

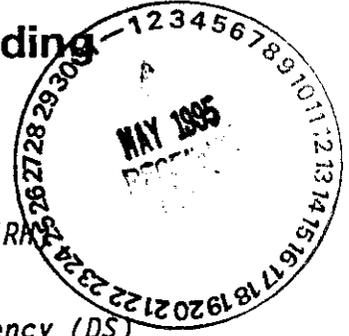
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**TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON FACILITY TRANSITION  
PASCO, WASHINGTON**

**Columbia Basin College, Hawk Union Building  
Thursday, March 9**



Attendees:

- Rob Harper, Facilitator, Washington State Department of Ecology (RH)*
- Patty Burnett, Chairperson of the Hanford Advisory Board (PB)*
- Paul Krupin, Lead Negotiator, U.S. Department of Energy (PK)*
- Doug Sherwood, Lead Negotiator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (DS)*
- Tom Tebb, Negotiator, Washington State Department of Ecology (TT)*
- Jack Waite, Westinghouse Hanford Company, facility transition support staff (JW)*
- Jim Mecca, U.S. Department of Energy, Acting Assistant Manager for Transition Facilities (JM)*
- Gordon Rogers, Hanford Advisory Board member (GR)*
- Bob Cook (BC)*
- Unknown Voice (UV)*

RH: Let's quickly look at the purpose of tonight's meeting. We're here to first hear some detail about this draft of the Facility Transition Agreement change package and then we're here to hear your questions and receive your formal comments about that same package. We're going to take a quick look at the agenda for tonight's meeting. It's on the green piece of paper that you may have picked up at the back of the room. We really have four parts to tonight's meeting. We have an introduction and welcome section that's about 15 minutes in length. That's going to be followed by a presentation of about 15 minutes on the details of the Facility Transition change package. We'll then move to an informal question and answer period, and then about 8:00 we'll take a short break of about 10 minutes and then we'll reconvene into a formal hearing where you'll present formal comments and questions for the record. We hope we'll be able to adjourn the meeting about 9:00, but that's a tentative timetable based on how many people wish to make formal comments and questions.

I might also refer you to materials that are in the back of the room. In addition to the agenda, there are materials that provide detail about the Facility Transition change package. There are also some sign-up sheets for material you can receive in the mail about Hanford. There's also some detail about the full package in the Facility Transition (Tentative) Agreement. There's also a CD-ROM that's out there that has material that's over the past year or so showing you a pictorial about what's going on in the Facility Transition area. There's also other information about Hanford as well. Now are there any comments, questions or concerns about how we want to proceed this evening on the agenda or how that stuff might work.

I don't see any particular questions or people indicating concerns, so we'll proceed as we've got it outlined then and I'll turn to the introduction of panel members for tonight's meeting. Just to introduce them very quickly...On my far right is Doug Sherwood of the

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Environmental Protection Agency, in the middle of the panel is Paul Krupin of the Department of Energy and closest to me is Tom Tebb of the Washington State Department of Ecology. Now I would like to introduce a member of the Hanford Advisory Board. I like to introduce Patty Burnett. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Hanford Advisory Board. For a brief welcome and introduction...Patty?

PB: My purpose here tonight was to help welcome any of you folks out there that might be from the public and introduce you a little bit to what the Hanford Advisory Board is. We have 32 Board members that represent very many diverse and different agendas that come to the table. We have a representation that goes throughout Washington and Oregon and the Indian Tribes that sit on that Board and it is our opinion that we also would like to receive your public input so we have been going around to these public hearings to accept that from you. We'll be here in the audience later on during the public comment period. I will have some comments, consensus advice, that we have drawn up on the Facility Transition to give to the three agencies, and also if any of you would like to ask questions of me later about the activities of the Hanford Advisory Board please feel free to approach me. We're hoping that you will also see that as a vehicle, that you might be able to give your public input and advice on Hanford issues to the three parties. So welcome this evening. I hope you learn something and I hope you have some good advice to give these three guys over here.

RH: Thanks Patty. Now we'll turn to the presentation on the details of the Facility Transition Tentative Agreement and I would like to introduce Tom Tebb of the Washington State Department of Ecology for that presentation. Tom?

TT: Well good evening. I see a lot of familiar faces out there. I appreciate you coming here tonight. We're here to talk about Facility Transition and we're talking about essentially a Tentative Agreement that's been reached between the three parties and the basis of the negotiations that occurred from last July and culminated in an agreement, this Tentative Agreement in January of this year. Why is facility transition important? Hanford has some very large production facilities. These facilities have been essentially a hot operational standpoint or condition where lots of materials have been left in these facilities and they're very expensive to maintain in that configuration. So the process that we're going to be describing tonight is the process whereby we're going to take these facilities from a very high cost maintenance situation and try to move them through a process--facility transition that we will have a low environmental risk, low cost and low maintenance. So what I want to talk a little bit about are the objectives that we had during the negotiations. I would like to talk about the scope, the process that we've designed as well as facility specific milestones. So with that I'll go ahead and talk. We'll go ahead and get started on the objectives

The background as I mentioned, we addressed four facilities. Those facilities were the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant or more commonly called PUREX. We addressed the Uranium Trioxide Plant or the UO<sub>3</sub> Facility. The Fast Flux Test Facility or FFTF and the Plutonium Reclamation Facility and oxide process lines of the Plutonium Finishing Plant or PFP. I'll point these facilities out and where they're located

on the Hanford Site. The Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant is in the 200 East location. The Plutonium Finishing Plant is in the 200 West and Uranium Trioxide Plant is in the 200 West and the Fast Flux Test Facility is in the 400 Area which is located in the south portion of the Hanford Site. The negotiation objectives primarily focused on six things. Those six things minimize the costs of maintaining these facilities so that the Hanford Site could use those funds and look at other places where that money could be spent, to minimize the waste that would be produced from this process, to set realistic but aggressive work schedules, and to have those schedules be integrated with other Hanford activities at the site. It's important that we do that given the current situation that we're in with the budget. In addition, we wanted to design a way that other facilities could go through this process that would be in the future. Facilities possibly like the T Plant or the D Plant. Facilities that aren't yet ready but that will be possibly soon. We also wanted to insure that there would be provisions in the new agreement that we would periodically review these facilities on a periodic basis for their, where they are in their current configuration.

The scope of the negotiations. We wanted to develop a facility decommissioning process. We've essentially provided some flow diagrams of this process that we've worked very hard to develop and would like some real good comments from you folks on that strategy and approach. We have some handouts in the back. They're essentially a smaller version of what you see over there. We've provided some terms and definitions as well and those are over there on the right, but essentially the process covers three phases. The first phase is the transition phase which is the phase that we're talking about now for some of these facilities. The next phase is a surveillance and maintenance phase which is essentially a bridge. That phase may last as long as 10, 20, maybe 30 years. And the final phase is the facility disposition phase whereby these facilities will either undergo appropriate closure or decommissioning and decontamination. In addition, the scope of the negotiations, we set facility transition work schedules for those facilities that I mentioned. The Uranium Trioxide Plant or  $UO_3$ , the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant or PUREX, the Fast Flux Test Facility, again is FFTF and the Plutonium Finishing Plant, PFP. We also recognize that there were other issues that were kind of nagging us at the Hanford Site, issues such as highly radioactive waste management. Issues that because of their unique exposures and facility configurations we felt that we needed to look at that issue and try to provide a mechanism whereby we could address that. In addition, we wanted to talk about some integrated management of these cleanups whether it be specifically programmatic. We wanted to get away from what they call stovepiping and have an overall objective as to where we were going with the clean up and provide some management and integrated language that would help make that happen. As a result of designing this process, we've come up with some terms and definitions that would need to be added into the Tri-Party Agreement.

Let's talk about the proposed decommissioning process. It's a new section that we're proposing in the Tri-Party Agreement. It would be under Section 14 and again it applies to facilities that are not currently being covered under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or the waste management side of the regulations or the Superfund

or CERCLA process which is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. We're hoping to integrate those regulations with existing USDOE facility decommissioning activities. As we approach this, it's important that we meld the two together and we do what makes sense at the site. Each party must approve the end state prior to moving onto the next phase of the decommissioning process. We wanted to ensure that Ecology and EPA retained their proper authorities to require cleanup and closure at any time. We also recognize because of the surveillance and maintenance phase and the long duration that possibly it could take, that closure of RCRA units within those facilities would be largely deferred until facility disposition. And also, again, we wanted to build in that periodic review such that if there was a need arise, we could make the appropriate adjustments and move a facility from one state to another.

We're going to throw some photographs up and some specific work activities. This is Uranium Trioxide Plant as I mentioned...UO<sub>3</sub>, I guess as it's more commonly referred to out on the site. This facility is already in the surveillance and maintenance phase. It has essentially met facility transition. It is currently, I understand, being operated or in its current surveillance and maintenance phase of somewhere around \$400,000 a year to maintain. Now that's significant savings from where it was before.

UV: \$40,000.

TT: Excuse me, \$40,000. That's even better Mark, thank you. As I mentioned those activities are complete. The next slide we have is the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant or PUREX. And some of the key activities associated with moving that facility through transition are the removal of the nitric acid as well as implementing the preferred alternative for the spent fuel that's in that facility now. What we'll do is we'll be showing you next here additional work activities and how they lay out over the years and you can see that the first two that I mentioned are the nitric acid as well as to implement the spent fuel alternative as well as some of the other transfers. Now I would like to superimpose on what the costs would be if we didn't do facility transition. Where would we be spending the money if we didn't move this facility through this process? And finally, we're going to superimpose the multi-year program plan of where we are now and how those costs will eventually put us in a much lower cost maintenance once transition has been completed. The next facility is the Fast Flux Test Facility or FFTF part of the Department of Energy's breeder reactor program. Some of the key activities with moving this facility through transition include removing the fuel and beginning the storage construction for the sodium. The plant is cooled by liquid sodium and we need a facility to store that sodium.

Finally when we get to the point where we have the facility completed, we would have to drain that sodium to help those costs come way down. Again, we'll give you another viewgraph where we'll superimpose those work activities, the appropriate timelines on there and we'll superimpose again the costs of maintaining that facility if we were not going to do facility transition and again the costs that we are spending now based on the multi-year program plans. This is the Plutonium Finishing Plant. The Plutonium Finishing Plant is a little bit more

unique in that as a result of stakeholder input and values, the Department of Energy agreed to perform an Environmental Impact Statement. As a result, those activities were some of the key activities that we agreed to but in the interim there are worker health and safety issues at that plant that need to be addressed and need to be addressed right away. Some of those are the stabilization of the sludge materials that are in the glove boxes, removal of the 10-L bottles, and clean out of the plutonium that's in the duct work. As I mentioned, the Plutonium Finishing Plant is a little bit different in that we needed to get the Environmental Impact Statement out. We wanted that to be a key component for commitments to be made from the Department of Energy. We made that part of the agreement. We'll superimpose some of those work activities and some of those expectations on here. My understanding in its current configuration to run this facility is somewhere around \$90 million a year. We're hoping after the transition and clean out of the Plutonium Reclamation Facility and the oxide process lines we can have that cost somewhere around \$25 million. The Plutonium Finishing Plant has another role at the Hanford Site and that role is the storage of plutonium and so it will still continue to have a mission. That's essentially what I had tonight. If we can I think we're going to break up and have some question and answer period.

RH: Thanks Tom. And now it's a chance for you in the audience to ask some questions of our panelists and to get some details explained, to get some further explanation of what's involved in the transition process. Also, for those of you who've come in since we started the material or the program here, there are agendas in the back, they're green sheets that will list the procedure of we're going through tonight. There's also some material there about the Facility Transition (Tentative) Agreement. There's a complete document there also of the agreement. The draft agreement. So if you want to use those as references please feel free to pick those up. Now for the informal question and answer period. This is where you have an opportunity to ask questions. I'll try to help out here. If you want to go to any one of these standing microphones in the center aisle and ask your question or I'll use this portable hand microphone to record your question so that the panelist and other audience members can hear it. So if you want to, if you don't want to move to one of the microphones in the center aisle, just raise your hand and I'll come around with the hand microphone and get your comment broadcast to the audience and to the panel members. So are there questions here? Clarifications you'd like to ask the panel members? Gordon, go ahead.

GR: Gentlemen, I understand that the reason that the Environmental Impact Statement for PFP has not been issued yet is because headquarters has not yet issued a shutdown notice. Is that true and if it is, can you tell me what the hang up there is? It seems that here's another case where the National Environmental Policy Act process is creating serious delays.

RH: Paul, do you want to take that one?

PK: The National Environmental Policy Act process right now, I don't believe, is contributing to the delay in any decision to shutdown the facility. In fact, we've recognized in the negotiations that there is really no plan to, no present plan to or contemplation to shut down the

whole facility. There's a recognition that there's a need to continue to use the PFP for the storage and there are existing plans to continue to maintain the vaults. What we have done is recognize that there are parts of the plant that need to be cleaned out and stabilized and we've negotiated as much as we can without prejudicing or precluding the open consideration of the alternatives that are going to be considered in the EIS that's being prepared and what we've also negotiated as a result of that and when the Environmental Impact Statement is completed we've committed to embarking upon a negotiation which will result in milestones to implement that Environmental Impact Statement and I think, I don't exactly know the timeframe off-hand, but the three parties have agreed that the timeframes in the milestone are reasonable and this is what we've proposed.

RH: Other questions? Clarifications? I might add for some who've just come in, there are agendas, green sheets, in the back of the room that list how we are proceeding. We are right now in the informal question and answer period where it's a chance to get clarification or explain some detail or something of that nature. We'll have a formal comment and formal question for the record session following a break after about 8:00. That's our current agenda scheme. So other questions here? A good opportunity to get some clarification of detail. Go ahead Gordon. You've got questions, they've got answers, I think.

GR: Thank you. As you know, I'm on the Dollars and Sense Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board and one of our tasks is to try and give you folks advice on how to prioritize the tasks that you have to do in this area of reduced and perhaps declining budgets and I don't know if you can answer this but I would pose it to you as one that would sure help us if there is an answer. How do you compare the risks and benefits of these facility transition actions with those of other waste management or environmental restoration work. Is there a rationale here, I'm not opposing of any of the tasks, they all need to be done but if you don't have enough to do everything, is there any handle you can give me on reduction of worker exposure, reduction of environmental hazards, it just seems like a crap game, you just use it wherever you can but it would sure help if there were some neat method for saying we want to do this much facility transition work because it will produce these specific reduction in exposure, whatever.

RH: Why don't you guys go first?

DS: I think there is a recognition at the site that there are a lot of competing priorities. I think there is also a recognition that there's not enough money to do all of those priorities. We see this activity as an efficiency, as a way to get the facilities in their current configuration at a much, to a much less expensive state, a much lower environmental risk. We also are trying to struggle with those priorities and how one would approach those in terms of the pace that we're approaching these facility transitions. I think that we have agreed to these schedules, but I think that's why we're out here tonight is to gain some values, some objectives, from you folks so we can make a better decision on those priorities and where that money's spent.

JM: Gordon, I'm Jim Mecca, the Acting Assistant Manager for Transition Facilities. Let's put this thing a little bit in perspective since it

is somewhat a business decision for lack of better phraseology. The Fast Flux Test Facility probably is a good example to use and without having the curves in front of me the numbers might be off. Even though we defuel that reactor, we put the fuel in the casks, as long as we have liquid sodium in that reactor, hot, we need a certain amount of the operating staff, we need a certain amount of the equipment. It must operate. We must in an effort to stay safe, if you wish it's a term you'll see used, spend approximately \$32-50 million a year. From a priority point of view, there is no way we can abandon that plant as long as the sodium is there and if were, let's just pick a number, if we were able to get the sodium out of that plant within two years time, we would see the mortgage on that plant dip from maybe \$35 million down to \$5 million. On the other hand, and in order to do that we have to spend an extra \$30 million. So our cost over a two year period of time therefore is something like maybe \$100 million. Balance that against just staying, holding even for let's say a decade in which case we're going to spend \$300 million just babysitting sodium with no return. So we look at it somewhat as a business decision over time where we need to get the mortgage down as quickly as we can so we can use the remainder of the money that will become available to us for other things like K Basin fuel, like the cleanup of the ground water. Spending \$35 million a year doesn't do anything for us. Over time too, I think we jeopardize our situation. With time, the pumps are going to get old, the equipment is going to wear out, we're going to find ourselves also making maintenance investments which we don't think buy us anything. So there is a safety aspect to it, but there's also a business aspect and I think the business aspect here is somewhat overwhelming.

UV: No. I was just going to say that most of these risks that Gordon is talking about are really risk to site workers and those are very important risks too, and I think this has been a very productive process that we've gone through this year. We have had the opportunity this time to listen to the people who work in these plants every day about what they think needs to be done to get them into a safe and stable condition. That was a real valuable exercise for a lot of us and frankly there wasn't a lot of this that was open to debate. These people had done a very good job on identifying the hazards in their plant and so I think listening to the people who are directly involved on the ground was a very good thing for us and so I think we all learned a lot. And I think these plants and the Hanford Site will be better for it in the long run.

RH: Bob, go ahead.

BC: Yeah, I've got a couple of questions on the FFTF. You say you're going to take the sodium out, that assumes, I assume you're going to decommission that plant, and you don't want the sodium in there and there's not going to be institutional controls at the plant in the long term that will have an unrestricted site. Because if you're going to have institutional controls you might just as well let the sodium freeze and save a lot of money and leave it in the plant forever is the idea. So I mean that's one alternative which I don't know if you even looked at in the transition that is connected with the ultimate decommissioning and decontamination decision it seems. Because if you're not going to clean the plant up to some unrestricted use in the long term, you're going to remain in an institutional control situation you might as well

just leave the sodium there and store permanently right in the plant. You know, leave it entombed in the stainless steel vessel. So the question is, does your intent to take the sodium out of the plant imply long term decommissioning which is going to give you institutional control, less site.

TT: Well, Bob, there are two aspects to this. One of them is cost of maintaining the plant with the sodium inside, and the second one is regulatory because once the facility lost its mission, the hazardous waste laws, both the state's dangerous waste regs and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, both set in motion a timetable which after a certain point in time, takes the hazardous material and declares it to be hazardous waste, and then you'd have to permit the facility and then you'd also have to go through RCRA closure and these are all very, very expensive and things to do and things to maintain. What we've realized is that we could eliminate the need to permit the facility by draining the sodium and using it, and what we've done is designed the process where when we drain the sodium first it goes to a storage facility, and then it goes to a facility that will turn it to a hydroxide which is then used in the Tank Waste Remediation System program, and the amount of hydroxide we can create I think is approximately 10 percent of what the Tank Waste Remediation System needs and so it's saving, there's a considerable waste minimization accomplishment as well as a significant cost savings achieved there and this is something that seems to make sense because it does allow us then to basically lock the door and leave a very, very few systems in place and operating and in the Fast Flux Test Facility I think they could basically just leave electrical and a few other things.

BC: What about the long run, that's what I'm interested in. Tom indicated that you have RCRA closure units in these facilities and I don't know what he was talking about what he had in mind, but that could be one of them where you just bury and dispose of the sodium right in place in the system and it's a good system, it's a stainless steel system, it will be around for a long time, much better than most of your RCRA disposal sites would ever be around. So that's a solution if you want to save decommissioning and decontamination costs and use that facility as an improvement facility that very well may be a solution for the long term. I mean sodium metal in a stainless steel container is a pretty good system. I'm asking if that option has been looked at or whether you're planning, you didn't answer the question, whether you're planning on institutional controls forever at that site or not because if you are, then you very well may go into a different transition if you're going to have institutional controls forever anyway. So that's the question, what is the design relative to institutional controls for that 400 Area? Is the assumption that you're going to have them or no? I think that's critical to what you decide to do in the future.

UV: I'm going to let Mark answer the question. Mark's the head of the decommissioning program out there at Bechtel.

UV: One of the presumptions of the transitions is that we take no actions that preclude any decommissioning option because to say that we will let the sodium freeze and entomb that in place there and accept those institutional controls forever at the 400 Area precludes any other National Environmental Policy Act decision that we might make. That you

all might make. And what we could do is do the EIS now for the decommissioning and get that Record of Decision and then proceed, but then you're eating that \$35 million cost for the next pick a date years. It took eight years to get the reactor Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision through and that was again the business decision that was made to not preclude any decommissioning options. The 400 Area is probably one of the best opportunities at Hanford to get a green field completely restored site because the Fast Flux Test Facility plant was operated to today's standards if you will.

UV: So, what this Environmental Assessment that's on the transition isn't just that the right to decide whether there's impacts or not from the action then, huh? I mean, you got an Environmental Assessment on the street which wasn't mentioned which I know we've just made comments on and...

UV: (not audible).

BC: Yes, Environmental Assessment and one of the issues was whether the actions and alternatives considered the Environmental Assessment looked at the question of going directly to a decommissioning and if not, why not, okay? To save, to go directly to a decommissioning so you could make a rational decision is to how you're going to decommission that with the key issue of the future use being a driver in that case. See I still and hear a...(not audible)...of the issue, you're going to this transition phase and taking the sodium out under the guise that that's not going to preempt anything but it's sure costly, as Jim said, a costly endeavor to do if in the ultimate you don't need to do that. Okay? And you, very well, if you made a decision now rapidly on the ultimate demise of that facility, for example, to decommission and bring it back to, then you would justify it, but if you decided that you're going to go along with institutional controls then you might not want to do what you want to do. You see, so that's, I think you've got an icon, I think you're sort of piecemealing this decision in a way and it's not an insignificant decision process because it's costly to take the sodium out and use it. Now I know Krupin says that they're going to use that in Tank Waste Remediation System. You got an Environmental Impact Statement that's hardly even begun in the Tank Waste Remediation System. How can you say you're going to use that in the Tank Waste Remediation System process for something? The sodium hydroxide. And that's even one of the issues that's involved in this Environmental Assessment whether you go to sodium carbonate or sodium sulfate or sodium hydroxide or sodium nitride or something else I don't know. There's a number of different good waste because it is contaminated, isn't it Jim, that sodium is contaminated, so it's a radioactive waste too.

JM: Yes, it's a radioactive mixed waste and I think none of us believe that that material should be left in the plant. There are laws that say that material must be removed and treated in accordance with RCRA. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and I don't think any of the three parties from the start of the negotiation on had any inkling that the right decision was to leave that material there. Your question about whether it's the right time to do this. There was a lot of debate over what the right time was to drain the sodium from this facility, but the schedule we got was very good schedule and it looked like it took into consideration all of the regulatory issues that we had. You're

absolutely right, we haven't decided whether sodium carbonate or sodium hydroxide should be the final form of the material within the reactor. One of them is not a hazardous waste, that is sodium carbonate. The other can be used by the Tank Waste Remediation System and is used routinely to bring the alkalinity up in waste stored in storage tanks so it's not a fictitious use. It's a real use that the Hanford buys sodium hydroxide all the time. The only difference with this is it's already radioactively contaminated and we're going to have to deal with it anyway.

UV: ...(not audible)...too vague that's the problem.

TT: I guess what I want to make clear is that this material is not a waste. The state does not consider this material a waste in its present situation. And we will not do that until such time that this material no longer has a future potential and that is allowed in the current dangerous waste regulations as well as in the federal RCRA program and until that decision is made that material is a product and has a use.

RH: There's some other questions if you have some things you want to ask or a thought that's occurred to you as you've heard the earlier questions and comments, please I'll come around to you or come forward to the microphone in the middle. Bob, go ahead and just stand.

BC: I had a question about when Tom talked about ...(not audible)...closures...(not audible)...that's been contemplated...(not audible).

UV: There are several units.

BC: That's permanent institutional controls.

UV: There are several RCRA units within the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant and potentially the materials that would remain in the FFTF or Fast Flux Test Facility as sodium residuals would be managed as a RCRA waste at such time when we actually took the plant apart. Those, when we did that, those units whether they be RCRA units or residual waste will be managed accordingly to the RCRA program and those institutional controls will be implemented at that time and that would mean that in the case of PUREX we would have to have possibly some sort of monitoring situation, clean closure demonstrations, closure requirements, closure plans, things of that sort, depending upon what path we were able to achieve for those particular RCRA units.

UV: Well as part of the RCRA process, if we are unable to clean close a facility, then, yes there would be institutional controls.

UV: I don't think we can make that decision at this time until we have actually gone through a sampling analysis program and to see where we are with those particular RCRA units. I think that would be premature.

UV: This plan that we've got...this decommissioning process. It's really important to recognize what happens in it at least from a practical standpoint and a regulatory standpoint. From a practical standpoint, we're taking hot facilities and bringing them down to a low cost surveillance and maintenance, low risk state and what we've done there

is basically integrated and tried to put into a streamline minimum number of documents process things that satisfy the Atomic Energy Act, RCRA and to the extent that there's issues of radionuclides in these plants. The CERCLA regs too. And basically that system doesn't close

the facility at that point. There's a requirement that a pre-closure work plan be created. Department of Energy and its contractors with stakeholder involvement creates that. It's a plan in essence. The regulators approve it and DOE-HQ EM-60 and EM-40 also have to agree to transfer the ownership of the facility, for the management and then there's the surveillance and maintenance period where we're looking at the facility and doing the minimum necessary to preserve the operating systems, so that when we do get to disposition, this is the closure piece, we've still got cranes and things that are available so that we can actually then either entomb or dismantle the facility. That's when closure really occurs and closure requirements and the decisions that will be made at that point, we won't know what those are until we get there. And there too, with Department of Energy, with stakeholder involvement, we'll plan it, propose it, regulators will agree to it and then we'll implement it and then they'll validate it.

UV: ...(not audible)...Environmental Impact Statement associated with that decision...(not audible)...each one of those plants?

UV: I couldn't tell you. The National Environmental Policy Act process will occur to the extent that it's appropriate and agreed to.

RH: Doug, did you have a comment on this?

DS: No. I was just going to say if you take a look at the large chart on the side or any of the smaller ones in the back it does show that a National Environmental Policy Act decision documents will be prepared at a couple of different points in the process. The first point being after the facility transition phase is over there will be a short period of time where a National Environmental Policy Act document might be prepared if the facility could be used for an alternative use. The other phase at which a National Environmental Policy Act document is being prepared is at the end of the surveillance and maintenance phase prior to final decommissioning and then the decision on whether it would be institutional controls or cleaned up or that decision would be handled through the National Environmental Policy Act process. So we do have two points at which the National Environmental Policy Act process is being applied. The level of documentation is a decision for the Department of Energy to make.

UV: So in summary, then the Environmental Impact Statement process which you went through...(not audible)...institutional controls at the site. Is that right...

DS: For all of these major facilities that have been identified in these negotiations and ones which we have described what major facilities, the kind of criteria are in Section 14, the current process lays out to the National Environmental Policy Act documents to be prepared. It does not say whether it's an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment or what level of National Environmental Policy Act documentation is required.

UV: (not audible).

DS: Ah, if I understand the National Environmental Policy Act correctly, yes Bob you're right.

UV: (not audible).

RH: Okay, we've had a good dialogue on the Environmental Impact Statement process for the decommissioning. Are there some other issues that any of you would also like to raise or question at this point? It's a good opportunity to talk to the lead negotiators of the draft agreement and to clarify parts of it, as we've been doing. Are there, yeah, go ahead Gordon.

GR: One question that comes to mind regarding a transition at PUREX and I wonder if USDOE and the regulators have considered the possibility of using PUREX in the...(not audible)...or oxidation or whatever process you're going to use to place the spent fuel from the K Basins and elsewhere into a chemically stable and non-reactive state, it would seem to me that while I know that creates some problems to use a facility that doesn't meet current environmental regulations and standards, it ought to be a lot cheaper than building a brand new treatment facility from scratch. Have you considered that?

UV: I'm not the spent fuel expert, but I do know that this process that we've gone through has not contemplated a use for PUREX in the present timeframe, certainly not the timeframe for the transition of the facility. The clean out and the stabilization and the transition activities will still be necessary for any potential use that's identified regarding the future use of PUREX. Now insofar as what we're doing to consider spent fuel alternatives, I'd have to defer to the spent fuel program people on that and I do know there's an EIS that's out on the street those things are being considered.

GR: (not audible).

UV: Could you say that again, sir?

GR: Will you help me assure that they do consider that as one alternative?

UV: We'll ask the question, Gordon.

RH: Others have any questions here for our panelists? A good opportunity to get some clarifications. Okay that's, looks like we've exhausted the questions, let's take about a ten minute break. We'll reconvene at about 8:00 for our hearing and at that point we'll take formal comment and question for the record. I might remind you there are some handouts in the back. If you haven't had a chance to look at those. There's also a CD-ROM that has some visual material on all these facilities. Thank you.

RH: We'll reconvene our meeting into the public hearing format. While you're going past the back table back there, you might also pick an evaluation form. If you have an opportunity to fill that out that would be really helpful for us in the public involvement area in the Tri-Party agencies. We try to use those evaluation forms to improve how we do our

Hanford meetings and do our hearings so if you have an opportunity to complete one of those please take a minute or two. It would be real helpful to us. I think that also, just another reminder at the back table outside the doorway there are sign up sheets if you would like to be a part of other Hanford activities, there's a Hanford mailing list sign up. If you would like to be added to that, then you'll receive notices of all the upcoming meetings, also the focus sheets on new work plans or proposed plans, permits that type of thing. Now we're going to enter into the public hearing portion of tonight's meeting and in this section of the meeting what we've asked you to do is to go to one of the microphones in the center aisle or I can come to you with my hand microphone and you can state your name and then give your comment or your question for the record. If it's a question for the record that's something that will go on the record and will be answered in the response to comment document that will be produced following our public comment period. There's not a response immediately given to that by anybody on the panel or from the audience. So at this point, what we would like you to do is if you have a comment that you would like to state for the record or a question that you would like to state for the record, please come to one of these microphones in the center aisle or raise your hand and I'll come with the hand microphone and you can give that comment or state that comment at that time. The floor's now open for those comments.

GR: My name is Gordon Rogers and I'm a resident of Pasco. I am a member of Hanford Advisory Board and I hold a public at large seat. I'm not sure that that gives me a license to speak for the public at large, but I will chance it and see what happens. I'd like to make two suggestions relative to facility transition program. First, I would recommend that the business and rescue evaluations be made on each of the individual major sub-tasks for a given facility. As Jim Mecca pointed out using the example of the sodium removal from FFTF, that may be one that has a very substantial economic payoff and I believe this would help the agencies in prioritizing the order in which they could progress through the sub-tasks associated with facility transition in light of the competition for budget authority to go around. Second, regarding the PUREX transition I understand the first major task is the transfer of the nitric acid to Britain for their use and I feel very strongly that we should get on with this. I understand that there will be a public hearing locally here later this month and I would urge each of those in the audience to support the agencies in proceeding promptly with this task. I believe its being held up for reasons only of delay by certain national environmental organizations. The Environmental Assessment which I have seen and read clearly shows that the environmental risks associated with this task and the human health and safety risks are essentially negligible compared with the routine activities carried on with the shipment of corrosive acid chemicals throughout the world. Thank you very much.

RH: Thank you. Other comments now for the record, questions for the record? Please state your name and provide your comment or if you would like me to come by with the hand held microphone and speak from your seat, I can do that as well.

PB: My name is Patty Burnett and I would like this entered into the record on behalf of the Hanford Advisory Board. This is our consensus advice

Number 8 directed to you on facilities transition. And according to our by-laws we ask for written response to consensus advice and I was assured during the break that that was on the way. So I thank you very much. Number one. All facilities should not be treated equally in terms of priority for making the investment to move into surveillance and maintenance mode. The investment should be examined in light of safety, projected cost savings and future reuse considerations. Number two. Higher priority should be given to those facilities with the highest payback in terms of safety, projected cost savings and future reuse. Three. High priority Hanford cleanup activities are being deferred in part because of the upfront costs related to facilities transition. Those monies should not be lost. Out year savings must be requested for Hanford clean up. USDOE must find a way to make this clean up investment possible. Four. The \$120 million five-year investment in FFTF transition should be re-examined as to pace and priority. Re-programming from FFTF to higher Hanford priorities should be sought if far higher safety and legal compliance priorities at Hanford face shortfalls. Five. USDOE should not allow the cleanup budget to subsidize defense and energy programs. All transfers of defense programs, facilities or materials to environmental management programs should be accompanied by full commitment to funding at the time of transfer. This includes funding for safety, terminating the program, removing potential product materials and attaining a safe surveillance and maintenance mode. And, six. The facilities transition budget must be based on legal compliance with applicable hazardous waste and environmental statutes including safety and hazardous materials training. Thank you very much.

UV: Thank you. Are there comments that are now available to be made? Please step forward. Yes sir, if you want to step forward and state your name, go ahead and give a comment.

PB: I would like to comment on behalf of Patty Burnett, local citizen and this is the first one of these public hearings I've attended and I was, I've heard a lot during discussions about nobody comes to these except for staff and I was just curious how much public is here and if you have some way by your check in list or whatever if you check who is if you're actually reaching the public or if these are Ecology and EPA and USDOE filling the room?

DS: I can honestly say I'm the only EPA person in the room.

RH: Anyone else like to make a comment please step forward to the microphones or raise your hand and I'll come by with the hand-held microphone. That appears to be the end of the comment for the record and questions for the record. I'd like to remind people that there's still an opportunity to submit written comments on the facility transition draft package and they can do so until March 30. It is the current plan of the Tri-Party agencies to try to issue a Response to Comment document in the May-June timeframe and it is also the current plan to try to sign the facility transition package in the July timeframe, July '95 timeframe. Again, I would emphasize those are the current plans. Also I would remind you to complete evaluation forms and try to take just a minute or two and then hand them to us at the back table. Those will be very helpful at getting perhaps what Patty is after and trying to do a better job in public involvement, public

meetings, public notice for future meetings. If you would like to submit written comments those should be submitted to Annette Carlson, P.O. Box 1970...

DS: When you're done I'd like to say something.

RH: Oh sure, go ahead. Well I'll just finish the address the unit there is B3-35, Richland, 99352. That address is also on the big facility transition draft agreement. It's also on the focus sheet at the back if you want to submit written comments. Doug had a comment so, Doug?

DS: I do recognize a lot of people here in the audience tonight and we're the lead negotiators so we get all the glory and we get to sit up here, but as you can tell from the comments on these negotiations, these were really agreed upon by an awful lot of people and we get the credit but a lot of people did a lot of hard and very good work on this project and I see a lot of you out there so thank you very much. It was not the best way to spend the summer of '94 but it was a way to spend the summer of '94. Well hopefully we won't have to repeat it.

RH: The Tri-Party agency representatives will be here after the adjournment of the meeting to answer any questions, receive any comments you might have until as long as you want to ask and inquire. With this, it is now 8:12 p.m. and the meetings officially closed. Thank you for your participation and attendance.

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