

# OCRWM

# Bulletin

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Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
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EXCERPTS FROM RUSCHE INTERVIEW  
(NuclearFuel, January 28, 1985)

- Q. *Do you still feel that DOE will be able to accept spent fuel in 1998?*
- A. I think that our commitment to accept fuel in 1998 is unequivocal. I think that the things that we have done in the six months since I've been here have certainly added to my confidence that we are going to be able to do that, and I think the matters that lie ahead over the next six months or a year or two will clearly confirm that.
- Q. *What kind of role do you see it [a monitored retrievable storage facility] playing now?*
- A. I think the MRS has several key functions. From an operational standpoint it is almost essential to have something other than a repository for the purpose of receiving, handling, packaging, shaping, and adapting the materials from the multiple reactors. When you couple that function with the logistical considerations relating to both safety and economics of shipping and transportation it is hard to come away with any view other than that...those are very important factors.
- Q. *When do you see a [MRS] proposal going to Congress?*
- A. I think we'll have a proposal going to Congress in time for action in the 1987 budget year, if Congress chooses to act.
- Q. *As far as transportation is concerned, that's clearly evolved as a major issue.... What kinds of things are you doing to address that?*
- A. The central thing we're doing is looking at ways to optimize transportation, handling, and logistics, of which the centraliz[ed] receiving facility, call it an MRS, will do. That's a key thing. That will allow you to optimize the shipping modes and paths.... We're giving, as the Act requires, major attention to getting private sector involvement.... We have just issued a draft transportation business plan...and eventually will issue a draft that's for formal comment.... We're working with a number of regional groups and with the states.... More and more we find what you [do] is about half the game, and how you do it -- that is, how people get involved and the extent to which they feel like they've been a party to a conclusion that's reached, is of great importance.

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- Q. *What do you think it will take to get a State to accept a repository? Do you think that ultimately...a State will decide that it is an acceptable operation?*
- A. Absolutely. I'm committed to conduct the work in such a way that that will be the outcome. If I didn't, I'd go home.
- Q. *What about fee changes? Do you have any sense of when or if there will be any changes? In the near-term?*
- A. I don't think there will be any near-term changes. We are obligated to send a report to Congress which is in final preparation now.... [Note: see page 3 of this Bulletin for highlights of this report.] I would be the last to say that I can tell you for sure that in 1992 our projected costs are going to be equal to the fees. First, I am committed to conducting the program with[in] the revenue. Secondly, I think that if the utilities elect to pay their retrospective costs, that is, the cost for old fuel generated before the Act, up front, then the likelihood of a fee adjustment is very, very low.

(Excerpted with permission from NuclearFuel, a McGraw-Hill publication.)

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## NUCLEAR WASTE FUND FEE ADEQUACY: AN ASSESSMENT

The Department of Energy (DOE) has submitted to Congress the third fee adequacy report for financing high-level radioactive waste disposal. The report reflects the determination that no adjustment to the 1.0 mil (one-tenth of a cent) per kilowatt-hour fee charged to utilities for nuclear-generated electricity by civilian reactors is required at this time.

Nuclear Waste Fund Fee Adequacy: An Assessment evaluates the adequacy of waste disposal fees to cover the Federal Government's costs for the disposal of commercial spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 requires the Secretary of Energy to review annually the user fees established under the Act in order to determine if the fees will

provide sufficient revenues to cover the costs of the civilian radioactive waste management program managed by DOE. This report is being sent to Congress for information purposes. A proposal to Congress is required only if the Secretary determines that an adjustment to the fee is necessary.

The report summarizes the results of a recent analysis used to evaluate whether projected revenues resulting from a 1.0 mil per kilowatt-hour fee will be sufficient to offset program costs. The Department intends to follow the January publication date for all future fee adequacy analyses. The next report will reflect the final Mission Plan which is scheduled to be submitted to Congress in May of this year and which will provide a basis for the continuing assessment of costs as the program moves from the conceptual design phase to the engineering phase.

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## SECOND RESPOSITORY PLANS AND PROJECT SCHEDULE

The Department of Energy's Crystalline Repository Project Office (CRPO) is currently looking at crystalline rock formations in 17 eastern and northern States for the nation's second high-level radioactive waste repository. The Department issued a draft Region-to-Area Screening Methodology Document last September for State review and comment. This document was developed over a one-year period in consultation with the States and will be used to narrow the geographic focus from large regions to smaller areas. CRPO is currently revising the document to incorporate and respond to State comments, and the final document is expected to be issued in early April.

In December of last year, the Department issued the revised draft Regional Environmental and Geologic Characterization Reports (RCRs) for State review and comment. These documents describe regional environmental and geologic data collected from the existing literature and State comments have

been requested. CRPO will then evaluate the State comments and plans to issue final RCRs in July, 1985. Later this year, OCRWM will apply the final Region-to-Area Screening Methodology on the data contained in the final RCRs to screen from several hundred areas down to approximately 15-20 candidate areas for further investigation and on-site work. The overall process used and the results will be documented in a draft report called the draft Area Recommendation Report (ARR). This draft report is expected to be issued in November, 1985 for State review and comment, with final issuance planned for May, 1986.

In March, 1986, the Department will issue in draft an Area Characterization Plan (ACP). This document will describe the on-site work to be done in the 15-20 candidate areas selected for further study. After State review and comment, a final ACP will be issued in September, 1986 and on-site work will begin.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
Issue Final Region-to-Area Screening Methodology Document	4/85
Hold Region-to-Area Screening Methodology-Weighting Workshop	5/85
Issue Final Regional Characterization Reports	7/85
Issue Draft Area Recommendation Report	11/85
Issue Draft Area Characterization Plan	3/86
Issue Final Area Recommendation Report	5/86
Issue Final Area Characterization Plan	9/86
Begin Area Phase On-Site Work	9/86

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## OCRWM SPOTLIGHT

### Herrington Confirmation

John S. Herrington was sworn in as the fifth Secretary of Energy on February 7, 1985. He was nominated by the President on January 10 and confirmed by the United States Senate on February 6, 1985.

Prior to joining the Department of Energy, Mr. Herrington was the Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel since June 1983. From February to May 1983, he served as Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, the White House. Mr. Herrington's other government service includes Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) from October 1981 to February 1983; and, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel from May 1981 to September 1981. Mr. Herrington began working for the President in 1966 as a volunteer in the Reagan gubernatorial effort. He volunteered full-time on every subsequent Reagan campaign prior to joining the White House in 1981.

Mr. Herrington is an attorney specializing in tax, real estate, and business law. He was in private practice in Walnut Creek, California from 1967 until joining the Reagan Administration in 1981. From 1964 to 1967, Mr. Herrington served as a prosecutor in the Ventura County District Attorney's office. Mr. Herrington's other business interests include real estate development and investments.

A native of Los Angeles, Mr. Herrington was born on May 31, 1939. He received his A.B. degree from Stanford University in 1961 and his LL.B. and J.D. degrees from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1964. He is a member of the California Bar Association. Mr. Herrington served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1962. He has been active in the Marine Corps Reserves since 1966.

Mr. Herrington and his wife, Lois, an Assistant Attorney General with the Department of Justice, have two daughters, Lisa Marie (age 18) attending UCLA, and Victoria Jean (age 17) attending public high school. The family resides in McLean, Virginia.

### OCRWM Briefings and Hearings on Draft Environmental Assessments

In January, OCRWM held over 45 briefings on the draft Environmental Assessments for the nine potentially acceptable sites for the Nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository. Briefings were held for the States, Indian tribes, Congressional staff, local officials, Federal agency staff, media representatives and the general public. The purpose of the briefings was to explain the purpose and structure of the draft EAs, answer questions about the draft EAs, and inform the audience about upcoming EA hearings and other opportunities for public participation. The briefings were held in six State capitals and in the local communities near the potential repository sites. Special briefings were also held in Washington, D.C. Altogether, about 3,000 people attended the briefings. The largest turnout was in Washington State and the smallest was in Mississippi.

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At a typical briefing, OCRWM officials presented a short overview of the siting process and the purpose and intent of the draft EAs, and then responded to questions from the audience. Most briefings were then divided into roundtable discussions. These small groups enabled persons interested in specific topics to obtain in-depth information on subjects such as earth sciences, socioeconomics, engineering, transportation, and environmental sciences from individuals available to discuss specific sections of the draft EAs. The format of the briefings helped create an informal and interactive atmosphere.

In addition to the briefings, 17 Environmental Assessment Hearings were held between late February and mid-March 1985, in Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah and the State of Washington. The Hearings were well attended, and stenographic transcripts of the proceedings will be available soon for sale to the public. For details contact Neal Duncan at (202) 252-5722 or DOE Headquarters, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., RW-44, Room 5A-051, Washington, DC, 20585. Copies will also be available for review at Public Reading Rooms in each State.

## State and Indian Tribes Meet with OCRWM Staff

As part of their ongoing dialogue on disposal of radioactive waste, representatives from affected first repository States and Indian tribes met with OCRWM staff in La Jolla, California, on January 29-30. At the meeting:

- o OCRWM offered to consult with the States and Tribes after the public comment period on the draft Environmental Assessments, to be sure that the comments are fully understood and to brief the States and Tribes on the planned OCRWM responses. OCRWM gave assurances that comment response documents will be provided with the EAs.
- o An annotated outline of the Site Characterization Plan was provided for review and discussion. An outline of OCRWM's approach to socioeconomic and environmental field activities concurrent with site characterization will be sent to the States and Tribes before the next meeting for discussion at the meeting.
- o States and Tribal representatives present were briefed on the status of the Monitored Retrievable Storage facility and storage and transportation options.

## Preliminary Draft of the Project Decision Schedule Published

The siting, licensing, and operation of the Radioactive Waste Management System require that a demanding set of technical, regulatory, and institutional challenges be met. The Project Decision Schedule (PDS) is required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. It is a mechanism for describing the objectives and defining the deadlines for Federal agency actions related to optimal start of operation of a Radioactive Waste Management System. The PDS also facilitates resource planning by affected Federal agencies for out-year planning and dealing with actual or potential schedule slippages. A preliminary draft of the PDS was issued on January 11, 1985.

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## CURRENTLY SCHEDULED OCRWM SHORT-TERM PROGRAM MILESTONES

- 3/85 Issue OCRWM Annual Report.
- 3/85 End of public comment period for Draft Regional Characterization Report for the second repository.
- 3/85 End of public hearings and public comment period for Draft Environmental Assessments for first repository.
- 4/85 Issue Final Region-to-Area Screening Methodology document for second repository.
- 5/85 Issue Final Mission Plan.
- 5/85 Conduct second repository Region-to-Area Screening Methodology-Weighting Workshop.
- 6/85 Issue Draft Project Decision Schedule.
- 6/85 Transmit Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility Report to Congress
- 7/85 Issue Final Regional Characterization Report for second repository.
- 7/85 Issue Draft Transportation Business Plan.
- 8/85 Issue Final Environmental Assessments for first repository.

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## EA COMMENT PERIOD REMINDER

The EA comment period formally closes on March 20, 1985. OCRWM will make every effort to include those comments that arrive after this date, but commentors are encouraged to submit their statements for the record in a timely fashion.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

Radioactive Waste Management System Project Decision Schedule, Preliminary Draft. (DOE/RW 0018).

Released

Portrays optimum way to attain the operation of the repository involved within the time periods specified in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. For copies contact Office of Public Affairs, DOE Headquarters, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., RW-24, Room 1E-218, Washington, D.C. 20585 (202) 252-5575.

Nuclear Waste Fund Fee Adequacy: An Assessment (DOE/RW 0020).

Released

An evaluation of the adequacy of the existing 1.0 mil per kilowatt-hour fee based on total system life cycle cost estimates and revenue projections. For copies contact Office of Public Affairs, DOE Headquarters, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., RW-24, Room 1E-218, Washington D.C. 20585, (202) 252-5575.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 24-28 Waste Management 1985. Tucson, AZ. Talks will be given at Tucson Community Center. Hotel reservations can be made at the Holiday Inn Broadway. University of Arizona contact is Dr. M.E. Wacks or Dr. Roy Post (602) 621-6160.
- Late April\* Spring 1985 meeting: OCRWM meeting to discuss current issues including the Mission Plan, the Integrated Systems Concept, Quality Assurance, and the Repository Program. DOE contact is Neal Duncan (202) 252-5722.
- May 4-5 National Conference of State Legislators, Charleston, SC. NCSL contact is Julie Jordan (303) 292-6600.
- May 6-8 First repository States and affected Indian Tribes meeting. Site to be determined. DOE contact is Neal Duncan (202) 252-5722.
- September\* State of Illinois workshop on experience in monitoring high-level waste shipments. Springfield, Illinois Hilton. Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety contact is Gale Melson (217) 546-8100.

\*Dates to be determined.