

To: K McConnell

**SUMMARY NOTES OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

June 17, 1988

EFSEC Hearings Room  
Rowesix, Building 1  
4224 Sixth Avenue S.E.  
Lacey, Washington

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Warren A. Bishop, Chair  
Eugene Rosa  
Russell Jim  
Aaron Katz  
Sam Reed  
Robert Rose  
Betty Shreve  
Michael Spranger  
Gus Simpson  
Shirley Tucker

**Introductory Remarks**

Chairman Warren Bishop welcomed those attending. He noted the excused absence of council members Pam Behring, Phyllis Clausen, Nancy Hovis, Ken Miller and Jim Worthington.

Council Member Betty Shreve asked about the economic impact to the Tri-Cities area of planned Hanford waste cleanup. Office of Nuclear Waste Management Director Max Power said a job clearinghouse has been set up to place Hanford workers displaced by reductions in other programs. He said waste cleanup likely will not produce enough jobs to replace those lost and the match of skills may not be good. Power promised a full report on Tri-Cities economic development at a subsequent meeting.

Council Member Gus Simpson noted that most Hanford job loss has occurred since December and were unexpected.

Council Member Aaron Katz said it should have been anticipated. Creative thought and investment are needed for development of a whole new industry there specializing in hazardous waste cleanup, he said.

Council Member Michael Spranger thanked the staff for developing a staff list. Power briefly described the duties of each staff member.

**Minutes**

8808120309 880617  
PDR WASTE  
WM-10  
PDC

101.3  
LWJ-10  
RHD/11

The summary notes for the April 7, 1988, council meeting were amended by Sam Reed changing the seventh paragraph on page four. His amendment struck the quote attributed to him and instead inserted:

"Council member Sam Reed said he met with the State Board of Health on February 10 to request their endorsement of the need for health studies related to past releases from Hanford activities. The board declined to take a position on the issue."

Chair Bishop said the Board and Council will continue to work with the Board of Health regarding Hanford issues.

#### **Correspondence/Recent Developments**

The summary notes as amended were then approved unanimously.

Power gave a status report on federal funding of defense waste cleanup. He said the House and Senate have completed work on appropriation bills and are reprogramming \$44 million for cleanup purposes. Hanford is likely to gain \$30 million to \$35 million extra for the cleanup program.

Council Member Eugene Rosa asked if there is a way to influence funding decisions to accelerate the stabilization of leaking single shell tanks at Hanford.

Power said the state would be making that effort but added that this requires funding for several other programs so that space is available elsewhere at Hanford for the single shell tank liquids.

Power said federal funding for state oversight was not included in the 1989 Congressional budget. This may create bottlenecks for cleanup because of lack of funds for state processing of Hanford cleanup permits, he said. The Department of Ecology is weighing the possibility of levying permit fees to cover the costs but there are several legislative hurdles which would have to be cleared.

Power said the state's Congressional delegation has been very supportive of Hanford cleanup funding but they suggested getting involved earlier in the budget process. This would eliminate the need for final budget battles in Congress to obtain adequate Hanford funding.

He noted the reason for accelerated negotiations on Hanford hazardous waste cleanup by the state, Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy is to reach an agreement in time to influence the 1990 federal budget. The internal USDOE budget process for 1990 is underway this summer, he noted.

Council member Sam Reed said the council represents the public and the public wants to seek accelerated cleanup. The public doesn't understand what wastes are at Hanford, what needs to be done to clean up these wastes and what the funding problems are. He predicted increasing unhappiness by the public toward those in charge of the cleanup, including the Nuclear Waste Advisory Council.

Council Member Simpson said the state should work toward long-term objectives in the cleanup, such as a 30-year completion schedule.

Power said the Payment Equivalent to Taxes question still is pending. The Mid-Columbia Consortium and the State of Washington have proposed certain principles to be used by the USDOE in determining federal liability for the in-lieu-of-taxes repository program. USDOE has not responded, he said.

Power also said the State has received a Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposed definition of Greater-than-Class C nuclear wastes. The staff established a committee representing several state agencies to develop comments to the NRC proposal. He said the staff is seeking authority to send the comments to the NRC since no Board or Council meetings are planned before the comments are due.

Chair Bishop told the council the negotiations continue regarding the USDOE's dose reconstruction study. He is optimistic changes can be made to allow the State of Washington to participate.

The state is pleased with the actions of the study's Technical Steering Panel, and is working with the new Technical Steering Panel chairman on a possible method for the state to participate in the study, Bishop said.

Council Member Russell Jim said the Yakima Indian Nation was unable to obtain its choice to the Technical Steering Panel but now had the backing of the Northwest Affiliated Tribes.

Council Member Jim provided the Council with a resolution urging Tribal involvement in the negotiations now underway between the state, USDOE and the Environmental Protection Agency regarding Hanford cleanup.

Council Member Katz asked if the resolution should be altered to make it a four-party negotiation, including the Yakimas. Staff Technical Director Don Provost said EPA and Ecology are legally the regulators of hazardous wastes at Hanford and there might be some legal problems with including the Yakima tribe.

Jim said he was satisfied with the language requiring consultation with the Yakima Indian Nation on a government-to-government basis. The resolution was unanimously endorsed to the Board by Council members.

Council Member Spranger asked how the Board and Council fit in cleanup negotiations. Power replied that the negotiations represent a pioneering effort of federal-state cooperation. He said the State Department of Ecology recognized the need for public involvement in this process and turned to the Board and Council for assistance.

#### **Northwest Citizens Forum Resolution**

Don Provost, Office of Nuclear Waste Management technical manager, briefly described the final report of the Northwest Citizens Forum on Defense Waste. The Council voted unanimously to recommend to the Board a resolution commending the forum for its efforts.

#### **Task Force Report**

Board member Curt Eschels presented a report on the conclusions of the Board-Council Task Force on Role, Structure and Activities.

Defense waste cleanup and transportation of radioactive wastes are top priority for Board and Council activities, he said. He suggested the Board and Council develop an overall policy on Defense Waste based on past resolutions adopted by the Board and Council. The policy should convey the necessity of cleaning up Hanford as a natural follow-up to the production activities which have occurred there. The policy should not convey the impression that Defense Waste cleanup is for job creation.

In the area of transportation, technical issues are being addressed elsewhere but public confidence in the safety of these efforts is necessary. This is where the public involvement role of the board and council fits very well, Eschels said.

The council has done a very good job on public involvement, he said. The task force left it up to the council to decide if it needs a council committee on public involvement.

The task force recommended establishing two Board committees --- for Defense Waste and for Transportation. The task force favored continuing to schedule monthly meetings of the Board and Council, cancelling them when appropriate and averaging a meeting about every other month. The meetings should seek to center on lively topics , Eschels said. Recommendations included:

1. Scheduling a USDOE presentation of the complete Defense Waste cleanup effort,
2. A discussion of relating the defense waste program with Hanford's overall efforts,
3. Continuing efforts to obtain Payment Equivalent to Taxes on the repository program,
4. Following closely the repository study efforts at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.
5. Continuing oversight and coordination of low-level waste issues.

Council member Shreve asked about the letter from Senators Max Benitz and Al Williams regarding transportation issues.

Eschels said the Board and Council have done well in coordinating and integrating efforts of state agencies regarding transportation. He said this coordinating and integrating activity fits well with efforts of other transportation groups.

Council member Shirley Tucker said a Board transportation committee isn't needed, that periodic staff reports would be sufficient as a liaison to other transportation groups.

Chair Bishop said he would not ask the Council or Board to act at this time on the Task Force recommendations. He was looking for suggestions and would ask the Task Force to reconvene to consider those suggestions. The Task Force might be able to report to the Board and Council at the July meeting, he said.

Council member Bob Rose said too many documents are being sent to Council and Board members just before the meeting. He suggested as various documents become available that they be sent. Power said the staff is working to send out materials periodically and to include an explanation of agenda items along with the meeting agenda.

Council member Reed said the Council and Board need to meet at least every other month. Otherwise Council members will lose touch and the staff will act on things that should be brought before the Board and Council.

Reed said the Environmental Monitoring Committee had been very effective and he opposes the task force's proposal that the committee be abolished.

Council member Tucker said bimonthly meetings are a good idea and committees could meet as needed or the evenings before council and board meetings.

Council member Shreve said she opposes the Council and Board limiting itself only to defense waste and transportation issues.

Council member Simpson said Board and Council members could serve as liaison to organizations and activities which are no longer covered by Board committees.

Council member Shreve said it would be appropriate to ask outside groups to come in and assist the Board and Council in its public involvement activities. The Board and Council could become a unifying organization.

Council member Spranger endorsed using Board and Council members for liaison with other organizations. He said there also is a need to coordinate with the State of Oregon's Board and Council.

Power said Oregon's nuclear waste advisory council is composed mainly of Eastern Oregon residents and is concerned with radioactive waste transportation issues. Council members expect to make recommendations to the Oregon Board this fall and then go out of business. He said the Oregon Hanford nuclear waste board is very interested in a joint meeting with the Washington Nuclear Waste Board later this year.

#### **Public Involvement Committee's Future**

Office of Nuclear Waste Management Public Involvement Manager Jerry Gilliland asked the Council to state its wishes regarding continuing and/or expanding its Public Involvement Committee.

Council member Spranger said he thinks the Public Involvement Committee has worked well but was just getting started when the repository work was halted.

Council member Shreve said the Council is charged with public involvement and needs to decide how to do it. She felt the Public Involvement Committee had worked well.

Council member Reed said he was not comfortable with the Public Involvement Committee since public involvement is the charge of the whole Council. He suggested ad hoc groups be set up to review specific public involvement products.

#### **Status Reports**

Council member Reed reported on the meeting of the Environmental Monitoring Committee. The committee discussed the windup of Basalt Waste Isolation Project activities and the completion of the first phase of the panel evaluating environmental monitoring activities. The

first phase report now is at the printers. Reed said the committee is concerned about the second phase of the study. The committee was strongly opposed to the Board-Council Task Force's proposal to abolish the Environmental Monitoring Committee.

Office of Nuclear Waste Management Specialist Joe Stohr described the efforts of three interstate groups dealing with nuclear waste transportation to the transuranic disposal site, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, and the high-level wastes to be sent to the proposed repository in Nevada.

The High Level Waste Committee of the Western Interstate Energy Board is composed of technical staff level representatives from 11 Western States, Stohr said. The committee is looking at state input to several Nuclear Waste Policy Act documents dealing with transportation impacts and emergency response. It is putting on a workshop on transportation cask design and testing and is the coordinating group for training regarding emergency response for the WIPP shipments. WIPP shipments are expected to begin this October from the Idaho Nuclear Engineering Laboratory and in the spring or summer of 1989 from Hanford. The training will be given in Washington about six months before the first shipments begin, he said.

The second group described by Stohr is the Pacific States Committee which was set up by the Washington, Oregon and Idaho legislatures to develop uniform laws and policies regarding nuclear waste shipments. The group is conducting a study on uniform vehicle safety regulation, developing coordinated responses for border emergencies and developing model fees for regulation of radioactive waste transportation.

The Western Governors Association has created a High Level Waste Task Force which is intended to develop policy positions for the governors. The committee now is studying the WIPP shipment proposals, the reauthorization of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and Northwest corridor issues, Stohr said.

Power said the office has received Basalt Waste Isolation Project closeout reclamation plans for the exploratory shaft and Near Surface Test Facility and will continue to monitor plans for borehole and test well closures.

Power told council members that a plan for dismissal of the state's repository lawsuits fell through because of Department of Justice objections. The dispute continues.

Council member Shreve asked if the stalemate in Congress regarding renewal of the Price-Anderson nuclear disaster liability limits meant Hanford facilities weren't insured. Power replied that existing nuclear facilities are covered under the previous Price-Anderson provisions.

Council member Jim presented a list of Yakima Indian Nation nuclear waste staff. He said he had gone on a recent tour of the Hanford Site. The closure of the Near Surface Test Facility at Gable Mountain appears to be ahead of schedule and to be proceeding well.

Council member Reed suggested the Council meet in the Tri-Cities this summer and include a tour of the Hanford Site.

Assistant Attorney General Charles Roe told the Council the act renewing Price-Anderson nuclear disaster liability limits is now stalemated between the House and Senate but it is widely believed that a compromise will be reached this year. He said both House and Senate versions

set a \$7 billion liability payment for a nuclear accident. Almost all the Nuclear Waste Board had suggested is included in the two bills, he said.

The Council adjourned at 12:10 p.m.