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Monday, November 19, 1984

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Ms. C. Jean Shoemaker
Secretary to the Appeal Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Re: South Texas Nuclear Project
Docket 50-498 OL
50-499 OL

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Dear Ms. Shoemaker,

I will be representing Citizens Concerned About Nuclear Power, Inc. (CCANP) at the oral argument on December 13, 1984.

Please note below a change as of December 1, 1984 in my address and telephone number.

Towards a non-nuclear world,

Lanny Sinkin

Until December 1, 1984:

114 W. 7th, Suite 220
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Wednesday, November 14, 1984

'Atomic priesthood' urged as sentries

By T.R. REID
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — An Energy Department study has recommended that the government establish an "atomic priesthood" to create and spread a "ritual and legend" that will warn the next 300 generations against the dangers of nuclear waste.

The report, *Communication Measures to Bridge Ten Millennia*, is one of a series of new studies commissioned by the department to deal with one of the most challenging problems of the nuclear age: how to create warnings that will survive and be understood as long as existing nuclear waste dumps remain toxic — at least until 12,000 A.D.

Fearing that present-day languages will be incomprehensible to inhabitants of Earth 10,000 years

from now, the department's human interference task force has begun to consider a series of non-verbal warning systems, including:

- Creating a "modern Stonehenge" to ring the dumps.
- Making the waste "repulsively malodorous" so the stench will drive people away.
- Erecting huge cartoon narratives depicting the danger of the nuclear material.
- Genetically encoding a warning in human genes through "microsurgical intervention with the human molecular blueprint." The study says that "this form of temporal communication is far from available as yet."

But Prof. Thomas Sebeok of Indiana University, who wrote the report, said the best mechanism for passing a message on through 100 centuries may be "an artificial-

ly created and nurtured ritual and legend" that would produce "accumulated superstition to shun a certain area permanently."

To spread the myth, Sebeok suggested, government should create "an 'atomic priesthood' — a commission of knowledgeable physicists, experts in radiation sickness, anthropologists, linguists, psychologists," and others.

"The 'atomic priesthood' would be charged with the added responsibility of seeing to it that our warning, as embodied in the cumulative series of metamessages, is to be heeded — if not for legal reasons, then . . . with perhaps the veiled threat that to ignore the mandate would be tantamount to inviting some sort of supernatural retribution."

The Sebeok study noted that the oldest human messages known to modern man are myths passed

down through the ages by word of mouth. He cited the ancient story of Pandora's box, repeated in various forms by countless societies through the ages and not written until the 8th century B.C. by the Greek poet Hesiod.

Jefferson Neff, the Energy Department manager overseeing the human interference studies, said the reports are "preliminary efforts to get some early ideas, some initial ideas about how to deal with a long-range problem."

The work is part of the government effort to build a permanent underground storage dump for the tons of nuclear waste created by civilian and military power plants and weapons.

This "radwaste," including used fuel cells from reactor plants and obsolete weapons, is stored in various temporary facilities.