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KMcConnell

**SUMMARY NOTES OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 7, 1988**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phyllis Clausen
Nancy Hovis
Russell Jim
Ken Miller
Sam Reed
Robert Rose
Betty Shreve
Gus Simpson
Michael Spranger

Introductory Remarks

Warren Bishop welcomed Advisory Council members and noted this was an especially important meeting because it was beginning a process of setting the Advisory Council's and Board's future direction.

Bishop introduced Board member Curt Eschels and Jeff Breckel, liaison for the Governors of Oregon and Washington regarding Hanford defense waste clean-up funding.

Eschels said the governors of Oregon and Washington are joining to accelerate clean-up of Hanford nuclear wastes and have hired Breckel to work with the states' congressional delegations to seek federal funding priority.

Breckel said there is an opportunity to accelerate the defense waste clean-up process in the month ahead as Congressional committees mark up federal appropriation bills. Oregon and Washington are seeking to increase the current \$89 million proposed for Hanford clean-up in fiscal year 1989 to \$150 million, he said.

Councilmember Reed suggested development of a multi-year funding projection so the public will understand that the work to acquire significant amounts of federal funds will require many years, not just a one-year effort.

Councilmember Jim said the U.S. Department of Energy has set a policy to eliminated affected Indian tribes participation in Hanford issues. He said the Yakimas appreciate the state's support. Tribal use rights at Hanford still exist and the Indian tribes should be involved in seeking funding for continued oversight of USDOE activities, he said.

Breckel invited councilmembers to call him anytime at (206) 459-6490 or drop by the EFSEC offices.

Council member Shreve said there is a need for the Board and Advisory Council to coordinate with groups like Heart of America Northwest regarding nuclear waste clean-up activities.

Approval of Minutes

The January 22, 1988, joint Board-Advisory Council meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Correspondence/Recent Developments

Warren Bishop announced that Terry Husseman is leaving as program director of the Office of Nuclear Waste Management to become program manager for the Department of Ecology's Hazardous and Solid Waste Program. He will be replaced by Max Power.

The Advisory Council then adopted a resolution thanking Terry Husseman for his efforts. Chairman Bishop said Husseman made one of the most important contributions to the repository process during its most crucial period.

Phase-Out of BWIP

Husseman reported on the phase-out of repository-related funding for the state office. He said all contractors have been phased out and much of the office staff have been dispersed to other agencies. The Department of Ecology and Office of Financial Management have provided enough funding for the rest of the biennium to support continued Nuclear Waste Board and Advisory Council meetings and allow retention of a core professional staff, he said.

Councilmember Spranger asked if the reference material center is still in operation. Husseman replied that the center still exists but is not now being staffed. Councilmember Clausen suggested seeking volunteers to provide staff.

Husseman said the staff has been working to implement the Nuclear Waste Board's resolution to seek federal funds to continue the state operation. He and Don Provost met with the state's Congressional staff regarding accelerated funding of Hanford clean-up of defense wastes and also funding of state activities.

Max Power described the USDOE plans for reclaiming former repository-related sites and facilities at Hanford. USDOE plans call for restoring the 2101 pond, the near surface test facility, the drill site and test wells, he said.

He said a meeting will be held by mid month with USDOE and local government officials regarding the Payment Equivalent to Taxes (PETT) negotiations. He is hopeful some agreement can be reached at the meeting.

Three Party Agreement/Hanford Superfund Nomination

Assistant Attorney General Jay Manning made a presentation regarding clean-up efforts of chemical and mixed wastes at Hanford. He said there are about 1,800 dump sites at Hanford and estimates of costs of clean-up range from \$20 billion to \$70 billion. The site may be the largest single hazardous waste disposal area in the United States in terms of both area and amounts of waste, he said.

Negotiations are underway regarding terms and conditions of clean-up efforts between the State Department of Ecology, USDOE and the Environmental Protection Agency, he said.

The EPA now is considering nominating the Hanford site to the National Priorities List (Superfund), Manning said. The Department of Ecology is concerned about such a designation because of the possibility the state might lose jurisdiction over Hanford clean-up activities, he said.

The federal government, not the state, has the lead for cleanup of any sites nominated to the NPL. In a case involving the federal Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) in Colorado, the US Department of Justice has recently stated that the state has no RCRA jurisdiction anywhere on the site, even though only part of the RMA has been nominated to the NPL. Under CERCLA, the EPA can waive compliance with state and federal standards.

The negotiations now underway would clear up jurisdictional questions, he said. They are expected to take about six months.

Manning said the Department of Ecology would like the help of the board and council in informing the public about the issues regarding the chemical wastes clean-up efforts.

Councilmember Reed said the Advisory Council will need to develop a long-term process of informing the public about the clean-up so there are no misunderstandings that the clean-up can be accomplished easily or quickly.

Several councilmembers suggested that background information regarding the chemical waste clean-up effort be sent to those on the newsletter mailing list.

Resolution in Support of Accelerated Funding for Defense Waste Cleanup

A revised version of a resolution favoring accelerated defense waste clean-up at Hanford was discussed. A paragraph regarding job creation was deleted and other changes were made. The Advisory Council voted unanimously to recommend the resolution to the Nuclear Waste Board for its adoption.

Future Board/Advisory Council Activities

Linda Steinmann and Jerry Gilliland described the future nuclear waste milestones for the next year. Some delays were noted from the written timeline which had earlier been mailed to the council.

Chairman Bishop described plans to appoint a task force chaired by Ray Lasmanis to make recommendations to the Advisory Council and Board on future activities. Members are: Sen. Max Benitz and Rep. Dick Nelson, Curt Eschels, Phyllis Clausen, and Jim Worthington. The task force is expected to report its findings at the next Advisory Council and Board meetings. Husseman suggested USDOE be invited to send someone to speak to the task force on USDOE plans.

A survey was distributed asking councilmembers to rank priorities of future activities. The survey results will be given to the task force for its use, Steinmann said.

Public Comment

Bob Cook, former Nuclear Regulatory Commission staffer at Hanford, urged the state to make every effort to keep its ability to enforce clean-up regulations at Hanford.

Councilmember Simpson said the Hanford Education Action League will be holding a symposium on nuclear decision-making in Spokane Oct. 14-16.

Councilmember Reed said he met with the State Board of Health Feb. 10 to request the health board continue its plans for oversight of Hanford activities. He reported the board declined to take a position on oversight or the health studies dispute. Chairman Bishop said the board, council and staff will need to continue working with the State Board of Health regarding the issues.

Councilmember Jim said the Yakimas have appreciated working with Terry Husseman and the council. He said Husseman had always insisted on including the affected Indian nations in the repository deliberations