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BOOTH GARDNER
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Aug. 1, 1985

OLYMPIA -- Cooperative efforts by Washington and Oregon to study the potential impact of siting a high-level nuclear waste repository at Hanford will provide a more thorough review and make better use of limited resources, Gov. Booth Gardner said today.

On July 25, officials with Washington's Nuclear Waste Board and Oregon's Department of Energy agreed to a contract under which Washington would provide Oregon \$20,800 in funds received from the U.S. Department of Energy to help study the potential effects of siting the repository at Hanford. USDOE has agreed to the concept, and is expected to act on the specific contract within two weeks, Gardner said.

Gardner told a Congressional subcommittee in Washington D.C. today that he hopes USDOE's tentative agreement is an indication that the federal agency is now more willing to recognize states' legitimate concerns about nuclear waste.

Since 1983, the Washington Nuclear Waste Board has been receiving federal funds to study the impacts of siting the high-level repository at Hanford.

"Oregon has shown official concern about nuclear activities at Hanford since the early 1960s, when its Health Division began monitoring the Columbia River for radioactive releases," Gardner said. "In 1983, Gov. Vic Atiyeh asked for funds to study the impacts of siting a repository at Hanford, but was turned down by USDOE.

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"Oregon officials asked numerous times in 1984 and were turned down each time. This January, Vic and I agreed to a joint review of the repository siting program. Since this is a federal program, we think it's appropriate that Oregon receive some federal funding to cover costs associated with the review."

The joint research could include the affects the repository could have on the Columbia River, and potential problems associated with transporting nuclear wastes through the two states.

In December, USDOE named the Hanford Reservation as one of three sites that may be chosen to site the nation's first high-level nuclear waste repository. Oregon and Washington will be affected by whatever decision is reached, even if Hanford is not the final choice for the repository, Gardner said.

"With the Trojan nuclear plant in Oregon, plus WPPSS No. 2 operating here and the tons of waste in temporary storage at Hanford, there will be nuclear wastes shipped through both of our states, even if it's to somewhere else in the country," Gardner said.

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