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MINUTES OF NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

July 19, 1984

1:30 p.m.
EFSEC Hearings Room
Rowesix - Building #1
4224 Sixth Avenue S.E., Lacey, Washington

Council Members Present:

- Warren A. Bishop, Chair
- Dr. Jerome Finnigan
- Ron Greenen
- Gordon Kunz
- Anita Monoian
- Commissioner W. H. Sebero

The meeting was called to order by Chair Warren Bishop.

There being no objection, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, as published.

Work Group on Public Involvement

The Chair introduced Anita Monoian, Chair of the Advisory Council Work Group on Public Involvement. Members of that group include: Anita Monoian, Chair, Warren Bishop (ex officio), Brian Baird, Dr. Jerome Finnigan, Mayor Fred Jarrett, Jim Worthington, and Marta Wilder of the Office. Ms. Monoian said the group had met twice two week ago, and again today. Brian Baird was representing Dr. Estella Leopold, member of the Council, during her sabbatical. Dr. Leopold will be returning in August and should be at the next meeting of the Council to take her place on the Work Group.

Ms. Monian said at the first meeting the group examined the preliminary draft of the Public Involvement Program drawn up by Pat Serie of Envirosphere and Marta Wilder.

Marta and Pat presented the revised draft of the Plan with the request the members of the Council offer any changes or suggestions. A nineteen-page working draft was distributed to the members along with a list of nineteen major issues.

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Fact Sheets. The first will be a set of fact sheets on the major issues of the program, which can be easily updated. The entire set will be in a folder, or they can be distributed on a requested issue basis.

Media Kit. This would be a similar sort of modular piece that would consist of a folder that included the fact sheets, the newsletter, a list of contacts for additional information, and any other current information available.

Slide Show. This is envisioned as a short, seven- to ten-minute presentation to be used to kick off a meeting, a workshop, or perhaps a speaker. It would talk about the purpose of the program, the entities, the organization and the major issues.

Reference Center. The Reference Center already exists, but it is felt it should be better publicized as a center for technical information to the public and any interested parties.

Ms. Serie gave a brief overview of Phase 2 without going into a great deal of detail on the activities, as they are all described in the Plan.

Following both phases, an updated version of the citizens' survey is planned to give direction of the then current issues, and a measure of the effect of the program. It would also provide guidance for the long-term program.

To give the Council an idea of the proposed budget for the next funding period beginning in October to cover part of Phase 1 and all of Phase 2, Warren Bishop distributed copies of a proposal for the review of the Council and consideration of the Work Group.

Dr. Finnigan inquired about the media list, and Pat explained the list was being refined and will be put on the computer in a format that will print labels and can be sorted by area, level of interest, etc.

Extensive discussion followed highlighting several areas for consideration:

1. the importance of a basic simple fact sheet as soon as possible;
2. coordination of information distributed by the Reference Center and that generated by EnviroSphere;

3. mechanics of toll-free number, who would respond and where the terminal would be located;
4. release of information to the Council and Board at the same time it goes to the public or media;
5. having mail-outs in specific areas come from the Council member representing that area; and
6. coordination with Rockwell, Richland Operations, and the Legislature for presentations or hearings to avoid conflict of dates.

Tom Tinsley of the USDOE Licensing Team at Richland stated they wanted to be involved and to help in developing the programs. He said they would cooperate on issues tracking, Reference Center, fact sheets, slide shows, etc., and would be pleased to work with the Office and its contractor in developing any of these programs.

The Council's main concern was in maintaining the state's independence and in giving the public non-biased information. Mr. Tinsley agreed, but said in some areas efforts could be combined. The Chair underlined the issue of credibility and objectiveness on the part of the state.

Public Comment

Eileen Buller, President of Hanford Oversight Committee, commented that considering the short time schedule before the Environmental Assessment is issued and the President makes a selection in January, it was her opinion that immediate use of the media was of prime importance in order to get the word to the public as quickly as possible. She felt using the electronic media and the major newspapers in the state and working one issue only was the best path to follow.

Pat Serie agreed and assured that the newsletter and media contacts were to be the main thrust between now and January, 1985. Warren Bishop said objectivity would be the mission.

Larry Caldwell of Hanford Oversight Committee questioned the siting of a repository in the West when wastes were created mainly in the East. He wondered if that should be included on the "Issues" list. He also said the Plan was ambitious and he would like to see the media used right now.

David Tarnas of WashPIRG, University of Washington, said he and Dr. Filby had been working on a roster of the scientific community interested in this field in the state which might be useful in forming a list of possible participants in the workshops. He also reemphasized the importance of the independence of the state from the USDOE. Mr. Tarnas also thought a contact list for use by the Office in responding to public inquiry would be helpful until the fact sheets are developed.

Pat Serie discussed the draft of the major issues paper, containing nineteen issues, which was distributed to the Council. She said it represents the thoughts of the Public Involvement Work Group and the staff of the Office. She asked for reactions and comments from the Council and the public. She asked for any additions or comments by August 2 so they could be incorporated at the August 7 meeting.

Mr. Greenen commented he thought No. 12, Technical Uncertainty, was important, if not the most important, and perhaps the most difficult to understand.

Mr. Bishop added that because it was possible all issues had not been identified, he would request continued input from the members as issues appear to them. Ms. Monoisan stated the Work Group is fully aware this is an evolving process, and the list presented is perceived as a starting point.

Mr. Sebero suggested the issues be listed without numbers, as the numbers tend to indicate a priority status.

David Tarnas of WashPIRG, University of Washington, mentioned several issues of concern to him:

1. Level of risk the state is willing to accept in siting a repository.
2. State/Federal conflicts--contact with Congressional delegation.
3. Demographic breakdown of opinions in a public survey.
4. Fairness issue: siting repository in the West v. majority of reactors in the East.
5. Alternatives to Hanford.

Ms. Monoian said the demographic breakdown has been recognized by the Work Group and will be addressed in the next survey.

Mr. Greenen asked what information from the Office is being supplied to the Washington State Congressional delegation. Mr. Stevens assured him good personal contact has been made. Both he and Warren Bishop have met with several of the delegation members to advise them of the state's response and to learn what information they would consider appropriate to receive. All members of the delegation are on the mailing list to receive pertinent information, including state policy and Council and Board actions.

Larry Caldwell, Hanford Oversight Committee, said he noted the omission of the Acceptance of Foreign Waste on the Issues List and felt it should be added, along with the "Fairness" doctrine. He also said the NRC acceptance of a 95% risk may not be an acceptable percentage to the public.

David Tarnis of WashPIRG, University of Washington, wondered if there would be a formal exchange of information with the State Congressional delegation, or would it be maintained on an informal basis. Mr. Stevens replied all communications with Congress are on a somewhat formal basis, i.e., appointments must be made for meetings, etc. He added there is a variety of ways to keep them informed, some initiated by the state and some by the members themselves. He said each member and Senator has a Legislative Aid in the energy field with whom the Office is in personal contact.

Mr. Bishop thanked Anita Monoian and her Work Group and asked them to continue to function by meeting as often as necessary to recommend and help implement the Public Involvement Program. Marta Wilder said the newsletter is targeted for issue September 15, and the mailing list should be available for the August 7 meeting of the Work Group.

Dr. Finnigan distributed to all the Council members a report prepared by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy, entitled Environmental Surveillance at Hanford for CY 1983. He said it was an extensive, but routine, report on the environment at Hanford.

Program Updates

C & C Agreement: Mr. Stevens stated a report from the Negotiating Team and a draft C&C Agreement has been prepared for submission to the Board at its meeting tomorrow. Still unresolved are several issues, the major ones being the

question of liability and the commingling of existing wastes at Hanford. He said the Team felt it had gone as far as it could go and the draft Agreement is now being transmitted to the Board for whatever action they wish to take. He said the final response from USDOE on the latest revisions had not been received, and when there was a final clean draft of the Agreement, it would be made available to the Council.

Mission Plan Review: Mr. Stevens reported the Mission Plan Review Committee was set up by the Board to examine the draft Mission Plan and draft comments for the Board's review. At the last Board meeting a briefing was requested on the Mission Plan by representatives of the USDOE, and they will make that presentation at the Special Meeting of the Board tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. It is anticipated Mr. Bill Bennett, Acting Associate Director of the Geologic Repository Deployment Program, will make the presentation. Lee Olson, Program Director of BWIP at Hanford, will also attend. All Council members were invited to attend the briefing.

It was pointed out that although the formal date for submission of comments on the draft Mission Plan (July 9) had passed, USDOE had consented to consider further comments the Board might wish to send following the briefing in response to our request for an extension of the time.

Monitoring Review Committee

The Board created a Monitoring Committee at its last meeting to evaluate USDOE monitoring data at Hanford. Their first meeting is scheduled at Richland on August 26. The Committee will meet with the Federal representatives and contractors to take an inventory. Don Provost was named Chair of the Committee, which includes: Lane Bray of the Council, Senator Sam Guess, Nick Lewis, Dr. John Beare, and Representative Nancy Rust.

Technical/Contractor Activities

Mr. Stevens reported for Dr. Brewer who was in Richland at a meeting with the USDOE on the well-logging project and other technical matters. He said hydrologic modeling evaluation is being independently reviewed, with the Office working with the consultant. The Office has contracted with the Geology Division of the Department of Natural Resources to have a summer intern geologist compile a geologic map of the Northwest. He reported there has also been some technical work done analyzing micro-earthquakes as a triggering mechanism for rock failure, which is also being supervised by Dr. Brewer.

David Tarnas asked if a geologic map of the Northwest was more useful than looking at specific structures in the Columbia River basalt group. Mr. Stevens replied it was a regional project, but would not exclude the Pasco basin.

Semi-Annual Report

Marta Wilder explained that under the new legislation the Semi-Annual Report now comes from the Nuclear Waste Board. It is prepared by the Office, and she explained in brief the main points covered by the draft Semi-Annual Report distributed to each Board member. The Report is essentially a chronicle of activities of the Office, which is sent to the Governor and each member of the State Legislature every six months. She asked the Council to review the draft and submit any comments or suggestions by July 26, as it must be reviewed by the Office of Financial Management before it can be sent to the printer.

Grant Request

Gary Rothwell reported it is necessary for the Office to submit a grant request to the USDOE in August. Concerning the Public Information Program, he said estimates are being made from figures asked of the contractor. He is coordinating with Marta on the priority of projects and dollars to support key tasks. He said any opinions or comments on the activities versus the cost effectiveness should be directed to Marta Wilder. The Chair suggested Marta take a telephone survey of the Work Group members to seek their opinions on priority items.

Communications

David Stevens commented briefly on the two letters contained in the Council packets. One was the letter of invitation to J. William Bennett to appear before the Board to present a briefing on the Mission Plan. The other was a letter from Ben C. Rusche, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, assuring the state their comments on the draft evaluation report on the commingling of defense wastes and commercial wastes to be made to the President will be forwarded with the final report to the Executive Office.

Draft Travel Policy

The draft Policy Statement concerning policy and procedure for Board and Council members' travel was considered by the Council. It was reviewed by the Council and approved for consideration of the Board for action.

Public Comment

Larry Caldwell of the Hanford Oversight Committee inquired what the state's position was on commingling. Mr. Stevens replied the Board had not yet taken any action. He said a staff analysis would be made when the report is received and recommendations would be forwarded to the Board. Mr. Caldwell then said he understood the state had received a composite draft of Chapters 2 through 6 of the draft Environmental Assessment, and wondered if this were so. Mr. Stevens answered yes, it has been received.

David Tarnas of WashPIRG, University of Washington, said he heard on the news about two weeks ago that USDOE announced they were changing the design for the repository at Hanford based upon recommendations of their geologists. He said they cited geologic stresses as being high enough to make the needed changes, as well as the micro-earthquake activity. He said he wanted the Council to be aware of this action, and asked if Tom Tinsley of USDOE Hanford had any comments to make.

Mr. Tinsley responded by saying the newness of the information was probably new to the reporter who wrote the story. He said information about micro-earthquakes has been known by PNL for years and has always been taken into account in the design of the repository on the Hanford site. He added they have extensive monitoring programs for seismic activity there.

Mr. Tarnas also wondered if there were any proposed plans for managing the existing military wastes at Hanford. Mr. Stevens replied the EIS statement on military wastes will be out about the end of the year, but there has been a considerable amount of discussion to the effect that the risk of removing it from tanks would be greater than leaving it in the tanks. He said this was one of the issues in the C&C process, but the NWPA only goes so far and does not give any authority to deal with defense wastes outside of commingling itself. He added the USDOE and EPA are actively discussing this issue and the state has a great concern in it.

Eileen Buller of the Hanford Oversight Committee referred to the Battelle Environmental Surveillance Report distributed by Dr. Finnigan, and asked for an explanation of the "Disclaimer" statement inside the front cover. Mr. Stevens replied that it was standard language when any contractor does the work for the government so the government does not have to bear any responsibility for work done by others. He

MINUTES OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING -
JULY 19, 1984
Page 10

suggested she contact the General Counsel's Office in Richland, as it has to do with Federal law.

Mr. Bishop invited members of the public, as well as members of the Council, to attend the Board meeting tomorrow.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MAJOR ISSUES - HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE PROGRAM

1. Public Involvement - Opportunities for public involvement in state and federal decisions will be an issue: What are the opportunities and how strongly can decisions be influenced by the public? How will communication and information exchange be accomplished?

2. Public Health - Potential effects on public health from construction, operation, and long-term existence of the repository are key issues to be addressed in current and future evaluations. Radiation exposure effects will be important, and federal regulations and laws (e.g., expected EPA standards for radiation exposure) are forthcoming.

3. Transportation - Transportation of waste to the repository is a major issue: how many shipments, the mode of transportation, regulation and enforcement of regulations, route selection, prior notification of shipments, safety requirements, emergency response, state oversight of the safety program, and risk analysis are some relevant questions.

4. Waste Packaging - The design of waste containers for transportation and disposal is an issue involving design criteria, testing, waste emplacement, cost, and regulation, in both the short and long term.

5. Who Is In Charge - Responsibility must be clarified for decision making; safety and regulatory enforcement; repository development, operation, and closure; and especially long-term monitoring and financial and safety assurances. The key question is: Who is in charge? Secondary issues include the stability and credibility of responsible entities, their ability to coordinate, and institutional longevity.

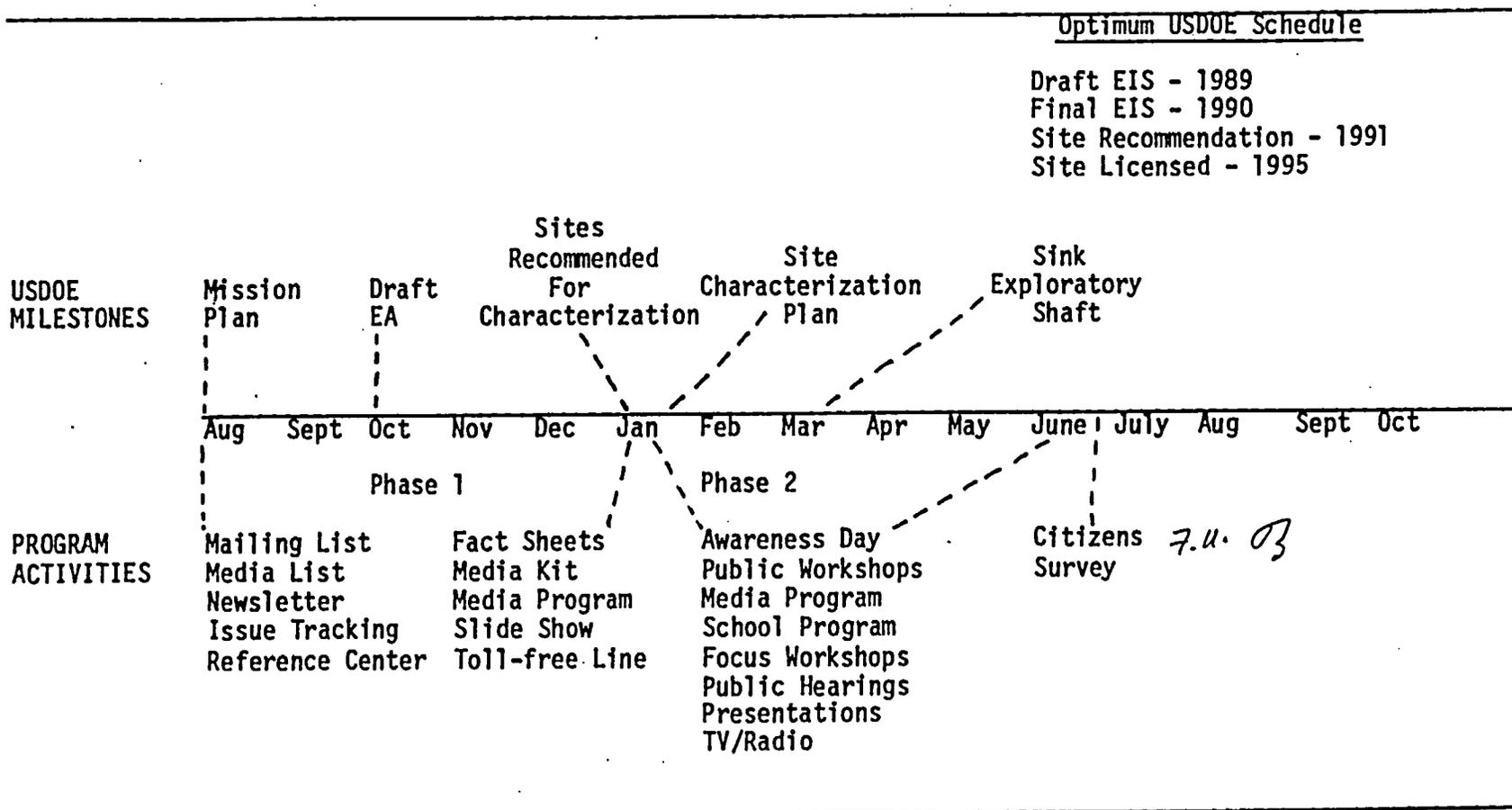
6. Hydrology - Hydrologic suitability of the proposed site is a major technical issue with many subissues. These include the adequacy of available characterization data, the adequacy of the predictive models used for characterizing the site hydrology, and the credibility of modeling hydrologic conditions thousands of years into the future. Potential contamination of surface and groundwater is a key issue.
7. Geology - A major issue is the geologic suitability of the site for stable, long-term isolation of the waste from the biosphere. This involves many subissues of adequacy, and is a major thrust of the program.
8. Geochemistry - The interaction of geologic features as they interact with water, and the resulting effects on the waste, constitute the geochemistry issue. As in hydrology, the issue is adequacy of characterization.
9. Co-Mingling of Defense Waste - Whether or not defense generated high-level nuclear waste will be co-mingled (or "co-disposed") with commercially generated wastes at a repository at Hanford is a key issue. A decision by the President on this issue is scheduled for January 1985.
10. Defense Waste - A key issue is the fate of the defense waste that already exists in storage at Hanford. Questions include how it will be handled, the risks, and preparation of an EIS.
11. Volume Definition - Defining the amount of high-level waste that exists and will exist, and that will require disposal in a repository, has not yet been done with sufficient accuracy. Characterizing the types of waste and their volumes will affect repository design, waste transportation planning, and other program factors.

12. Technical Uncertainty - Public perceptions of technical (scientific) uncertainty raise problems of credibility and trust. One issue is whether or not any level of radiation exposure is damaging to humans and the environment. Another issue involving technical uncertainty is the validity of modeling future events and their likely impacts.
13. Environmental Impacts - Potential environmental impacts from the repository siting, development, operation, and postclosure period form a complex issue that will need to be considered as a range of subissues. For example, potential impacts may include effects on air quality, surface water, groundwater, wildlife, fish, and vegetation.
14. Socioeconomic Impacts - Socioeconomic impacts of the repository siting, development, operation, and closure constitute an issue. These include factors such as labor force availability; fiscal impacts on communities and infrastructure; impacts on housing, schools, and services; "boom-bust effects"; and others.
15. Liability - Financial liability for potential accidents or long-term problems is an issue: who will be responsible, mechanisms for assigning liability, and feasibility of making restitution. Congressional action may be required to resolve this issue.
16. State Access to Information - The issue of Washington's effective involvement is defined partly by the state's ability to gain access to technical and policy information and to timely information on progress of the study.
17. Tribal Impacts - Effects on affected Indian tribes are an important issue throughout the program, including access to information, input to decisions, etc.

18. Other Repository Activities - Similar programs in the United States and internationally may offer some technical and policy insights that will be useful in evaluating the Washington program.
19. Future Intrusion - Securing the closed repository against future deliberate or inadvertent intrusion is an issue involving establishing barriers and conveying messages about the hazards of entering the repository.

FIGURE 1

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM - POTENTIAL TIMELINE



Draft EIS - 1989
 Final EIS - 1990
 Site Recommendation - 1991
 Site Licensed - 1995

HIGH-LEVEL

NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Public Meeting Held

July 19, 1984

Name
Address

Representing

Karen Don Steele

Spokesman - Review, Spokane

Brad Elandso

Rockwell

DAVID A. TARNAS

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Hanford Oversight Committee

LARRY CALDWELL

HANFORD OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tom Tinsley

DOE-RC

Jerry Greenen

accompanying Russ Greenen - address on board