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MINUTES OF NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
February 15, 1985

9:30 a.m.

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

Council Members Present:

- Warren A. Bishop, Chair
- Dr. Jerome Finnigan
- Mayor Joe Jackson
- Mr. Gordon Kunz
- Ms. Anita Monoian
- Commissioner W.H. Sebero
- Mr. Jim Worthington

The meeting was called to order by Warren Bishop, Chair.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting on January 18 be approved. Motion carried.

EA Workshop Planning Update

Anita Monoian called attention to the date of the upcoming workshops:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| February 19 | Seattle | Seattle Center, Mercer Forum
305 Harrison Street |
| February 21 | Kennewick | Kamiakin High School
600 N. Arthur |
| February 25 | Spokane | Spokane County Health Building
1101 W. College, Room 104 |
| February 27 | Vancouver | Washington State School
for the Deaf
611 Grand Street |

Ms. Monoian emphasized the importance of Council members' presence at the workshops, particularly in their own areas. Those members not present at the meeting today will be contacted individually to ensure their attendance in their areas, if possible.

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As had been planned, Ms. Monoian said the League of Women Voters will act as facilitators for the workshops. She asked Marta Wilder to advise the Board of the training sessions for the League members who will be involved. Marta and Pat Serie went to Spokane to meet with Spokane and Kennewick League persons, describing the state program, reviewing the packets to be distributed at the workshops, and discussing in detail the role of the League at the workshops. This included introductions, moderating, and facilitation of the discussion groups. They visited Spokane on February 4, on February 13 David Stevens joined them in Vancouver, and on February 14 Anita Monoian, Ann Croman of Envirosphere and Marta covered the Seattle League of Women Voters. Marta reported the League is very enthusiastic to work on this program and she felt they would be a asset.

Ms. Monoian introduced Nancy Pearson of the League of Women Voters, who was instrumental in involving the League in the workshop program.

Ms. Monoian called attention to the Information Packets given to each of the members. It contains the outline Agenda, a letter from Warren Bishop, Chair, review of the Environmental Assessment, and some workshop material to be used at the meetings. Also contained in the Packets were the Fact Sheets on various issues, copies of the two Newsletters, and a list of some of the technical resource documents available on the subject of high-level nuclear waste. She said each registrant at the workshops will receive one of the Packets, and will have the option to be added to the mailing list for future information and Newsletters.

Ann Croman reported on the publicity for the workshops. She said the mailing list had grown to over 4,000, and each person had been sent an announcement of the workshops. The entire Washington State media had also been sent this announcement. Each newspaper in the city where the workshop will be held, plus the surrounding newspapers, have been contacted and have received the Information Packet with a public service announcement regarding the workshop. She said they had also placed reminder phone calls to the papers. A networking program was established in the ten major cities across the state, with calls to City Councils, major interest groups, which in turn have called others.

Marta Wilder reviewed the Agenda for the workshops, as follows:

3:00 p.m. Media Briefing with Warren Bishop and David Stevens
(Open to the Public)

This will consist of background information for the media and a description of the workshop.

6:30 p.m. Registration will begin with the assistance of
League members

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7:00 p.m. The League Moderator will introduce Warren Bishop, who will give a brief introduction of the state program and the purpose of the workshop.

The slide show, moderated by David Stevens, will follow.

Dr. William Brewer will discuss some of the technical issues identified in the draft EA with the assistance of Louise Dressen of Envirosphere.

A question and answer period will follow, moderated by a League member.

The League member will direct the attendees to the individual discussion groups in separate rooms, which will be color coded to correspond with the colored dot on the Information Packets. The League will facilitate each working discussion group, with assistance of a simple questionnaire.

9:30 p.m. Attendees will return to the main area where Warren Bishop will invite written comments to be sent, should there be further questions unanswered,

10:00 p.m. Adjourn.

Ms. Wilder said the small group discussions will probably generate public concerns as well as some technical questions. For this reason, Dr. Brewer and other staff, as well as staff from Envirosphere, will be available to assist the facilitator as resource persons. She added they learned from the Seattle Workshop that it should be emphasized these meetings were only the beginning, and not the last opportunity for public comment.

In response to questions concerning the recording and documentation of the concerns, Ms. Wilder asked Ann Croman of Envirosphere to discuss this phase. Ms. Croman said in each breakout room there will be easels with newsprint, which each facilitator will use to record questions and concerns. Also in the Information Packets will be a sheet to write key concerns and comments, as well as an evaluation form. The League facilitator will be asked to fill out a follow-up report. Ms. Wilder added that the day after each workshop this material will be incorporated into a summary.

Mr. Bishop asked if they anticipated television coverage at these workshops, and Ms. Wilder said they probably would be in Seattle and Kennewick. Both Ms. Croman and Ms. Wilder felt there would be good press coverage as public interest seems to be increasing.

Ms. Monoian requested Council members take extra Information Packets for distribution in key areas of their home districts.

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Mr. Worthington suggested introducing any members of the Board or Council who happened to be in attendance at the workshops to give the local citizens a contact point. Ms. Monoian added that since time constraints limited the EA workshops to only four cities, she hoped the future would see more workshops on pertinent subjects in more cities around the state. Mr. Worthington added he thought there should be emphasis on the fact that these are workshops, and not just forums to express objections, which he felt the public who had contacted him believed.

Mr. Bishop invited Nancy Pearson of the League of Women Voters to participate in the discussion. Ms. Pearson asked how questions would be answered about the C&C Agreement, should they occur. Mr. Bishop responded it would have to be answered in a general way in that the Agreement is now being deferred. It is not currently before the group, and he preferred the workshops not get into a discussion of the C&C Agreement. He said the intent could be described, but not the elements and the differences of opinion regarding them. He thought it should be emphasized that that Agreement will have a separate set of workshops at the time it is ready for discussion.

Ms. Pearson asked if a poster or chart showing the timeline for the whole repository process were planned. She was assured that was available.

Ms. Monoian inserted the Council members were urged to attend any of the workshops, whether in their area or not. She said their attendance at any or all of them would be most welcome.

In response to Mr. Bishop's inquiry as to the distribution of the Information Packets, Marta Wilder said they had been mailed to the entire media in the state and to the League groups who will be facilitating the meeting, but they were not mailed to the general mailing list. She said they were not planning to send it to the Newsletter mailing list at this point. They would be available upon request, and would be widely distributed at the workshops. Mr. Bishop said he considered the Fact Sheets an important element of the public information program, and he thought it should be determined if a wider distribution should be made. Marta Wilder said cost and logistics were part of the reason for not distributing them to the mailing list. Ms. Monoian suggested sending the Fact Sheets to the "maximum interest" category gleaned from the Newsletter response, which coded in the computer. Mr. Bishop suggested the entire Newsletter list should be covered.

February Newsletter Update

Marta Wilder said the February/March Newsletter should be distributed by February 19. She said it basically covers the Environmental Assessment, issue by issue, with interviews with Warren Bishop, Anita Monoian, and two Board members. It should be available for the first workshop.

Ms. Monoian added that the staff and Envirosphere had put together some visuals, such as the Timeline Chart, some maps, symbols regarding issues, some photos of basalt, and a poster showing fuel cycles.

Dr. Finnigan questioned the inclusion of the phrase "Review of High-Level Nuclear Waste Program" in the Agenda title. He thought that was too inclusive when the workshops are being held to discuss only the Environmental Assessment. Mr. Bishop thought this phrase should be deleted.

Dry-Run Slide Show

Mr. Stevens moderated the 15-minute slide show that had been put together by Envirosphere and staff to give an overview of the state program and why it is the state program has been established. It will be used for community groups, schools, or any other appropriate group, as well as each session of the workshops. Following the presentation several constructive suggestions for improvement were made and noted by staff.

Mr. Bishop inquired if the Board were contracting with Ecology for the speakers and audio equipment for the workshops, and was advised a subcontract had been made with Bill Newton for all of the equipment necessary at the workshops, such as the sound system, projector, etc.

Further comments and suggestions on the slide show were made by Nancy Pearson of the League of Women Voters, Tom Hunt, Andrew Gray, and David Tarnas from the audience.

EA Issues Review Update

Dr. Brewer reported that at the last working session of the Board the first cut evaluation in the form of 158 comments were received from Envirosphere. He said this list of comments was compiled from comments from numerous other people who had reviewed the EA, or at least the parts in their specialty area. Dr. Brewer said an organization known as the Health and Energy Institute had released, on February 13th, a report which questions some aspects of rock safety, particularly, and other technical issues. This report references a paper by Dr. Donald White, and is receiving a lot of press. He said he received the key documents this morning and will assess them. He emphasized the review by the Office and Envirosphere is just beginning, and evaluations will be prepared without being swayed in either direction by anything that appears in the national press. In response to a question by Mr. Bishop, Dr. Brewer said the report was written by Dr. White of Menlo Park, California, a very eminent authority, an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow in the Geological Society of America, Penrose medalist for the National Academy of Sciences in 1983. However, he said, the report was never published until now. In it Dr. White says there are favorable and unfavorable

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aspects, particularly in the area of geochemistry and groundwater transport. He also comments about the possibility of rockbursts, which were discussed at the last working session of the Board. He said Dr. White's overall judgment was negative, and is something that will be very much in the public eye.

Mr. Bishop said the Council would be kept abreast of the EA review process and updates would be furnished to them.

Program Matters

Mr. Stevens said the Board would be approached this afternoon with an amendment to the grant to allow additional resources in light of the recommendation of Hanford, although that formal announcement will not be made for several months. The request would include additional staff in the public involvement area, and an on-site representative at Hanford noting that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has had an on-site representative in the area for about a year.

Also planned are some technical publications on technical issues which Dr. Brewer has already begun to do. These will augment the Fact Sheets now contained in the packets. On the policy side, Mr. Stevens reported he attended a meeting of the Western Interstate Energy Board on transportation issues. They have established a committee devoted to the problems of corridor states which will look at these problems plus those of the host states. They are preparing a report, and the Department of Energy is writing some issue papers of their own, and when these become available they will be distributed to the Council.

Concerning the review schedule for the Environmental Assessment, Mr. Stevens said the state has issued a formal request from the Governor who sent a letter last week asking for an extension of time to June 1. He asked that the formal review process be opened up and the states be granted additional time. No formal response has been received to date. Mr. Stevens said in conversations with the Department he got the feeling they may proceed with the existing schedule, but recognize there may be some comment coming later. He said he did not know how this would affect the potential legal position. Both the Office and the consultant feel that an additional 60 days for the preparation of final formal comments are really a necessity.

There being no other business or comments from the public, Mr. Bishop invited the members of the Council to attend the Board meeting that afternoon.

Mr. Bishop, together with Anita Monoian, urged the members of the Council to attend all of the workshops they can possibly attend. He said they would be officially authorized to be there, which meant they would receive financial assistance.

The meeting was adjourned.