



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

Reply to:
1050 East Flamingo Rd.
Suite 319
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
Tel: (702) 388-6125
FTS: 598-6125

TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative
DATE: January 16, 1987
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find enclosed more information that appeared in
our local newspaper that is of interest.

PTP:nan

Texas group will sue DOE over dump study

AMARILLO, Texas (UPI) — Members of the Nuclear Waste Task Force, a group opposed to possible location of a high-level nuclear waste dump in the Panhandle, said Monday that they will go to court to try to halt land acquisition for the site study.

In addition to announcing that the group will seek a federal injunction to stop the Department of Energy from buying land in Deaf Smith County, task force members reported on their trip to Washington last week to meet with federal officials.

"We shared our dismay over the recent indications by Energy Secretary John Herrington that land acquisition was going to proceed in the near future," said NWTF president Delbert Devin. "In response to the indication that land acquisition and other activities are soon to start, we have instructed our attorney to file a stay in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals."

Deaf Smith County is one of three sites, along with Yucca Mountain, Nev., and Hanford, Wash., under consideration for the first repository for waste from the nation's nuclear power plants.

Many groups in the Panhandle oppose having the highly radioactive wastes placed deep underground about 35 miles southwest of Amarillo because of potential danger to the underground Ogallala aquifer, a source of water for Texas and seven other states. The dump also poses a hazard to the area's agricultural economy.

"I think this is going to be a crucial year and it's going to be one of the hottest issues in Congress, except maybe for the budget. I think we're going to see some real positive things this year," Devin said.

One positive sign, Devin said, is a request by Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, for congressional hearings on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Gramm has said in the past that the act must be carried out, but the fact that the senator has

called for hearings is a positive sign, Devin said.

"He told us he doesn't think that the dump will be located in Texas," Devin said.

Devin said that while in Washington, members of the task force gained the support of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, House Speaker Jim Wright, Rep. John Bryant, D-Texas, and Rep. Beau Boulter, R-Texas.

Though an appointment with Vice President George Bush turned out to be only a meeting

with members of his senior staff, Devin said he was not disappointed.

"Bush had to meet President Reagan when he got out of the hospital on Thursday, but we met with his staff longer than intended. We met with the people who advise him and got our point across," Devin said.

"I think the Texas delegation realizes for the first time what a threat this is to the aquifer," said Lois Wales of Women Involved in Farm Economics.