

Washington State High Level Advisory Council Minutes:  
 September 13, 1983 Meeting  
 SEA-TAC-Jackson Airport/World Trade Center

Attendees:

Council Members

Sue Gould, Chair  
 Warren Bishop, public representative  
 Anita Monoian, public representative  
 Lane Bray, Benton-Franklin Government Conferences  
 Jim Worthington, Building and Construction Trades Council  
 Estella Leopold, public representative

JW Finnigan, Tri-Cities representative  
 Gordon Kunz, Northeastern Washington representative  
 Russell Jim, Yakima Indian representative  
 Ron Greenen, Vancouver/Southwest Washington  
 Joe Jackson, Pasco City Council

Staff

David Stevens, Program Director, High-Level Nuclear Waste Management Office, Department of Ecology

Don Provost, Department of Ecology  
 Marta Wilder, Department of Ecology, High-Level Nuclear Waste Management Office

Public

Janetta Knox, geochemist  
 Rebecca Timson, Hanford Oversight Committee  
 David Bennett, Washington Public Interest Group (WASHPIRG)

Minutes

The Washington State High Level Nuclear Waste Advisory Council met for an update of the State Nuclear Waste Management Program and to review an initial draft of questions for the Council's public survey.

Sue Gould, Chair, opened the meeting, and Don Provost presented a brief update of the U.S. Department of Energy Basalt Waste Isolation Project Program. Provost said there would be additional delays to some of the USDOE's deadlines, slowing down the current Environmental Assessment and Guideline schedule. The slowdown would give the state additional time to organize its program and to review USDOE's projects.

David Stevens reported that the state of Oregon is interested in Washington's program, and would like to work more closely with our state on the issues that affect them.

WM DOCKET CONTROL CENTER  
 '83 OCT 24 AM 1:34

WM Record File  
 (01.3)

WM Project 10  
 Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 PDR ✓  
 LPDR ✓  
 RM CR  
 DM  
 FM  
 (Return to WM, 623-SS) \_\_\_\_\_

orig. Not Rnd RM DCS  
 Acc. 83 11080424

Suzanne 10/24/83  
 00584

Other points the Council discussed included:

1. Emphasizing close coordination with other state, federal, and local public information programs;
2. Maintaining credibility for the state as a separate entity from the federal agencies;
3. Coordination of timing information exchanges with the USDOE.

Suggestions from public present at the meeting included:

1. Importance of involving the public in program and meetings-- coordinate with media and editorial boards to bring message to public;
2. After survey information is assessed, and released to the public, the state may also plan another survey later to determine how public opinion may have changed.

A brief discussion of defense wastes centered around USDOE's reluctance to approve state use of nuclear waste repository grant funds for review of disposal of defense wastes. However, the state feels defense wastes are covered under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. This issue may be discussed further through the state/federal consultation and cooperation negotiation meetings.

Susan Gould briefly mentioned a possible trip to Nevada for the Nuclear Waste Policy and Review Board and suggested that one or two Council members could attend if there was an interest in attending. The Policy and Review Board will tour the USDOE Nevada repository site and meet with state officials. October 20 and 21 were suggested as tentative dates for the trip.

Changes in the WDOE High Level Nuclear Waste Management Office were announced: David Stevens will be the new program director, Marta Wilder the public information officer, and Anne Macrae the secretary.

The majority of the Council meeting included a review and discussion of a pending telephone survey to determine what the public knows about the repository siting issue in Washington State, if they confuse it with other nuclear-related issues, what additional information they would like to know about the issue and where they would go to get it.

The survey results will be used as a guideline to structure the state's nuclear waste public information program. Stuart Elway, President of Communications Design, Inc. is developing the survey with guidance by the Council.

Warren Bishop, chair of the Council's survey subcommittee, presented the draft to the full committee. Stuart Elway discussed some specific points including:

1. The basis for the final questionnaire is to get an idea of people's thinking on the nuclear repository issue.
2. The Council would like to know what comes to people's minds when they hear the terms "low-level" or "high-level" waste.
3. It will ask who the public feels should be responsible for final decisions on siting the repository (i.e. state/federal/local).
4. Other survey questions will try to determine what people feel are problems with disposal of nuclear waste, and costs/benefits of disposal on the Hanford Reservation.

The Council agreed that the questionnaire presented September 13 needed additional work and the survey subcommittee set another subcommittee work session for September 16. The final draft produced at that meeting would be forwarded to the full Council for comments.

The Council would like the questionnaire and public survey completed by the end of September.

On other business:

David Stevens commented the United States Geological Survey's reaction on the USDOE work so far (on the Hanford Reservation) indicated there was a need for clear understanding of the issue and a means to distribute information. The state will be "hit" with a host of issues and needs a proper means of resolving them. He proposed an organized, conceptual series of packages to explain the program.

Jim Worthington, Council member, said the Council's and program's goals are to be here as a source of information, and not to try to persuade or sway anyone to a particular opinion.

The Council adjourned at noon.