____,7. Date Originated: 2/8 Date Due or Needed _____8. Task Assigned to: W D Souza Date Completed and
sent to 4-C-20 2/9REQUIRED ONLY FOR ILS DOCUMENTS9. Date DID'd to INRC02/IRMITLS [NOTE: send only if ILS box is marked
Yes above] _____10. TLSS: Returned by _____ Date _____
Approved by _____ Date _____

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