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>

To: Dennis Faulk/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

06/18/2001 10:09 AM

cc:
Subject: B-Reactor's Future

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Faulk:

We are forwarding this comment to you as we will be out of town on the date of the forthcoming public meeting concerning the above subject.

We are in full support of converting B-Reactor into a Museum! B-Reactor is truly unique and is a regional, national, and indeed a world treasure. Not only is it a reminder of one of the greatest technological feats of man, it is a symbol of a new and more complicated age in the world. As such, the B-Reactor should be restored as much as possible and converted into a national monument and museum allowing the maximum access to all. The very modest cost to DOE and the country to 'turn the facility over' to the appropriate national operating agency (National Parks Service?) will not significantly impact the overall cleanup of the site, while appearing to be within the general scope of that effort. To do nothing or worse, to destroy this facility should be unthinkable. We suggest that the reactor be the 'crowning jewel' of an expanded teaching/historical/visual-interactive facility that graphically tells the story about the advent of nuclear technology, the Manhattan project, and Hanford. It should NOT become a soap box for the anti or pro nuclear establishments, but should tell the Hanford story in the context of 20th Century world events.

You have the enviable job as temporary 'caretaker' of a Local, National, World treasure. We trust that you will play a positive role in insuring that future generations will be able to gain an understanding of what occurred at B-Reactor and Hanford.

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P.S. (While B-Reactor ushered in the Atomic Age as the first operating nuclear reactor, I believe the age of nuclear energy has still yet to occur in this country...as it surely will. H. Wayne Slater.)