

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

May 9, 1974

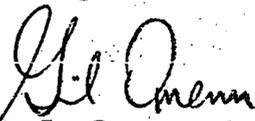
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM FOR Commissioner Doub

SUBJECT: Item from a Meeting with the Association of  
State Geologists (Full Memo Enclosed)

In the weeks since this meeting, this somewhat vaguely  
referenced complaint may have already surfaced. If  
not, one of your staff may wish to track it down through  
Regulatory.

All other action items are being pursued by me or Jim  
Kane. We expect to have an expert, probably a Geologist  
from one of the National Laboratories represent us at  
the meeting in Oregon June 9.



Gilbert S. Omenn, M. D., Ph. D.  
White House Fellow and Staff  
Assistant to the Chairman, AEC

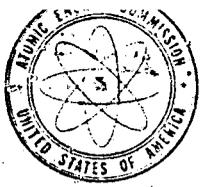
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN  
STATE GEOLOGISTS, 11:00 A.M., MARCH 27, 1974, 1717 H STREET

Present

James F. Davis, New York  
Samuel Tuthill, Iowa  
William Hambleton, Kansas  
Kenneth Weaver, Maryland  
W. L. Fisher, Texas  
Daniel N. Miller, Jr., Wyoming  
Gorman Smith, A. E. C.  
Gilbert S. Omenn, A. E. C.

Representatives of the Association of American State Geologists sought this meeting to make the A. E. C. aware of their functions, their concerns, and their potential usefulness in a variety of matters of interest to the A. E. C. The essential issue concerns geological and seismological evaluation and standards for power plant siting.

The State geologists are drawn from agencies and academic units in each of the States. They supervise some research, particularly into resource inventories. They are increasingly active as liaison presenting state views to Federal Government agencies in the geological evaluation of plant sites and waste disposal facilities. Their previously informal advisory role has been expanded in at least seven states in which statutes now require that they participate in the evaluation of power plant sites.

The New York State geologist was particularly complimentary about "Appendix A" on the grounds that the criteria were useful and that the solicited comments were fully incorporated in the revision of an early draft.

Specific Points Listed:

1. In the Midwestern region, Mr. Tuthill reflects concern that the emphasis on closed cycle cooling systems will decrease the hydrostatic head, even

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though it conserves water. He and his colleagues feel that this parameter has been ignored to the present in environmental impact statements and may lead to important long-term problems in the Western states.

2. Criteria that focus on faults in the earth should be supplemented with criteria based on the level of seismicity. For example, there are aseismic faults throughout Texas. So long as a plant site is not directly over a fault, seismicity should be the overriding criterion. This point is significant for the evaluation of the withdrawal of ground water and the risk of activating faults.

3. With regard to resource inventories, there is interest in identifying the content of uranium and other valuable minerals present in coal deposits and presently burned with the coal. The question was raised whether A. E. C. has data based upon screening of coal deposits radioactivity. They were referred to Division of Applied Technology (Ed Fleming and Jim Kane). Geothermal resources (including geopressurized zones in the Gulf Coast) and tight formations and oil shale deposits were also discussed.

4. With regard to uranium production, particularly in Wyoming and Utah, the lack of predictable Federal policy for leasing is causing considerable turmoil. With the present higher prices for uranium, there would be considerable interest in prospecting in the withdrawn Federal lands of these states. Some 55% of the land area of Utah falls into this category. The difficulties of acquiring adjacent tracts also has been a major impediment to commercial exploration ventures. This subject may be appropriate for a current exercise under Project Independence.

5. A regional demand for public ownership or more rational public control of electrical power was noted in the North Central States, particularly North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. There seems to be considerable outrage against the dense crisscrossing of investor-owned transmission lines.

6. Although there was general praise for A. E. C.'s thoroughness about licensing sites, at least one exception was pointed out. This involves a Southeastern New York site application which was criticized by the New York State Atomic Energy Council in a November/December 1973 report for omitting certain key data and providing other inaccurate data. We may expect another more detailed statement through the same channels some time after March 29.

Action Items:

1. A. E. C. should send a representative from Standards Development and Licensing to the meeting of the Association of American State Geologists in Bend, Oregon, June 9 - 13. Contact person is Kenneth Weaver, Maryland Geological Survey, 214 Latrobe Hall, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218. Telephone: 301/235-0771.

*per L:TR - Stepp attended meeting*

2. A periodic updating of Appendix A was recommended, particularly because the theoretical framework and data base of seismology appears to be changing rapidly.

3. The involvement of geologists onsite might be far more valuable than their advisory role in reviewing application materials. It was suggested that the North Anna problem could have been avoided in this fashion.

4. The concern described above as point 6 should be investigated fully.

*Gilbert S. Omenn, MD*  
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Assistant to the Chairman, A. E. C.

(on leave)

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