

MINUTES OF NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
 May 18, 1984
 9:30 a.m.
 Hearings Room
 Building #1 - Rowsix
 4224 Sixth Avenue S.E., Lacey, Washington

WM BUCKET CONTROL CENTER
 '84 JUN 15 P4:29

Council Members Present:
 Warren A. Bishop, Chair
 Councilman Lane A. Bray
 Mayor Fred Jarrett
 Mr. Gordon Kunz
 Mr. Jim Worthington
 Mr. Brian Baird

WM Record File 101.3 WM Project 10
 Docket No. _____
 PDR
 LPDR
 Distribution: REB CR WKerr
MJB DM
JDB HM
 (Return to WM, 623-SS) JTS Cz
 (sent to R. Wright)

Others:
 Dr. William Funk
 Representative Nancy Rust
 Representative Dick Nelson
 Representative Dean Sutherland

The meeting was called to order by Chair Warren Bishop.

Mr. Bishop welcomed the visitors including three members of the Nuclear Waste Board: Dr. William Funk, Representative Nancy Rust and Representative Dick Nelson. Also present was Representative Dean Sutherland.

He remarked that the presentation by the U.S. Department of Energy to be heard at the meeting was not a hearing, but a public information meeting - a preview of the presentations to be given around the state this spring and summer.

Mr. Bishop introduced Lee Olson, Project Manager of the Basalt Waste Isolation Project at the Hanford Reservation, who headed the Task Force making the presentation. The Task Force included Ed Ash of Rockwell Hanford Operations, Marcella Madsen of Sandia National Laboratories, and Barry Moravek of Rockwell Hanford Operations.

Mr. Olson gave an overview of the national program and explained the Basalt Isolation Project is one of a number of programs the U.S. Department of Energy is conducting throughout the country to develop repositories in deep geologic formations for the permanent storage of commercial high-level nuclear waste and spent fuel. Through its Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, the USDOE is now studying basalt, tuff, bedded and domed salt, and crystalline formations.

Mr. Ash gave an overview of the BWIP program, Marcella Madsen provided an overview of the transportation program and Barry Moravek spoke briefly about the public information and participation program to be provided.

Following the hour and a half presentation, discussion and questions from the members focused on groundwater travel time, program guidelines revision, exploratory shafts, hydrologic baseline, waste packaging, etc. Also questioned was how the formal hearings will be held by the USDOE and where.

Mr. Olson replied the Environmental Assessment is nearing completion and the Site Characterization Plan should be available early next year. The Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared after the completion of site characterization. Currently, USDOE is looking toward issuance of the draft Environmental Assessment in August, with the hearing to be held 45 to 60 days after that. The Site Characterization Plan is scheduled for issue January, 1985. Public hearings on that document would be within 45 to 60 days of issuance. He said specific locations and numbers of public hearings to be held had not yet been decided.

Concerning the Public Information Program planned by the Office, questions were raised as to the availability of the Office for information from USDOE to incorporate in their materials, and Mr. Olson assured they were very willing to cooperate with the Office. Also mentioned were additional, more detailed fact sheets that would explain for the public the background and information on items mentioned in the presentation, such as the fact the reactors were running out of storage space. It is anticipated the public will want to know where, what reactors, and the time schedules. Mr. Olson said such fact sheets could be prepared and suggested as the questions arise they could be sent to him in a letter for such action.

Also in connection with the public information program, it was suggested that three or four major findings in the Mission Plan just received might be highlighted.

The meeting then turned to the Agenda.

It was moved and seconded the minutes of the April 20 meeting be approved as published. Motion carried.

Review of Board Action: Role of the Board, Memorandum of Understanding with WDOE, and Board Bylaws

Mr. Stevens reported that the Board considered these issues at the Regular Meeting on April 20, and held a Special Meeting on May 9 to continue discussions and take action. He asked Rick Olson to give the Council an update.

Mr. Olson said the Board adopted the "Role of the Board" as a proposed document at the April 20 meeting, subject to public comment, and final action would be taken at today's meeting. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Waste Board and the Department of Ecology was also adopted as a proposed Memorandum, subject to public review and final action today. A few amendments will be proposed and considered this afternoon. The essence of the Memorandum of Understanding, he continued, was that the final authority lies with the Board and the day-to-day work is delegated to the Department. The third action taken at the last meeting of the Board was to approve Bylaws. They were adopted and are now in effect. They were not adopted as part of the Washington Administrative Code, but the Board may yet elect to do so. There are four amendments submitted by different members of the Board which will be considered today. The fourth one particularly relates to the Council. It states that each committee formed by the Board will contain at least one member of the Council. He said the intent of that would be to further involve the Council into the actual workings of the Board.

Mr. Jarrett wondered what kinds of committees were contemplated. Mr. Olson replied an example would be the recent committee formed to select a consultant. Mr. Stevens added there were no specific committees that he was aware of at the moment, but as the need arose this rule would apply. Mr. Jarrett responded by saying he tended to support this amendment.

Mr. Olson continued by saying the fourth item was the action taken by the Board to adopt on an emergency basis the Public Records Rule, providing for public access to records of the Board. It also started the process of having that Rule adopted on a permanent basis. Written comments will be collected by the Board through June 8, and at the Regular Meeting June 15 (now changed to June 18) there will be a public hearing with final adoption by the Board, as submitted or as amended.

Role of the Advisory Council

Mr. Stevens mentioned the redraft of the Role of the Advisory Council was presented to the purpose of discussion and comment at this meeting. Rick Olson observed Mayor Jarrett had reviewed the previous document and made some suggested changes. He said the staff with Warren Bishop then reviewed it and made further changes to adapt it to the current statute.

Mr. Olson said Section 2. was probably the most important part of the document. In addition to the primary function of public information, he pointed out the "Council may make specific and general recommendations on all aspects of the Radioactive Waste Management Program to the Nuclear Waste Board, including, but not limited to, recommendations concerning any consultation and cooperation agreements negotiated by the Board, recommendations how state agencies may be responsive to the needs of the Board in carrying out the Board's duties under Chapter 43.200 RCW and recommendations solicited by the Board if a site within the state is selected as a repository".

This item was placed back on the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting, and Warren Bishop suggested any comments or suggestions on the document be mailed to the Office. Mr. Olson asked these comments be submitted to the Office prior to June 1, as his temporary assignment terminates at the end of May.

C & C Status

Mr. Stevens reported that at the special May 9 meeting the Board spent the entire morning in an intense study of the key issues in an effort to carry the process to a successful conclusion. Following that meeting the full team met in an all-day session and Mr. Stevens felt confident they are moving toward a final draft. By statute the final draft must be submitted to the Board for approval. He also anticipated it would be submitted to the Council for their recommendations and suggestions.

Contractor Proposals - Status

Dr. Brewer said the contract with Envirosphere should be signed within a few days, and since there is no waiting period stipulated before work could commence, the work should get underway right after the signing.

Well-Logging Proposal

Mr. Stevens said at the request of the Board further investigation was made and the action was taken to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Energy for the Office to carry out this proposal. Dr. Brewer said the request is being prepared to USDOE asking to reprogram funds from the grant for this fiscal year to pay for this project. This should allow the well-logging to begin as soon as approval is granted.

Liaison/Coordination Person

Mr. Stevens said the Liaison/Coordination subject was studied and accepted by the Board to provide compensation for the person who chairs both the Board and the Council to compensate for the time spent over and above the regular meetings. Rick Olson stated this took effect May 14.

Mr. Bishop commented on the success of the May 9 meeting with respect to the time spent on the C & C Agreement. He emphasized his interest in seeing the agreement move toward completion, and believed the intensive work done on May 9 was extremely fruitful.

Other Business

Mr. Stevens pointed out that Volume I and II of the Mission Plan had been received and Volume I only was included in the members' packets. He said he would encourage the members to study the document and give the Office their observations before the 60-day comment period is over.

Public Comment

Mr. Bishop asked for public comment or questions on the BWIP presentation. David Tarnas, University of Washington, questioned the range of groundwater travel times and asked at what point the determination would be made of acceptance of the level of risk with the ranges that are presented.

Mr. Ash replied the acceptability would be made at the time of licensing. This should be September, 1989, and he said by that time there would have to be a determination whether the range was acceptable with a high enough confidence to proceed with the licensing. He continued that if at any time along the way it is found it is not acceptable with a high confidence they would recommend that the site be rejected. He also said they would declare the site negative at any time they found it unacceptable, following all the tests in all areas were complete.

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Eileen Buller of the Hanford Oversight Committee had a suggestion for the presentation of the transportation portion of the program. She said as a resident of the state of Washington she would like to see more detailed charts of the transportation funnels as they go into the Hanford site. She said she would also like to see what is to happen at ports of entry and if they would be accepting foreign wastes. Mr. Olson replied he recognized the interest in the transportation aspect, and time restrictions had prevented a more expanded portion of this presentation. He suggested that perhaps at a special meeting they would be able to go into more detail on the transportation issue.

Brian Baird asked the date of the public information meeting to be held in Seattle, and Mr. Olson replied it was scheduled for May 29. A schedule of the future public information meetings was requested, and Mr. Olson said they would leave some schedules for public distribution.

Jim Worthington of the Council expressed the appreciation of the Council to Mr. Olson and the Task Force for the opportunity of viewing the BWIP presentation, and Brian Baird joined his expression.

David Tarnas wondered if any recommendation by the Council had been made to the Board on the NRC revisions and additions to the Guidelines and Mission Plan. Mr. Stevens replied no formal action was taken, although the Council had been kept informed with copies as received, and recommendations and suggestions were solicited. At this meeting only Volume I of the Mission Plan was copied for the Council, and Mr. Stevens said as soon as additional copies of the combined Volume I and Volume II were received, they would be provided to the Council.

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Council

May 18, 1984

Name & Address

9:30 a.m.

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