

MINUTES OF NUCLEAR WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
WM DOCKET CONTROL CENTER April 18, 1986

9:30 a.m.

EFSEC Hearings Room
86 MAY 12 P12:36 Rowsix - Building #1
4224 Sixth Avenue S.E.
Lacey, Washington

Council Members Present:

Warren A. Bishop, Chair
Harry A. Batson
Philip Bereano
Pam Behring
Nancy Hovis
Dr. Estella B. Leopold
Valoria Loveland
Sam Reed
Betty Shreve

WM Record File

101.3

WM Project 10

Docket No.

PDR

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

Mr. Bishop designated Ms. Loveland Acting Chair of the Local Government Committee.

Near-Term High-Level Nuclear Waste Transportation Working Group

Mr. Bill Fitch gave a update report of the Near-Term High-Level Nuclear Waste Transportation Working Group. Members of the Advisory Council have been added to the group's mailing list. Correspondence which will be sent to members will include agendas and minutes of the meetings. The group is focusing on domestic shipments. Governor Gardner agreed to enter into a working relationship with USDOE. He stated the development of the "Principle of Understanding" is a slow process and a full report will be made to the Council.

A public awareness meeting was conducted at the Sea-Tac International Airport Auditorium on February 27th, as requested by the Savannah River operation in South Carolina because Puget Sound had been identified as an alternate port. There was representation by environmental groups, business people and government agencies. The presentation was from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in which the public's questions were answered. Mr. Fitch identified the Inland Waters Coalition as an important key group because of the introduction of the lawsuit.

The International Longshoremens Union has taken action with the rank and file of their membership that Local 19 would not accept shipment of any ship with spent fuel. Savannah River group met with the ILWU to discuss the union position. The position remains unchanged. A letter was written to the Governor regarding this matter. The "Principle of Understanding" is not a document that agrees to the

shipment of high-level nuclear waste into and through Washington. Washington will cooperate with USDOE and other agencies to have emergency responses available if shipments do in fact occur. There will be a joint meeting with the state and federal governments in mid-May. A Request for Proposal has been submitted for a Technical Writer. A writer will be under contract shortly.

Hanford Historical Documents Review Committee

Dr. Royston Filby gave a update report on the Hanford Historical Documents Review Committee. A major grant modification has been submitted to the Department of Energy to fund studies in Phase I of the Committee's work, which is to establish a database review of the documentation, what is lacking, and what additional information the Committee may need. Two subcommittees have been formed to (1) evaluate the proposals received from contractors to carry out the first phase of the study and (2) review nominations for the Peer Review Group. USDOE has agreed to supply the Committee with data needed to conduct the review. Plans have been made for the Committee to meet with Dr. Rutenber of the Centers for Disease Control at Hanford on April 29th. The next meeting of the full Committee is scheduled for April 15th in Olympia.

The role of the Hanford Historical Documents Review Committee was clarified. The Committee is to review of the document, establish emissions, establish what environmental effects took place, what past and present environmental impacts are from the emissions, and what the potential future effects may be.

Minutes

With the striking of Philip Bereano's name from the list of Advisory Council members present at the last meeting, the minutes of the March 21, 1986 meeting were approved as published.

Recent Developments

CDC Study Health Impacts of Radionuclide Releases. A grant amendment of \$62,000 has been submitted to the USDOE. Dr. Rutenber of CDC will be attending the Environmental Monitoring Committee meeting on April 29 at Richland to review the historic data released by the Department of Energy and the recent Draft Environmental Impact Reports in order for the CDC Panel to have information. Dr. Rutenber will have available a list of potential Panel members. Discussion of ballots for selecting Panel members will also take place. Dr. Rutenber will meet with the Indian tribes to receive their input to the program. DSHS and the Office staff will continue to assist in selection of the Panel. A September Panel meeting is still planned to review historic data and epidemiological studies, and provide an opportunity for public input. The Panel will report to the Board immediately after the meeting.

Defense Waste DEIS. A contractor has been selected and the contract is very close to being signed. The first meeting with the contractor has occurred and the contractor has been given the Defense Waste DEIS in its entirety. The Defense Waste Committee has met and on their agenda was the suggestion by the Advisory Council

that the Board conduct their own workshops to hear public comments on the DEIS.

Environmental Assessment Methodology. A letter was received by the Office from the National Research Council to Ben Rusche on the application of their decision-aiding methodology. The NAS was complimentary to USD OE, stating that the methodology used was proper, and supportive on many aspects of the application of the methodology. A major concern of the Office and NAS still has not been addressed, which is that USD OE has not brought in independent experts in the assessment process itself. The Board will be considering a resolution to urge USD OE to stop the process, to bring in independent experts to add credibility to the process.

A letter listing the schedule for "R-day" was received from USD OE. "R-day" means release day. On "R-day" minus two weeks, a letter will be sent to the states and tribes regarding the exact release day of the Environmental Assessments. It was requested that USD OE give a 30-day notice. USD OE states that it may not be possible but would check into the request. "R-day" minus one, USD OE will express mail the Final EAs in order for the states to have the Final EA on "R-day". A press conference will occur on "R-day" in Washington, D.C. The expected release date is now anticipated in mid-May.

Defense Waste DEIS Workshops. The approach suggested by the Council to hold separate workshops to hear the public's concerns about the Defense Waste DEIS and a brief overview was taken up by the Defense Waste Committee. The Committee agreed that this was the best approach and a suggested schedule has been created. The state requested five minutes on USD OE's agenda to announce that the state will be conducting meetings to hear the public's concerns, with dates and areas where the meetings will be held.

An RFP has been drawn up and sent out seeking assistance in preparation for the workshops. The bidder's conference is scheduled for April 21.

Public Involvements Report

Clarification of the Advisory Council members' role was requested by Mr. Reed, in terms of participation and implementation. Participation by members in their communities is their role as stated by Mr. Husseman. The question of travel expenses and per diem was then brought up by Mr. Reed. Mr. Rothwell answered the Council's questions.

Science and Technology Report

A letter has been developed to send to scientific and technical societies, to provide notice of the existence of the program and request a mailing list of their societies' members to incorporate into the Office's newsletter mailing list. It was also suggested in the letter that the Office's material is available to them to be used as a source to incorporate into their own newsletters.

Mr. Bereano has submitted a proposal to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to do a symposium at their annual

meeting in February, 1987. The proposal was titled "Disposal of High-Level Nuclear Waste, Technical Knowledge and Sociopolitical Realities". The symposium will be held in Chicago.

Dr. Leopold has written two articles for the Environmental Council newsletter. Dr. Leopold also attended a meeting in Ellensburg of the Washington Environmental Council to make a presentation about the work the committee has been doing and to inform the people that information is available. Dr. Leopold gave a presentation on the University of Washington campus sponsored by a group concerned with radiation and environmental matters. The presentation is a prelude to a series in the Spring which will address social, political and economic matters and how they relate to technical matters.

Ms. Behring has been working on the CDC study.

The Committee has been in the process of researching other states which fund programs of public participation. A proposal is being compiled to be presented to the Board and Council on the funding programs. Mr. Bishop stated that other states have laws which are different from Washington's, but this subject will be discussed further in Richland.

Amendments to the Grant

Mr. Rothwell explained that the amendments to the grant must be justified as to what is proposed to be done with funds, what it will accomplish, the cost, and then request the funds. USDOE then makes a decision based upon the justification of the grant and either awards or denies funding. Amendments to the grant now in process are: contractors for public involvement workshops, CDC study, and the Hanford Historical Documents Review Group.

Resolutions Procedures

Mr. Bishop stated that the Council clearly has the authority to make advisory actions to the Board. Thus, a procedure for resolutions is needed. An outline for a proposed procedure was distributed. Further discussion on this matter is to be conducted during the special Advisory Council meeting on April 29th.

NCSL Conference

Ms. Barkin of the Institute for Public Policy reported on the NCSL Conference. Ms. Barkin stated that the conference is informal and organized for Legislators of states with proposed repository sites, both first and second round states. The conference is designed for the Legislators to discuss common problems, issues and concerns. Over 100 people are expected to attend.

April 29th Agenda

Ideas were solicited for the agenda. Mr. Reed suggested a public comment period and that the notices for the meeting place emphasize public comment. Earlier a few Council members indicated a interest in viewing the two new slide shows and it was decided they would be included on the agenda. Ms. Harris of Bacon and Hunt requested to

present a film on transportation titled "Fitting the Pieces", and it was agreed that it would be viewed.

Other Business

Dr. Leopold recommended that the Council members be more attentive to Board meeting agendas and attend the Board meeting, because of the fact that the members of the Board may be getting more briefings than the Council members. Mr. Bishop also emphasized this need.

Ms. Shreve suggested that the Council meeting begin at 9:00 a.m. in order to address all pertinent issues in full. Mr. Bishop stated that if logistics were not too difficult, it would be worked out.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sandra Chan
Public Involvement Staff