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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY (M, 623-SS)

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MINUTES OF NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

June 19, 1987

9:00 a.m.

EFSEC Hearings Room
Rowesix, Building 1
4224 Sixth Avenue Southeast
Lacey, Washington 98504

Council Members Present:

- Warren A. Bishop, Chair
- Pam Behring
- Phyllis Clausen
- Nancy Hovis
- Dr. Estella Leopold
- Valoria Loveland
- Sam Reed
- Robert Rose
- Betty Shreve
- Jim Worthington

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

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 14 and May 15 meetings be approved. Phyllis Clausen noted an omission to the May 15 Council minutes. Page 1, paragraph 4 should be changed to read: "Phyllis Clausen stated that there are three governmental entities taking part in the study: Governmental Conference, Mid-Columbia Consortium and Intergovernmental Resource Center. She also verified for the record that (1) all governmental entities which contract with Washington State to do socioeconomic studies will have equal status, and (2) prior to the studies, no pre-judgment has been made that would assume a hierarchy of values regarding socioeconomic effects. She added that the active participation of Washington State citizens will be sought out."

Nancy Hovis also offered a correction to the May 15 minutes on page 2, right-hand column, second full paragraph: "Mr. Russell" should be corrected to read "Mr. Jim."

The minutes were approved as corrected.

A letter from Mr. Bishop to Mrs. Harry Batson and family was distributed which expresses the Council's deepest regrets concerning the recent death of Mr. Batson.

Mr. Bishop pointed out that Governor Gardner is in the process of reviewing the membership of the Council. He reminded the members that they remain on the Council until their successors are appointed.

Significant Events

Terry Husseman reported that the U.S. Department of Energy has issued its final draft of the amended Mission Plan and has sent one copy. Fifty copies have been requested; a copy will be mailed to each member of the Board and Council. In summary, the basic structure of the draft amended Mission Plan remains intact. The main changes to the Mission Plan are to extend the first-round repository schedule

to 2003, reaffirm the commitment to the MRS in Tennessee, and indefinitely postpone the second round process. USDOE was partially responsive to Washington State comments regarding the issue of premature drilling of the exploratory shaft. The final draft says the schedule for the start of the Hanford shaft is the spring of 1989. However, there is an additional sentence that states USDOE is considering whether or not it could drill the shaft down to the basalt. If, after consultation with NRC and states and tribes, USDOE determines that a shaft could be drilled to the basalt without impacting the rest of the studies it will do so in fiscal year 1988.

The Office of Nuclear Waste Management will prepare a memo describing any changes of interest, but the major points of the document have remained the same.

The final amended Mission Plan has been presented to Congress. USDOE has stated that unless Congress takes affirmative action in support of the Mission Plan amendment, USDOE will restart the second round in October of this year, at an additional cost of approximately \$60 million during fiscal year 1988.

Mr. Husseman also called attention to a newspaper article reporting that the Energy Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee recommended and approved a \$500 million budget for the waste program next year. There is language in the appropriation that says USDOE cannot start shafts at any of the sites during fiscal year 1988, and there is no funding for the second round. This language supports the position of the Board, Council, legislature and governor in that it calls for a total halt to site-specific activities.

Office of Radiation Protection Budget

Following a Council recommendation, the Board sent a letter to the legislature encouraging it to include general fund monies for the Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Radiation Protection, Environmental Monitoring Program.

The legislature did not provide sufficient funding for that program.

Terry Strong, Chief of the Office of Radiation Protection, reviewed the history of the environmental monitoring program and its funding as approved by the legislature. He reported that the legislature, in 1985, authorized an extensive environmental monitoring program. The intent was to place emphasis on evaluation and monitoring on the Hanford Reservation, providing a comprehensive program which looked beyond the specific repository site. At the same time, the legislature removed all state general fund monies to support the department's \$2.1 million budget for programs providing low-level radioactive waste surveillance, environmental radiation monitoring, and administrative support. Those monies were replaced with fee revenue generated from surveillance activities of low-level radioactive waste. The volume of low-level radioactive waste began to fall and, currently, projected surveillance fee revenue for the 87-89 biennium is \$620,000. There are funds available for only six of the 21.6 positions that were approved by the legislature. Terry Strong explained how the priorities of the Office of Radiation Protection have been set:

One position for monitoring and evaluating indoor radon.

Three positions for surveillance of low-level radioactive waste disposal, but no resident, full-time inspectors at the disposal site. This will mean spot-check inspections and concentration on license compliance.

Two positions in administrative support: Office Chief and Secretary 2.

The personnel not funded may stay for several months in other departments, but will eventually be lost unless additional sources of funding can be found.

Mr. Strong also listed the programs the department will eliminate. (See attached

memo dated June 18, 1987, for further detail.)

Mr. Bishop asked how much money would be needed to sustain operations until a special session of the legislature could be called.

Mr. Strong stated that the amount requested to fund the programs being cut was \$580,000 for the biennium; \$300,000 for one year; or, if there was an emergency appropriation which would make money available as soon as the legislature acted, something less than \$300,000.

Mr. Bishop asked if there could be a combined effort by the DSHS and the Governor's Emergency Fund to carry the program until the legislature could act on this apparent oversight.

According to Mr. Strong, everything that can be done internally is being done, but it would take pressure from the Council and the Board through key legislators and the Governor, as an instruction to Mr. Sugarman, Secretary of DSHS, that these programs should not be stopped.

Ms. Clausen suggested that Council members should approach their individual legislators, explaining the importance of the functions that have been lost and stressing the fact that resolution is needed.

Mr. Bishop asked if this issue had been reviewed by the Environmental Monitoring Committee. Mr. Strong reported that the committee had not meet since these recent developments, but are scheduled to meet in July. Mr. Bishop felt that the Nuclear Waste Board must do something about the funding immediately. He asked Terry Strong to meet with staff to the NWAC to prepare a proposal that could be sent to the Board. The staff would report back to the Council later during this meeting for action.

Mr. Husseman questioned Mr. Strong concerning the US Ecology low-level disposal site. The Office of Nuclear Waste Management acts as landlord and the Radiation

Protection Office regulates operation and disposal at that site. He asked what effect this cut in surveillance will have at the site. Mr. Strong explained that the site operator has been authorized to act in our stead, thus creating a self regulating industry. He said that basically the department has no control and there will be no suspensions for violating the disposal regulations because it cannot go to court with second hand information. There will be spot check inspections and intensive periodic reviews of license conditions, but there is a lack of presence. Regarding support to the State Patrol vehicle inspection service, the potential is there for the State Patrol to close their weigh stations at Plymouth and Spokane when short staffed and the department is unable to assist. Mr. Husseman stated that the surveillance program calls for a resident, full-time inspector to inspect every truck-load before it goes into the disposal site. He asked if the cut-back meant there would be no inspector at the disposal site at any time, except for spot checks. Mr. Strong replied that would be the case.

Concern was expressed by several Council members regarding the importance of getting this issue before the public, particularly the lack of radon monitoring throughout the state.

Sam Reed asked Mr. Strong if the present fee structure at the low-level site provides sufficient money to fund all surveillance and monitoring activities related to that site. Mr. Strong said, at this point, yes; however, if the volume continues to drop that may not be true. Mr. Reed suggested that fees generated from low-level waste disposal should pay for only the costs of regulating that site, and that the other activities should be funded by the general fund. Jim Worthington reiterated Sam Reed's position, and further proposed that the Council recommend that general fund revenue be used to fund this program and not leave it to generate fees from one segment of the industry.

BWIP Related Issues

Terry Husseman reported that there are five issues for discussion resulting from our recent dealings with BWIP related to the repository, funding, and consultation issues.

First, the pre-exploratory shaft hydrology testing program is scheduled to start this summer. The state of Washington has requested an opportunity for consultation and input on these plans before the continuation of testing. He noted the consultation point has been added, but it is after the bulk of the work has been done. John Anttonen (USDOE) has agreed to provide the study plans for the pre-exploratory shaft testing program at the same time that BWIP receives them so the states and tribes can have the opportunity for review and comment. A comment period has not yet been established.

Estella Leopold referenced her recent memo to Warren Bishop suggesting there should be an enlarged debate between the state, Indian tribes, NRC, USGS, and USDOE establishing where USDOE is in its hydrology study plan. Mr. Husseman noted that there had been a presentation on that subject at the Joint Board and Council meeting in May. He suggested that further distribution of that information be accomplished through a special edition of the newsletter.

The second and third related issues concern contracts with local governments. Requests for funding have been submitted to the USDOE for Clark and Cowlitz County local government groups and the Mid-Columbia Consortium. Clark and Cowlitz Counties were turned down by USDOE because they "... have not demonstrated a need to involve the Clark and Cowlitz County local government groups in a socioeconomic impact study. It's redundant with what our contractor is going to be doing, . . .". The Office of Nuclear Waste Management disagrees strongly with that position and will meet next Friday with USDOE to discuss the issue. Approximately one-half of the Mid-Columbia funds requested were

approved, this is also on the agenda for Friday's meeting.

The fourth issue involves USDOE refusing to fund the Washington State Department of Revenue efforts to determine payment equivalent to taxes (PETT). USDOE rationale is that those services are a part of Department of Revenue's ordinary services and should not be funded out of the Nuclear Waste Fund. A letter from Don Taylor (Revenue Department) to the Socioeconomic Committee, dated June 12, 1987, outlines the department's position on this issue. Payments equivalent to taxes is an important part of the NWPA and requires extensive effort by the state in determining USDOE tax liability. This issue will also be addressed in next Friday's meeting with USDOE.

Mr. Husseman said that issue five is related to iodine documents the state has been requesting for several months. John Deichman, Rockwell, who heads the task force looking into the iodine 129 issue, agreed at the April Board meeting to provide the documents gathered by the task force, but has shipped only eleven documents after numerous delays. Other documents of interest include a briefing paper entitled "Iodine 129 in Unconfined Aquifer Near the Purex Crib"; a memo from Lee Olson to the Rockwell general manager, "Instructions to BWIP for Clarification of the Iodine 129 Issue"; a letter dated June 3, 1985, "Iodine 129 in the Unconfined Hanford Groundwater;" and another one in May 1985, "Significance of Confined Aquifer I-129 Data to BWIP, A Rockwell-BWIP Position". Mr. Husseman stated that the state has a right to these documents and it should not be necessary to file a Freedom of Information Act request to get documents that are available under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Hydrology Program -- Don Provost of the Office of Nuclear Waste Management commented that the hydrology program is not resolved. The details of the hydrology program will probably not be available until the site characterization plan is finished.

Procedure for Unsolicited Proposals

Unsolicited Proposal Review Committee -- A new Council committee has been formed to be a clearinghouse for all unsolicited proposals. The committee is chaired by Nancy Hovis; members include Jim Worthington and Phyllis Clausen. The initial meeting was held on Thursday, June 18. Proposed guidelines dated June 19, 1987, and a suggested flow chart were presented for discussion and action. Discussion centered on the definition of "unsolicited proposals", office staff involvement, whether or not the committee should provide a screening function, and the amount of time allowed before a proposal would be reviewed and referred to the appropriate committee.

Sam Reed proposed that office staff responsible for screening and upgrading of the proposals report to the Council each meeting concerning proposals received and the status of those proposals. Ms. Hovis requested that the staff person report to the committee and the committee would include that report in its monthly committee report. It was moved and seconded that the proposed guidelines be adopted with the suggested changes. The motion carried. It was also recommended that the adopted guidelines be taken to the Board and recommended for adoption by the Board.

Public comment was requested on this matter, but no comment was made.

Review of Proposals Received--It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Council purchase copies of Nuclear Waste in Washington State published by the League of Women Voters. Phyllis Clausen proposed that an additional League publication, "Taking Nuclear Issues to the Public Square," be purchased and made available along with the first publication. Betty Shreve suggested that a rubber stamp with the office's toll-free number be purchased, and that materials distributed be stamped. The motion was approved with the proposed addendum.

Proposed Documentary--Nancy Hovis reported that the committee reviewed a proposal by a Mr. Schendel to create a documentary. The committee determined that the proposal appears to duplicate efforts already being done by present contractors. Ms. Hovis requested Council approval to write Mr. Schendel explaining that this would be a duplicative effort and identifying the contractor in charge of that documentary. There was no objection to this course of action.

The next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday, July 16, at 10:00 a.m. The location has not yet been determined, but the Council will receive a memo announcing the committee meeting each month.

Committee Reports

Board Environmental Monitoring Committee

Sam Reed reported that the Quality Assurance Task Force has met and is making progress.

Transportation

Phyllis Clausen reported that the Transportation Committee and the Oregon Department of Energy Hanford Advisory Committee have not met since the last Council meeting. The next Transportation Committee meeting is Tuesday, June 23, at 1 p.m. in the EFSEC Hearings Room.

Board Socioeconomic Committee

The Socioeconomic Committee met on Friday, June 12. Mr. Bishop stated that, with the consent of the Council, periodic, in-depth reports from the Socioeconomic Committee will be presented as needed and as the contractor reaches certain stages in the program. There were no objections.

Board Defense Waste Committee

Mr. Husseman reported the scheduled date for the USDOE responses to state comments on the Draft Defense Waste EIS will be late

August or early September of this year. USDOE will make a presentation and answer questions from the Board and Council probably in October. In July or August an update of activities between the technical staffs of Washington, Oregon, the Indian tribes, USDOE, and Westinghouse is being planned.

Council Local Government Committee

Valoria Loveland reported that she hosted a meeting of all elected county auditors and treasurers in Pasco last week. They took a tour of the BWIP project and had positive comments and some excellent questions.

Mr. Bishop reported that he and three office staff were in Yakima for the Association of Washington Cities convention. He said that 75 to 80 people from the cities toured Hanford. The Association of Washington Counties conference in Richland will be held next week and will be attended by office staff.

Staff Additions

Mr. Husseman reported that the Office of Nuclear Waste Management has hired Max Power as Policy and Issues Manager. Mr. Power previously worked for the Institute for Public Policy.

Pat Tangora has been hired as the Transportation Specialist. Ms. Tangora has been working on transportation issues, on a part-time basis, for the Washington State Energy Office. In mid-July, she will be working full-time in the Office of Nuclear Waste Management, designing a 2-3 year plan for an aggressive state transportation program.

The public involvement manager selection is still in process.

Ms. Wilder introduced the interns who are working in the office this summer: Don Heyrich, interning with the public involvement program, and Rindy McKee, interning with the reference center.

Historical Documents Review Committee

Mr. Husseman reported that draft minutes of the May 18 Historical Document Review Committee had been mailed to the Council, along with a letter from Dr. Royston Filby giving his reasons for resigning from the committee. Also mailed were letters from Warren Bishop transmitting Dr. Filby's resignation to the Governors of Washington and Oregon, as requested by Dr. Filby.

Mr. Husseman reviewed the history and purpose of this committee in order to explain its position. The committee was formed, at the request of the governors of Washington and Oregon, as a regional group to review the 19,000 pages of documents regarding radionuclide releases. At the time USDOE released those documents it invited the states to review the documents to satisfy any concerns regarding environmental or health impacts from releases of radionuclides in and around the Hanford Reservation. The Board and Council unanimously recommended there should be (1) a dose reconstruction study related to the releases of radionuclides from the Hanford operations, and (2) community health studies. Initially the plan of the committee was to identify the studies necessary, obtain funding from USDOE, and then conduct independent studies. At the same time, due to pending litigation, USDOE stated it would conduct the dose reconstruction study and requested the committee act as an advisory group to lend credibility to the study. The committee formed a negotiating team to establish a structure for a joint dose reconstruction study. Negotiations took place over several months and an agreeable structure for a joint dose reconstruction study was reached; however, the position of the negotiating team remained firm that the agreement on the dose reconstruction study was conditioned on commitment from USDOE to fund reasonable and feasible independent community health studies.

Ongoing negotiations resulted in the USDOE's decision to go forward with the dose reconstruction study, but not to commit to funding reasonable and feasible

health studies. The final position presented for a vote at the last committee meeting was (1) to go immediately forward with the joint dose reconstruction study, and (2) USDOE commitment to fund all health studies determined to be reasonable and feasible to the extent they are not limited by dose reconstruction. This motion was passed eight to one and USDOE was notified. Following this action, Dr. Filby resigned from the committee.

Governor Gardner received copies of correspondence from Michael Lawrence, Manager, Richland Operations Office, Department of Energy, to Warren Bishop regarding this issue. Governor Gardner responded to Mr. Lawrence stating that he is in support of the Historical Documents Review Committee's position.

Mr. Bishop introduced Curtis Eschels, who has been designated a member of the Historic Documents Review Committee from the Board. Mr. Eschels expressed his belief that the committee should be able to negotiate protocol and obtain a commitment that allows all parties involved to move forward in a way that serves the interests of USDOE and the states and tribes. Mr. Eschels, Special Assistant for Policy to Governor Gardner, stated that the governor considers this a high priority issues, recognizes its importance and wants it to move forward.

Further discussion centered around the current status of the dose reconstruction and health studies and the involvement, position and concerns of the state regarding those studies.

Mr. Bishop reported that, in addition to Curt Eschels appointment to the HHDRRC, Terry Strong will be the new DSHS Board designee, replacing former Board designee Nancy Kirner. Mr. Bishop directed staff to draft letters recording these designations officially.

Request for Public Comment on Unsolicited Proposals Procedure

Mr. Bishop called for public comment or questions regarding the procedure for unsolicited proposals. No comments were offered. Mr. Bishop directed Marta Wilder, office staff, to incorporate changes agreed to previously, and to distribute that document to the Board for its consideration/approval at its next regular meeting.

Site Characterization

Mr. Husseman reported on the status of the site characterization process. Efforts are continuing in Congress to bring the process to a halt. Washington State's major technical concerns regarding site characterization at the Hanford site are being conveyed to the public through a feature article in the June newsletter. Last week, Don Provost, Technical Performance Assessment Manager, testified to the National Regulatory Commission on some of the state's technical concerns. On July 14 and 15 the states and tribes will have an opportunity to present technical concerns to the National Academy of Sciences Board (NAS). NAS's role in the site characterization process will involve overseeing and reviewing portions of USDOE's work. A first draft of a site characterization issues focus paper has been prepared and will be completed in the very near future.

Preview of NAS Presentation

Don Provost explained that the presentation to NAS would follow the issues outlined in the draft site characterization focus paper. The state concept consists of identifying fatal flaws and critical issues related to site characterization early in the process.

He reported that the staff of NRC has presented a proposal to the Commission almost identical to the state's position. The Commission has voiced an interest in working with the state on these important issues, and has requested a presentation after completion of our presentation to NAS.

Following is a review and update of the issues:

Groundwater Travel Time -- Dr. Brewer reported that the hydrologic testing is very active. The states and tribes, NRC and USGS are outlining work for the next several years. One specific issue for new work is the testing that is commencing now and will run for one to two years. This testing will be critical to recalculation of groundwater travel time. The calculation of 22,000 years has been challenged by the NRC and others. The recalculation of groundwater travel time is critical to the entire repository program.

Premature Drilling of Exploratory Shaft --

Mr. Provost reported that, near the end of the hydrology program, USDOE has proposed the drilling of exploratory shafts down to the basalts. USDOE is not going through the processes; the initial process promised to the states and NRC earlier was to complete one step, followed by consultation and review, then proceed to the next step. The concern is that the hydrology program should be completed before exploratory shafts are begun. The Hydrology Task Group will meet to examine this issue and to determine, strictly from a technical point, if perishable data would be affected by the premature shaft drilling. Suggested approaches will be submitted to USDOE in July.

Regional Geologic Features -- Dr. Brewer reported that the state and USDOE disagree on the amount of faulting at and around the Hanford site. He said if open and active faults exist near the repository horizon then mathematical modeling is not appropriate; rather, the faults should be characterized because they would be the groundwater pathways. Not all faults are active pathways, some faults actually inhibit the flow of groundwater, but this cannot be known until they are actually drilled. University of Washington seismic information suggests that there is active faulting within 3-4 miles of the repository location.

He added that he plans to work with the Department of Natural Resources in developing technical reports on these issues. The Council may wish to take the role of translating these reports in order to involve the public in the technical issues. He concluded that if Hanford fails as a repository site, it will be because of these technical issues.

Valoria Loveland requested a layout of the seismic activity, magnitude of the movement, and the specific area where this has been recorded. Mr. Provost responded that the information has just been received that will make it possible to develop overlays of the controlled area study zone (CASZ). The overlays that will be developed with this information will show the relationship between geologic features and microearthquakes. This relationship has been one area of disagreement with USDOE.

Phyllis Clausen asked if the final data on the SLAR study had been received. Dr. Brewer explained there has been a delay in the production of the maps. The project officer of USGS Headquarters has assured us that some data will be available for the July 15 presentation.

Estella Leopold questioned whether the vertical flow component has been calculated by USDOE. Dr. Brewer replied that had been done only in a very few places and that quality control was not good at the time it was done. That work was conducted and published by USDOE in the 1982 Site Characterization Report, and USGS determined that USDOE had failed in its mission in regard to hydrology. Measuring of the vertical flow component is a key step in hydrology, but other steps must be completed prior to it.

Miner Safety -- Dr. Brewer addressed the issue of miner safety. He said the U.S. Bureau of Mines is being called in by USDOE to assist in mine design. There is general recognition at this time that a large measure of methane will be present in a repository. Methane could asphyxiate miners or could explode in some concentrations. The mines will be hot with high humidity,

consequently, miner productivity will be low. Hazards from rock sloughing or rock-burst will create additional miner safety problems, adding to costs and difficulties.

Iodine -- Mr. Provost reported that there are indications that Iodine 129 has reached the deeper aquifers in a very short time, raising the question of "how did it get down there so quickly?". It could be a question of geologic features or it is possible some of the earlier deep wells were not constructed under the same standards of today. This deep contamination is a critical issue in the early stages of the review.

The major technical issues that have been presented today, the site characterization focus paper, early discussion with the Board and Council, and, if requested, meetings on specific issues will provide a general understanding of the site characterization issues. After the issuance of the Site Characterization Plan, scheduled for October, USDOE is planning workshops on the Plan. The state also plans to hold workshops to explain the issues. Later in the process there would be an opportunity for the Board, Council, and individual citizens to present testimony to USDOE.

In regard to designing construction of the wells to maintain seals between various strata, Sam Reed asked if anyone had looked at that issue in a sizable sample over a long period of time in order to estimate longevity. Mr. Provost said that USDOE recently did some surveys of the USDOE sites and in the Hanford report there is a statement that any well that was installed in Hanford before 1970 could not be trusted. This is another issue that should be addressed during site characterization.

Dr. Estella Leopold reviewed the issues she addressed in her June 12, 1987, memo to Warren Bishop regarding hydrology and moved that the following statement be made by the Advisory Council to the Board:

"The Nuclear Waste Advisory Council recommends that the Nuclear Waste Advisory Board should call for a public

statement on the status of the deep hydrology studies at Hanford, including the conceptual problems in estimating travel times and the hydrologic model."

She added that the statement should be issued in advance of the pre-shaft hydrologic test scheduled for this July, but after the consultation meeting.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Approaches to High-Level Waste Disposal

Mr. Husseman presented an update report on recent Congressional activities related to high-level waste disposal; legislation introduced and possible outcomes. There are four or five proposals before Congress, none of which has gathered a major constituency at this time:

1. USDOE's position is to go forward, characterize three sites, and postpone the second round until mid-1990's. This will take Congressional action to approve the postponement of the second round, either through amendment to current law or action in the Appropriations Committee.
2. Characterize only the best site; if it does not pass characterization, proceed to the next site. The earliest proponent of that approach was Luther Carter, who testified to Congress proposing that Nevada be characterized and all other site characterization be halted. Congressman Morrison and Congresswoman Lloyd from Tennessee, through the Science and Technology Committee, put out some language in an appropriations bill that supported that approach by cutting off all funding for Texas and Washington characterization and funding only characterization in Nevada.
3. Senator Bennett Johnston Approach -- Offer enough money and maybe a

state or a tribe will volunteer a suitable site which could be characterized, stopping all other characterizations. According to USDOE Headquarters, inquiries have been received from four or five states or tribes, but no one has publicly announced they are negotiating with USDOE on this issue.

4. Short Term Approaches -- What do we do with the waste until we have a repository?

- a. Use the USDOE Monitored Retrieval System facility in Tennessee as an integrated part of the waste-management system.

A U.S. General Accounting Office report is critical of the USDOE MRS proposal. GAO states that proposal does not justify the need for an integrated MRS and indicates that the cost data are not complete.

- b. Regional MRS Approach -- Proposes a nationwide system of MRSs, rather than one MRS in Tennessee. The primary public proponent of this approach is Senator Evans, who proposes four regional MRS's. Under the Evan's approach the one in the West would be in Washington and Hanford would be the likely contender.
- c. No MRS's. The technology is available at reactor sites to store the waste until such time as a repository is constructed and operating and waste can be transferred directly to the repository. U. S. Senator Adams has proposed this as the best solution. A copy of the text of a speech given by Ned R. McWherter, Governor of Tennessee, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on June 16, 1987, regarding at-reactor dry-cask storage, is included in Council notebook materials.

5. Reprocess the waste, extract the radionuclides for various uses and dispose of the remaining waste in sub-seabed disposal. Former Governor Dixie Lee Ray is a proponent of this approach, and it has been raised by others.

State Position

The state position is to stop the process and take time to answer the questions that remain unanswered, such as: "What is the most effective way to solve the short-term problem?" "Do we need one repository or do we need two?" "What do we need in a repository-selection process to ensure credibility and confidence in the final decision?" In summary, the state position is to halt the site selection process and gather a consensus of the involved parties on the question "where do we go from here?"

There is a movement in Congress, referred to as the moratorium, that is basically the same approach being proposed by the state. Senator Sasser will be introducing a bill that will call for a stop to site-specific activities and create a commission to review the program and report to Congress with recommendations. Senators involved included Senator Adams, both senators from Maine, a senator from North Carolina, and Senator Proxmire from Wisconsin. All have indicated an interest in co-sponsoring, and they are trying to expand this group as much as possible before the bill is introduced.

Similar activities are going on in the House, and Representative Swift is taking the lead there. Congressman Udall has major concerns about the program and has made the statement:

"I have about given up on the present program. There is no hope of making it work. I'm ready to go back to square one. I will work with the Northwest congressional delegation to ensure (the) process and a lot better consideration."

Congressman Udall indicated he is considering a commission bill or a negotiating

process to devise the new program. Mr. Provost reported that Congressman Udall met with Senator Johnston. According to staff of both committees, it is possible a strategy is being developed that would introduce a joint House and Senate approach.

Mr. Husseman stated that there is growing interest and support for stopping the process and restructuring the process. It appears a moratorium has a good chance of actually taking place.

This concluded Mr. Husseman's report and he presented draft Resolution 87-6 from the Washington State Nuclear Waste Board for the Council's consideration. He offered the following changes to the text before discussion began:

Paragraph two should read: WHEREAS, there is widespread agreement that a solution must be found to the nation's high-level nuclear defense waste and commercial reactor spent fuel disposal problem; and

Item #4 should become Item 2.E and should read: The panel or commission should recommend methods to provide ample funding to ensure the timely cleanup and permanent, safe disposal of Hanford's forty-year accumulation of defense wastes.

Item 3 should read: Urges Congress to bring repository site-specific activities to a halt while preserving information now being gathered until consensus is reached;

He reported that this resolution with the reported changes would be an action item before the Board later this afternoon.

Dr. Leopold moved and it was seconded that the Council support the spirit contained in the resolution on repository site selection process. Discussion of the motion included a hesitancy to set a precedent of going along with what the Board is doing without seeing

the final language. The motion was approved with two dissenting votes.

Town Meeting Report

Marta Wilder reported that town meetings were held on June 2 and 3 in Wenatchee and Moses Lake, respectively. Betty Shreve hosted the meeting in Wenatchee and Nancy Hovis hosted the Moses Lake meeting. Additional meetings are scheduled for Aberdeen on June 30 and Longview on July 1. The meetings originally scheduled for Port Angeles and Bellingham have been rescheduled. The Port Angeles meeting is now scheduled for August 6 and Bellingham for August 5. The comment forms and articles from the meetings in Wenatchee and Moses Lake were included in the package of agenda materials distributed to the Council members.

Ms. Shreve reported 62 people attended the Wenatchee meeting and she considered the time and effort excessive for that small turnout. Ms. Shreve felt that if the turnout for the other town meetings was also low, the Council may have to consider a different approach to getting this information to the public. Ms. Hovis reported the Moses Lake meeting, although drawing only 40 people, was very successful in that it took the issues to the newspapers and made those not attending the meeting aware of the state involvement in this issue.

Susan Hall of Hall & Associates reported that the press in Aberdeen is very interested in the upcoming meeting. Ms. Hall expressed the opinion that there will be long-term positive effects with the press that result from the town meetings. If there are not meetings in the future, something else needs to take its place to keep the press and other interested parties in the local communities informed and active.

Sam Reed proposed that the Council sponsor a second round of meetings. He felt that a second appearance would tell us if we have something the public is interested in. Mr. Reed confirmed the following dates:

Port Angeles, August 6, Warren Bishop hosting; Bellingham, August 5; and Aberdeen, June 30, Sam Reed hosting; and Longview, July 1, Phyllis Clausen hosting.

Additional Town Meetings

Ms. Wilder suggested that if another round of meetings is to be held in September or October, approval would be needed soon in order to begin planning. Several scheduling alternatives were suggested. The Council decided to discuss alternatives in July.

Public Involvement Update

Alice Shorett of Triangle Associates reported that the network participant notebooks for the public involvement project are completed and are being distributed. Plans call for meetings with the initial 55 participants on a one-to-one basis for orientation sessions. In all, 100 notebooks have been produced for distribution, and Ms. Shorett asked for the Council's assistance in identifying additional participants. She also stressed that, whenever possible, Council members are invited and encouraged to attend the one-on-one orientation sessions in their local areas.

Unfinished Agenda Items

Loss of Statewide Radiological Monitoring

Mr. Strong returned to the Council with a proposed resolution dealing with the funding problems of the DSHS Environmental Monitoring Program. Chairman Bishop suggested the following changes:

The term "must", used twice in the next to last paragraph, should be changed to "should".

The last paragraph should be changed to read: The Washington Nuclear Waste Advisory Council recommends to the Nuclear Waste Board that it take action directing the chair to inform the Washington State governor and the

Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services of the immediate need for resolution of this issue.

It was moved and seconded that the draft resolution be adopted with the above modifications. Discussion followed regarding the importance of radon monitoring and it was reported that an emphasis is being placed on radon monitoring and it is one of the activities that will be carried out by the remaining six staff people. The motion was unanimously approved.

Clarification

Dr. Leopold clarified her language calling for a public statement as follows:

The State of Washington and the general public have a vital interest in how DOE's current study plan based on their new hydrologic model is developing. The pre-shaft hydrology test and drilling to begin at DC 24 on July 30, 1987, is a critical step in the program because the withdrawal of very large quantities of groundwater (refer to Nuclear Waste Update current issue) will have severe effects on the groundwater system. The Nuclear Waste Advisory Council requests that the Board call for a public statement by the interagency hydrologic working group on the status of the deep hydrologic studies at Hanford to be made before the drilling begins but after the consultation meeting of July 16. The NRC,

the states, Indian tribes and especially USGS should evaluate the plan including the conceptual problems in estimating travel times and the hydrologic model.

With the consent of the Council, the total language above was included in the original motion and approved as part of that motion.

Public Comment

Marie Harris of Bacon Hunt noted that public involvement, which is part of the reason for the formation of the Council, was not given sufficient time at this meeting. She suggested that public involvement be moved further up on the agenda so that it will not be rushed due to time constraints. She also suggested that the contractors of the Council be used in an effort to find out what type of public involvement could be best utilized.

Several solutions to this ongoing problem were discussed, including longer meetings, and postponing Mr. Husseman's briefing and incorporating it into a joint Council/Board briefing at the beginning of the afternoon Board meeting. It was agreed to move public involvement up on the agenda for the July meeting and see how this works.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Olympia, Washington 98504-0095

June 18, 1987

Warren Bishop, Chairman
Nuclear Waste Board
Department of Ecology
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Warren:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you in some detail of how the department will respond to budget cuts in three key program areas. In its 1987 Session, the legislature first omitted, then restored, and finally specifically removed all state general fund appropriation to support the department's programs for low-level radioactive waste surveillance, environmental radiation monitoring, and technical and administrative support.

Projected surveillance fee revenue for the 87-89 biennium is \$620,000 which, if realized, will support only six of the 21.6 positions originally intended for these activities. Using potential public health impacts as my guide, here are the program priorities I have tentatively established for these six positions .

- Monitor and evaluate the indoor radon situation. Indoor radon represents a significant source of radiation exposure, and in terms of potential public health impact is the most important of the threatened programs. It represents as much as two times the human exposure anticipated from the healing arts use of radiation. (1 position/\$52,556 per year)
- Surveillance of low-level radioactive waste disposal. There is today very little risk to the public health as a result of the day-to-day disposal of low-level radioactive waste. We believe this is due to our previous intensive program of surveillance. However, the potential long-term effects of inappropriately disposing of this material are high. The reduced program will have no resident, full-time inspectors at the disposal site. Using 1.5 technical, field positions, we will do spot check inspections and concentrate on license compliance issues resulting from the recently issued amended license. (3 positions/\$154,050 per year)

- In the administrative support area I propose to save the Office Chief and the Secretary 2 positions. There are, after all, 50 positions in Radiation Protection, with the overall responsibility for management of all radiation programs residing at this level. (2 positions/\$104,394 per year)

Here is a list of the programs the department will eliminate. The existing positions and the program costs are also listed.

- Evaluation, analysis and maintenance of disposal data: Curies, isotopes, volumes; for determination of closure and long-term maintenance programs. (2 positions/\$33,053 per year)
- On-site inspection of disposal operations; analysis of low-level radioactive waste streams and mixed waste (hazardous and radioactive) analyses; coordinate with WDOE and NRC. (3.6 positions/\$120,315 per year)
- Enforcement of radioactive air emission standards at Hanford and other radiation use locations. (0.5 position/\$25,278 per year)
- Environmental monitoring of Hanford defense facilities for radiation emissions. (2.5 positions/\$111,390 per year)
- Administration and technical support for the Office (the Radiation Safety Officer for our own radioactive materials license, coordinated development of rules and regulations, minimum funding for radiation emergencies, i.e., Chernobyl, etc.). (1.5 FTEs/\$75,296 per year)
- Evaluation of requests for variances to license conditions controlling the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. (2 FTEs/\$84,913)
- Follow-up of the Hanford Health Effects Panel recommendations. (0.5 FTE/\$26,278 per year)
- Statewide environmental radiation monitoring. (1.5 FTEs/\$78,834 per year)
- Environmental radiation monitoring around nuclear Navy installations. (0.5 FTE/\$26,278 per year)
- Office-wide word processing/receptionist services. (1.5 FTEs/\$65,295 per year)

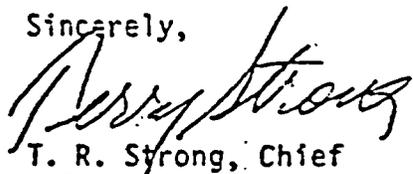
Warren Bishop
June 18, 1987
Page 3

-- We will no longer support the Washington State Patrol in its rad waste vehicle surveillance program. (\$37,106)

Priorities for the six preserved positions have not been set in concrete. Six positions attempting to do what was envisioned for 21.6 positions means drastic readjustments across the board. The general areas of concern have been identified, but the specifics, depending on changing needs, may change on a day-to-day basis.

I sincerely hope you and the Nuclear Waste Board will discuss these issues and share your evaluation of the situation with me and the department.

Sincerely,



T. R. Strong, Chief
Office of Radiation Protection

cc: Bob Rolfs

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION TO THE
NUCLEAR WASTE BOARD**

The state of Washington and the general public have a vital interest in how DOE's current study plan, based on their new hydrologic model, is developing. The Pre-Shaft Hydrology test and drilling (to begin at DC-24 on July 30, 1987) is a critical step in the program because the withdrawal of very large quantities of groundwater (Nuclear Waste Update, Vol. 3, No. 3, May 1987) will have severe effects on the groundwater system.

The Nuclear Waste Advisory Council requests the Board to call for a public statement by the Interagency Hydrologic Working Group on the status of the deep hydrologic studies at Hanford, to be made before the drilling begins, but after the Consultation Meeting of July 16. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the states, Indian tribes and especially United State Geological Survey should evaluate the plan, including the conceptual problems in estimating travel times and the hydrologic model.

LOSS OF STATEWIDE RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING

In 1985, the legislature established funding for a significant portion of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Office of Radiation Protection through fees based on the volumes of disposed low-level radioactive wastes. Projected low-level waste volumes for 1987 amounts to approximately one quarter of that received in 1985. Therefore, the fee revenues for the 1987-89 biennium of \$620,000 will support only 6 of 21.6 positions originally intended for low-level radioactive waste surveillance and environmental monitoring.

The loss of 15.6 positions in the Office's Low-Level Waste and Environmental Monitoring Programs will not permit the continuation of the following activities:

- Full-time on-site inspections of low-level waste disposal operations
- Environmental monitoring of Hanford defense facilities
- Environmental monitoring around nuclear Navy installations
- Radiation emergency monitoring, i.e., Chernobyl
- Trojan Nuclear Power Plant environmental monitoring
- Coordination of regulatory efforts with the Washington Department of Ecology over low-level waste disposal
- Support for the Washington State Patrol in its Radioactive Waste Vehicle Surveillance Program

The long-term solution to this funding problem can be accomplished through two efforts. First, the Governor and the Secretary of the DSHS should provide emergency funding that will allow for the continuation of the threatened monitoring activities at least until the legislature convenes again. Secondly, the legislature should change the funding mechanism from one that is dependent on disposed low-level radioactive waste volumes to the use of general fund support.

The Washington Nuclear Waste Advisory Council recommends to the Nuclear Waste Board that it direct the Chair to inform the Washington State Governor, and the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services of the immediate need for resolution of this issue.

DRAFT

WASHINGTON STATE NUCLEAR WASTE BOARD

RESOLUTION 87-6

June 17, 1987

WHEREAS, the repository site selection process is now on the verge of collapse; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread agreement that a solution must be found to the nation's high-level nuclear waste disposal problem; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread agreement that serious consideration must be given to implementing a mid-course correction to the repository program; and

WHEREAS, several proposed courses of action have been offered in good faith as the best answer to the question "where do we go from here"; and

WHEREAS, at this time there is not a consensus as to the preferred course of action; and

WHEREAS, a forum and process must be established to reach a consensus as to the preferred course of action;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Nuclear Waste Board:

1. Urges Congress to establish a forum and process designed to make a fresh search for the course of action which will now best lead us toward a solution of the nation's nuclear waste disposal problem;
2. Recommends that Congress utilize the following guidelines when establishing the forum and process:
 - a. The problem-solving forum and the process should allow for meaningful participation by all of the major interests, including: federal agencies, Indian tribes, states, local governments, environmental groups, nuclear utilities, utility regulators, and public interest groups;
 - b. The forum and process should be directed by a panel or commission composed of nationally known and respected policy-makers;

- c. The panel or commission should be required to submit a report to Congress by January 1989, with a recommendation as to the preferred course of action that will (1) lead to a timely solution of the nuclear utilities' short-term spent fuel storage problem, (2) define the elements of an equitable site selection process that will provide confidence that the search will be for a superior high-level nuclear waste repository site, and (3) ensure that selection decisions will be based on credible scientific evidence;
 - d. In seeking the preferred course of action to solve the nuclear utilities' short-term problem, the panel or commission should compare and evaluate the relative merits and shortcomings of (1) USDOE's monitored retrievable storage proposal, (2) a nationwide system of regional monitored retrievable storage facilities, and (3) at-reactor dry cask storage;
3. Urges Congress to bring repository site-specific activities to a halt while consensus is sought in answer to the question "where do we go from here";
 4. Urges Congress to develop a process which provides ample funding to ensure the timely cleanup and permanent, safe disposal of Hanford's forty year accumulation of defense wastes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Nuclear Waste Board directs the Chair to transmit this Resolution to Governor Gardner, Washington State Congressional delegation, appropriate Congressional Committees, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

**WARREN A. BISHOP, CHAIR
WASHINGTON STATE NUCLEAR WASTE BOARD**