

Meeting Minutes
U.S. Department of Energy and Oregon Office of Energy
Bi-Monthly Forum

September 23, 1998
 Federal Building, 825 Jadwin, Richland Washington

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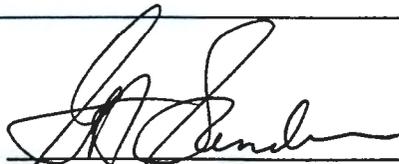
L. D. Arnold	FDH	H8-67
M. L. Blazek	OOE	Oregon
C. C. Clark	DOE-RL	A7-75
M. Grainey	OOE	Oregon
D. Huston	OOE	Oregon
K. Lang	DOE-HQ	
R. Lightner	DOE-HQ	
G. M. McClure	DOE-RL	A7-75
F. R. Miera	DOE-RL	A5-15
R. D. Morrison	FDH	G3-27 H8-67
N. B. Myers	BHI	H0-14
T. E. Olds	DOE-RL	A7-75
K. K. Randolph	DOE-RL	A7-75
J. E. Rasmussen	DOE-RL	A5-15
L. Roeder-Smith	Jacobs	A2-22
G. H. Sanders	DOE-RL	A5-15
K. Niles	OOE	Oregon

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Meeting Minutes
U.S. Department of Energy and Oregon Office of Energy
Bi-Monthly Forum

September 23, 1998
Federal Building, 825 Jadwin, Richland Washington

Apprvl.:  Date: 11/23/98
George H. Sanders, Administrator
Tri-Party Agreement
U.S. Department of Energy

Apprvl.:  Date: 12/2/98
Mary Lou Blazek, Administrator
Nuclear Safety Division
Oregon Office of Energy

Attendees:

M. Blazek	OOE
C. Clark	DOE-RL
H. Fugate	Jacobs
M. Grainey	OOE
C. Haass	DOE-RL
K. Lang	DOE-HQ
G. McClure	DOE-RL
F. Miera	DOE-RL
R. Morrison	FDH
N. Myers	BHI
T. Olds	DOE-RL
K. Randolph	DOE-RL
J. Rasmussen	DOE-RL
L. Roeder-Smith	Jacobs

AGENDA

DOE/OREGON BI-MONTHLY FORUM

SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

- 1. Introductions – J. Rasmussen**
- 2. Sec. Richardson Proposed Hanford Site Visit – Colleen Clark**
- 3. Land Transfer to Port of Benton – Erik Olds**
- 4. Follow Up on Openness Workshops – K. Randolph**
- 5. Oregon Perspectives/Participation on GAP Conference – M. Blazek**
- 6. Status of Negotiations with Washington State Notice of Intent to Sue on TPA Interim Milestones M-41-22 & -23 – F. Miera**
- 7. INEEL HLW EIS, Hanford Alternative – DOE/INEEL
(10:00 a.m. Conference call w/ DOE Idaho)**
- 8. Spent Nuclear Fuels TPA Milestone Change Request – Public Review and Comment – J. Rasmussen/G. McClure**
- 9. TPA Milestone Activities Update – F. Miera**
- 10. Public Involvement Activities – K. Randolph/M. Blazek**
- 11. Follow-up Action Items from July 29 Meeting – R. Morrison**
- 12. Other Items**
- 13. Set Next Forum Meeting Date**
- 14. Closing Remarks**

MEETING MINUTES, September 23, 1998 (Richland, Washington)

Note: agenda items are presented in the order in which they were addressed during the Forum.

1. Introductions

J. Rasmussen introduced Ken Lang representing the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Headquarters, EM-38, for the bi-monthly Forum meetings.

3. Land Transfer to Port of Benton

E. Olds explained that on September 30, 1998 DOE planned to turn over the entire 1100 Area of the Hanford Site, including the rail facilities to the Port of Benton County for industrial use. This property comprises 1.5 square miles of the most southern portion of the Hanford Site. A local event was planned for September 30, 1998 with John Wagoner and various other speakers in attendance. It was further explained that Benton County must vote, on Friday September 25, 1998, on whether to accept the land which will include responsibility for maintenance of the land and rail facilities. This responsibility potentially could represent a significant financial impact to Benton County. The transfer of the property will be performed under the provisions of the Defense Authorization Act.

It was pointed out that the Governor of Oregon will be invited to attend the ceremony in addition to the Oregon Office of Energy (OOE).

4. Follow Up on Openness Workshops

K. Randolph thanked M. Blazek of the OOE for her outstanding effort and hard work in pulling together the many diverse groups involved, into an agreement on openness recommendations. A letter of acknowledgement and appreciation from the DOE will be forthcoming. The development of performance agreements and workshop commitments were some of the important points developed in the agreement. M. Blazek pointed out that Yvonne Sherman's efforts were outstanding throughout the process.

5. Oregon Perspectives/Participation in Government Accountability Project Conference

M. Grainey provided a copy of the agenda for the Government Accountability Project (GAP) conference "The River Runs Through It a Conference on the Impact of Hanford on the Columbia" (Attachment 1) and discussed some of the background and organization of the conference.

K. Lang pointed out that DOE Assistant Secretary Ed Moniz and RL Manager John Wagoner were to attend the conference.

M. Grainey stated that the State of Oregon's primary messages at the conference will be regarding Oregon's concerns about the Columbia River and the need for Oregon to be more involved in Tri-Party Agreement decisions.

7. Idaho National Engineering Environmental Laboratory High Level Waste Environmental Impact Statement, Hanford Alternative

A conference call was established with the Department of Energy, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). Present on the conference call representing INEEL were Richard Kimmel, Brad Bugger and Carol Coles. C. Haass from RL provided background information on the Environmental Impact Statement and the possibility of including the proposed alternative for the Hanford vitrification plant to be listed as an option for treatment of the Idaho site's high level wastes. Meeting participants were also provided an information sheet on this subject (Attachment 2).

Richard Kimmel stressed that they wanted to alert the State of Oregon that during the scoping process, held as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the treatment of Idaho's high level waste at the Hanford Site was identified as an option that should be evaluated. Idaho DOE assured the Oregon representatives that no final decisions have been made.

M. Grainey asked what the DOE's intentions were as far as public review and inputs.

B. Bugger responded that the scoping process has ended, however, a public information meeting is planned for Richland, Washington. Additionally, if the Hanford option remains within the environmental impact statement, public hearings will be held in Washington and Oregon.

C. Haass added that we would like to discuss this with the Hanford Advisory Board as well. DOE is still analyzing whether the Hanford option is actually viable, and if so, no impacts to the current Hanford Site waste treatment plans are anticipated.

M. Grainey stated that if the option is pursued, the State of Oregon is concerned in two main ways. The first concern is that the State of Oregon is reluctant to see additional wastes brought in to the Hanford Site. Secondly, transportation through the State of Oregon will also be a concern.

M. Blazek stated that it was her understanding that one site couldn't send waste to another site without the receiving sites' permission.

C. Haass reemphasized this is only a scoping effort at this time and no decisions have been made. The DOE is just beginning to look at all the myriad details involved.

M. Blazek asked if the first opportunity for the public's involvement would not occur until spring of 1999 then?

C. Haass responded that the DOE wishes to tie in with the Hanford Advisory Board in October and conduct some degree of public involvement.

M. Blazek stated that a workshop in Portland, Oregon with special interest groups would be necessary.

C. Haass added that the DOE will definitely coordinate any meetings to be held in Oregon with the Oregon Office of Energy. The Hanford Advisory Board is meeting in Portland in December and this could be a good opportunity to hold a workshop as well.

M. Blazek asked if they could plan for a stakeholder meeting in Portland.

R. Kimmel stated that INEEL would have to confirm budget wise, but would try.

M. Blazek pointed out that a meeting of the Oregon Waste Board is scheduled for October 27th and 28th in Bend, and could also be considered.

G. McClure expressed that the November Hanford Advisory Board is already very busy and a workshop may not fit in with all that is going on.

C. Haass stated that we need to brief the Oregon Waste Board on October 27th or 28th.

Action: L. Roeder-Smith took the action to put together a coordinated schedule of meetings and activities to try to find a fit for the proposed public involvement activities.

12. Other Items

K. Lang stated that in regard to the Podonski visit to the State of Oregon a letter will be coming to Oregon which will identify Ralph Lightener as Oregon's primary contact should future communications with DOE Headquarters be necessary.

M. Blazek stated that the State of Oregon would like to be informed about DOE Headquarters activities as well, and that the State desires that there be two way communications even if the DOE Headquarters communicates through the local Richland office, possibly through K. Randolph's office.

K. Lang agreed that communications and information flow could use improvement.

M. Blazek pointed out one example in which communication could have benefited the DOE. The Plutonium Disposition Meeting which was held in Portland on August 18, 1998, in her rough estimates, cost approximately \$31,000 primarily due to the high cost of the meeting location and newspaper announcements. She indicated that the cost could have been significantly less, perhaps as low as approximately \$800, if the DOE had worked with the OOE to find a lower cost location and alternative means of getting the word out to interested parties.

6. Status of Negotiations with the Washington State Notice of Intent to Sue on Tri-Party Agreement Interim Milestones M-41-22 and M-41-23

F. Miera discussed the status of the pending lawsuit with the State of Washington regarding the M-41-00 series of milestones under the Tri-Party Agreement. The issue remains quite sensitive in light of the possible lawsuit. In June the DOE received from the State Attorney General, a notice of intent to file a lawsuit to enforce incomplete milestones M-41-22 and M-41-23 which

require the stabilization of certain single-shell tanks. Currently the DOE and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) are considering entering into a Consent Decree covering the single-shell tank stabilization activity. A project plan was developed in April of this year which provided a new schedule for accomplishing the stabilization activities. This project plan is being studied by both parties and we are hoping to successfully work out an agreement on how we will proceed.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action

J. Rasmussen briefed the attendees on the RCRA Corrective Action notice received from Ecology. It appears likely that Ecology will work with the DOE to address these issues under the terms of the Tri-Party Agreement.

8. Spent Nuclear Fuel

F. Miera provided a status of the Spent Nuclear Fuel negotiations. The DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have completed negotiations and are preparing to conduct a 45 day public comment period running from about October 5, 1998 to mid November 1998. As background it was explained that the original spent nuclear fuel change package was withdrawn and we have been working to develop a realistic cost and schedule for the project. The original cost estimate has risen from approximately \$800 million to \$1.6 billion, but, this latter figure may come down.

J. Rasmussen added that this package is a little different in that we have worked out the best deal possible through the Tri-Party Agreement dispute resolution process and now we need to go to the public to see what they think.

F. Miera stated that the parties are struggling with exactly how much public involvement is appropriate. We understand the State of Oregon may still want a meeting in Portland. F. Miera asked if M. Blazek could help us determine the depth of this need.

M. Blazek responded that a meeting is currently scheduled for November 12, 1998 with the activist groups. If we can provide them enough notice possibly we could tie in the spent fuel review. M. Blazek asked if it was the DOE's intent to just provide information or if comments and input are being sought.

F. Miera responded that the parties would be seeking the public's comments on the new package.

M. Blazek said she will check with the activist groups and see if it would work to discuss the spent fuel package at the November meeting. If it does fit, Oregon requested only 1 to 2 people attend to present the package and receive comments.

9. Tri-Party Agreement Activities Update

Privatization

F. Miera informed the group that Ecology has verbally agreed to begin negotiations on changes to the Tri-Party Agreement which are needed to reflect the privatization of tank waste treatment.

Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF)

F. Miera explained that the current FFTF commitments will be placed in abeyance pending the Secretary of Energy's decision on whether the FFTF will have a continuing mission. Ecology is currently working on finalizing a response to public comments. We hope to finalize the change request and response to comments within about a month.

2. Secretary of Energy Richardson Proposed Visit to the Hanford Site

C. Clark stated that the current plan is that the Secretary will be in Washington State on October 13th possibly to meet with Governor Locke. On October 14th the Secretary will be at the Hanford Site to attend the completion of B and C Reactor activities and may attend other public events. The DOE intends to invite Governor Kitzhaber and both State of Oregon Senators.

10. Public Involvement Activities

N Reactor Media Event

C. Clark discussed the local media event planned to announce the completion of deactivation of the N Reactor. This event will be occurring 35 years after President Kennedy's historic visit to the Hanford Site. As part of the event John Wagoner will be touring the deactivated N Reactor facility.

Annual Evaluation of Public Involvement Activities in Oregon

M. Blazek provided copies of the latest OOE and Oregon Hanford Waste Board annual evaluation of Tri-Party and U.S. DOE Headquarters public involvement activities in Oregon (Attachment 3).

11. Follow Up Action Items

See Attachment 4 for status of open action items.

13. Set Next Forum Meeting Date

In light of the Hanford Advisory Board meeting in Portland on December 3rd and 4th it was tentatively agreed to conduct the next DOE/OOE Forum meeting on the afternoon of December 1st in a location to be determined.

The Forum Was Adjourned.



THE RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT:

A Conference on the IMPACT OF HANFORD ON THE COLUMBIA

9/7/98

FRIDAY, OCT. 2: BPA Auditorium, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon

SAT., OCT. 3: Doubletree at the Quay, 100 Columbia St., Vancouver, WA

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Conference Moderator: Leonard Schroeter

FRIDAY, OCT 2

Noon - 12:30	Registration and Assembly - Music
12:30 - 12:40	Leonard Schroeter – Conference Moderator (Welcome)
12:40 - 12:50	Louis Clark , Exec. Dir., Govt. Accountability Project
12:50 - 1:35	Dr. Helen Caldicott, M.D. , Author, Pediatrician, Activist and Speaker
	Music – 5 Minutes
1:40 - 2:00	Casey Ruud , Hanford Whistleblower, former Environmental Program Manager, Hanford Tank Farms: "Overview of the State of Hanford – Why We Are Here"
2:00 - 3:00	Panel: Obstacles to Cleanup – Political, Economic & Technical; "Why Isn't Cleanup Happening at Hanford? Is the regulatory

	<p>system helping or harming cleanup?"</p> <p>Moderated By: Shawn Cantrell, Friends of the Earth</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Gerry Pollet, Heart of America Northwest</p> <p>Mike Grainey, Oregon Dept. of Energy</p> <p>John Brodeur – Geophysicist, Hanford Whistleblower</p>
3:00 – 3:05	Music
3:05 – 4:10	Dr. Ernest Moniz , Under Secretary of Energy – with Q&A
4:15 – 5:00	Russell Jim , Yakama Indian Nation, Native American Perspective on Hanford
	Music -Close
SATURDAY, OCT 3	
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration, opening music
9:00 – 9:05 a.m.	Brian Baird -Welcome
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Donald Sampson , Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
9:30 – 10:00	Blaine Harden , Author, <i>A River Lost: Life and Death of the Columbia</i> , and NY Bureau Chief, Washington Post
10:15 – Noon	<p>Panel: HANFORD TIME BOMBS</p> <p>Imminent threats at Hanford to the River, including the K-Basins, and the tanks, and the impact on commercial fishing, agriculture, recreation and future uses.</p> <p>Moderated by: Tim Connor , Editorial Director for the NW Environmental Education Foundation</p> <p>Scientist Norm Buske, Nuclear Weapons Free America, presentation with visuals and description of studies performed of River impacts.</p> <p>Panelists:</p>

	<p>Wade Rigsbee, Yakama Indian Nation;</p> <p>Glen Spain, Pacific Federation of Fishermen's Association;</p> <p>Dirk Dunning, Oregon Dept. of Energy</p>
Noon – 1:00	Lunch/ Senator Ron Wyden – Intro by Robin Klein, Hanford Action
	Music
1:00 - 2:30	<p>Doesn't It Make You Sick? Potential Health Impacts</p> <p><i>What is known and not known about the health impacts of Hanford's radioactive releases. What health issues do Northwest residents face from future releases?</i></p> <p>Moderated by Len Schroeter</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Dr. Rudi Nussbaum, Ph.D., Physicians for Social Responsibility</p> <p>Luis Buen Abad, Hanford Health Information Network</p> <p>Dr. Judith Johnsrud, Ph.D., Director, Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power</p>
	Music
2:35 – 3:45	<p>Proposals for Future Action - How to Plug In (Panel)</p> <p><i>What can we as citizens do to foster accountability and cleanup at Hanford? Here are some ideas for future actions.</i></p> <p>Moderated by Susan Gordon, Alliance for Nuclear Accountability</p> <p>Greg DeBruler, Columbia River United, presentation on the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment</p>

	<p>Panelists:</p> <p>Merilyn Reeves, League of Women Voters, and Chair, Hanford Advisory Board</p> <p>Louis Clark, Exec. Dir., Gov't Accountability Project</p> <p>Paige Knight, Hanford Watch</p> <p>Casey Ruud, Hanford Whistleblower</p>
3:45 – 4:00	Tom Carpenter - Government Accountability Project
	Closing

Space is limited, Register Early

(\$25/Individual; \$75/Corporate-Government)



INEEL High-level Waste: Hanford Site Treatment Options

Key Terms:

High-level Waste

High-level waste is the highly radioactive material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including

- Liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing
- Any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations
- Other highly radioactive materials requiring permanent isolation.

High-level waste requires solidification prior to final disposal.

Idaho Settlement Agreement/Court Order

The 1995 agreement between DOE, the state of Idaho and the U.S. Navy addresses management of high-level waste, spent fuel and transuranic waste in Idaho over the next 40 years. Incorporated into a court order, the agreement spells out requirements and schedules DOE must meet.

NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires all federal agencies to consider the impacts their actions may have on the environment. Agencies must review proposed actions early in the planning process and consult with interested members of the public.

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory currently stores about 1.4 million gallons of sodium-bearing liquid radioactive waste, and about 4,000 cubic meters of solidified ("calcined") high-level waste. Produced during decades of reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and subsequent decontamination activities, these wastes are stored in stainless steel bins encased in concrete vaults and in underground tanks.

The Idaho Settlement Agreement/Court Order requires DOE to empty these underground tanks by 2012, and treat all high-level waste on site so that it is ready to be moved out of Idaho for disposal by a target date of 2035. Under the agreement, DOE must begin negotiations with the state of Idaho over the best treatment approaches for the calcined waste by the end of 1999.

Treating and disposing of this waste will be technically, legally and financially challenging, and a number of alternatives – including treatment of the waste at the Hanford Site – are being considered as part of the planning.

Why Is DOE Considering Treatment at Hanford?

DOE believes that treatment of INEEL high-level waste at a facility planned to be built at Hanford may be cheaper and faster than building similar facilities at the INEEL.

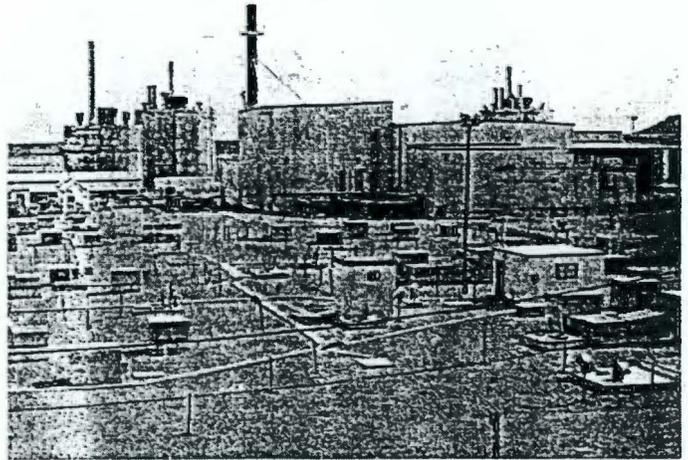
To analyze the potential environmental impacts of various treatment alternatives, DOE is now preparing the Idaho High-level Waste and Facilities Disposition Environmental Impact Statement (ID HLW EIS). This study, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is intended to provide the best information possible to DOE before negotiations with the state of Idaho begin.

Before starting the ID HLW EIS, DOE conducted a scoping process to allow regulators and the public to comment on the issues and alternatives the EIS should consider. The public submitted comments recommending that DOE look at treating high-level waste at facilities at other sites such as Hanford. In addition, a DOE planning document, *Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure*, noted that treating and interim storing high-activity waste at Hanford could potentially reduce costs and accelerate cleanup schedules.

No decisions have yet been made. DOE expects to release the draft ID HLW EIS in early 1999 and issue a final EIS in late 1999. If analysis indicates that the Hanford option is viable, a public hearing on the draft will be held in Richland, Washington.

What Are the Alternatives?

NEPA requires federal agencies to examine a reasonable set of alternatives when preparing environmental impact statements. A DOE team explored many sources of information including previous waste treatment studies, available technologies, regulatory factors, and stakeholder concerns to develop the following alternatives for consideration in the draft ID HLW EIS:



High-level waste tank farm at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

No Action

- Continue to solidify (calcine) all of the liquid waste currently stored in underground tanks and store the solidified waste at INEEL in the calcine bins, which have a 500-year design life.
- No treatment of waste to prepare for final off-site disposal.

Separations (Proposed Action)

- Separate the highly radioactive constituents of the waste from the lower-activity waste.
- Treat the high-activity waste, which is a small fraction of the total volume, by a process such as vitrification to a form that could be disposed of in a permanent off-site repository.
- Stabilize the low-activity waste and dispose of it either at the INEEL, or offsite.

Suboptions to this alternative reflect variations in the separations processes as well as potential stabilization and disposal methods for low-activity waste.

Non-Separations

- Comprises several suboptions that would immobilize the waste in a glass, glass-ceramic or cement form and encapsulate it in a container suitable for placement in a permanent off-site repository.
- Assumes all the waste would be treated, but not separated into high- and low-activity fractions.

Two suboptions are to containerize solidified waste and transport all or part of it to Hanford for vitrification. Hanford is not a candidate site for permanent disposal of any INEEL high-level waste.

How Can the Public Get Involved?

Stakeholders can learn more about the ID HLW EIS and the Hanford treatment options at a public information meeting DOE plans to hold in Richland, Washington, later in 1998. They can also attend public hearings on the Draft ID HLW EIS and submit comments on it following its publication in early 1999.

Brad Bugger □ Idaho Operations Office □ (208) 526-0833
Guy Schein □ Richland Operations Office □ (509) 376-0413





Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

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August 31, 1998

John Wagoner
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Ralph Lightner, Director
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Chuck Clark
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Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
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P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Lightner:

Beginning in 1993, the Oregon Office of Energy (Oregon Energy) and the Oregon Hanford Waste Board have conducted annual evaluations of Tri-Party and U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Headquarters public involvement activities in Oregon. The goal is quality public outreach and to ensure Oregonians have the opportunity to provide input on Hanford issues.

In general, Oregon Energy and the Board observed that during the evaluation period from June 1, 1997 to August 31, 1998 the Tri-Party agencies continued a trend of improving their public involvement efforts in Oregon. During the same period, Oregon Energy and the Board found USDOE Headquarters public involvement efforts in Oregon needing substantial improvement. However, our involvement with Headquarters during this period was limited to a single public meeting concerning the Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

IMPROVEMENTS

The Tri-Party agencies now consistently work with Oregon Energy to coordinate Hanford public involvement activities in Oregon. Oregon Energy and the Board commend the Tri-Party agencies' efforts to be more flexible in presentation style and meeting format to accommodate the specific needs of the Oregon public, special interest groups, and stakeholders.

While traditional public meetings were still conducted, the Tri-Party agencies did support our request for other meeting formats. The Tri-Party agencies gave several in-depth informational briefings to Oregon Energy staff and the Board. They increased the number of focus groups and work sessions and gave one civic group presentation. As a result, many of the meetings during this evaluation period were cost effective, well-attended, and productive. The issues covered included:

- Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF)
- Hanford Budget
- Plutonium Disposition EIS Meeting
- Tank Waste Privatization
- Solid Waste

The Tri-Party agencies have also improved in the area Oregon Energy and the Board previously identified as requiring work. Oregon Energy and the Board noted that the Tri-Party agencies are attempting to determine the goal or product of a public involvement effort prior to launching a campaign. Regular conference calls allowed the Tri-Party agencies to discuss and determine the goal of a particular public involvement effort with Oregon Energy, Oregon Hanford Waste Board, Hanford Advisory Board, and special interest groups. This also allowed the different organizations an opportunity to tell the Tri-Party agencies about the specific needs of their respective constituents.

CONCERNS

While the first step is having a clearer idea of what it is they want from the public, the Tri-Party agencies should not stop there. The Tri-Party agencies must now focus on providing appropriate materials to help participants prepare for the meetings. These materials should be clear, concise, and easy for the public to understand. This is especially important when dealing with technical and complicated issues like the Hanford budget process or virtually any Environmental Impact Statement. The Tri-Party agencies have consistently failed to provide useful reading material to prepare stakeholders and the public for meetings.

Attachment - Clear and concise writing sample on Solid Waste EIS written and used by Oregon Energy prior to Solid Waste public meetings.

The Tri-Party agencies also need to develop and implement a process to provide timely feedback to the public. After seeking public comment, the Tri-Party agencies should provide a one page summary document that:

- Defines the problem or issue.
- Describes general comments heard at meetings and input provided through other forums.

- Explains USDOE's actions and how the comments altered or did not alter any USDOE decisions.
- Answers general questions from the public when possible. (All individual or unique questions should be channeled to the appropriate Tri-Party staff to address).

The summary should be mailed to all meeting participants and posted on the Web. All meeting announcements should indicate that a written response summary will be provided.

Oregon Energy and the Board are extremely concerned about a situation that occurred at the Hood River, Oregon public meeting on February 12, 1998. The Hood River meeting was one of a series of public meetings to discuss deletion of the FFTF milestones from the Tri-Party Agreement pending a decision about FFTF's role in tritium production.

The Hood River FFTF public meeting was well attended by local residents from Hood River and White Salmon. Unfortunately, many did not get a chance to comment on this issue until the end of the meeting, if at all. Tri-Cities residents attended and signed up early for public comment and as a result, dominated the comment period. This resulted in bad feelings and some local residents left the meeting believing the Tri-Party agencies were not interested in what they had to say.

We look forward to continuing our work with USDOE Richland (DOE-RL) to develop a process to ensure a more balanced procedure. This process needs to ensure that local residents have at least an equal opportunity to present their views at public meetings. Here are two formats we believe could improve the comment period at public meetings:

- Provide sign up sheets to identify those who support or oppose a given issue. Meeting facilitators should then alternate between the two lists during the public comment period.
- Do away with the sign up lists. Allow elected officials an opportunity to speak first. Then alternate between those in support and those opposed to a given issue by asking for a show of hands and selecting a person to comment on a particular view. If this is the preferred choice, the Tri-Party agencies must find facilitators who can balance the duties of running an effective meeting and facilitating public comments.

The second method was used successfully by USDOE Headquarters during a Plutonium Disposition EIS meeting August 18, 1998 in Portland. Headquarter facilitators did a good job at managing and keeping the large meeting productive with roughly 120 local residents in attendance. Unfortunately, Headquarters and DOE-RL failed to coordinate meeting logistics with Oregon Energy. Headquarters conducted the meeting at the downtown Marriott Hotel. Not only was the meeting room costly, parking was a major issue for meeting participants.

The estimated cost of the meeting was \$31,000. Headquarters spent about \$3,500 for the meeting room. DOE-RL spent \$13,500 on three ads in the Oregonian and one ad in the Willamette Week. DOE-RL spent postage to mail flyers to people on their interested mailing

lists. While the flyer provided information about the meeting topic, the date, and the city where the meeting would be conducted,⁶ it left out critical information such as the meeting location and time. DOE-RL also spent more than \$1,000 to record the meeting on tape. DOE-RL said the recorder served as a backup method to document the meeting in the event two staff members assigned to take meeting minutes failed to capture the essence of the public comments. The total cost includes lodging for two nights for 12 Headquarters or RL staff at roughly \$100 per night.

Oregon Energy could have helped Headquarters and DOE-RL to conduct this meeting for under \$800. This assumes Headquarters and DOE-RL limit the number of staff to four. For \$800, Headquarters and DOE-RL would get a meeting room, parking, videotaped recording of the meeting, audio tape recording of the meeting, sound system, breakout rooms, a meeting facilitator, and better advertising.

Oregon Energy and the Board have repeatedly discouraged the Tri-Party agencies and Headquarters from placing expensive ads in major newspapers to promote meeting attendance. Oregon Energy and the Board recommend more cost effective alternatives. This includes placing meeting information in newspaper calendar of events sections, the internet, response cards or flyers, stakeholder/activists/civic group newsletters, and direct mailings. Oregon Energy and the Board also encourage meeting with editorial boards and writing news releases to radio and public broadcasting stations so meetings can be mentioned in segments discussing upcoming community events. Not only are these promotional methods easy to do, they would drastically reduce Headquarters and DOE-RL meeting costs, because these services are free.

Oregon Energy and the Board are also concerned that USDOE Headquarters, DOE-RL, and their contractors continue to involve too many staff at Oregon meetings. At the August 18, 1998 Plutonium Disposition EIS meeting, there were at least 12 staff present. Only two were active in the presentation. One additional staff person provided technical support. At an August 12, 1998 briefing on tank waste privatization, seven DOE-RL/contractor staff were present to brief five Oregon Energy staff. Only 3 were active in the presentation. Oregon Energy and the Board continue to urge Headquarters, DOE-RL, and their contractors to limit the number of staff at meetings to two or three individuals knowledgeable about the specific issue. Limiting the number of staff at meetings and working with Oregon Energy to obtain low cost meetings rooms and inexpensive means of advertising are easy solutions to significantly reducing meeting costs.

CONCLUSION

In general, Oregon Energy and the Board are satisfied with the Tri-Party agencies' public involvement efforts in Oregon. The one exception is the August 18, 1998 Plutonium Disposition EIS public meeting. Headquarters and DOE-RL failed to communicate early with Oregon Energy and reverted back to the old style of public meetings. As a result, Headquarters and DOE-RL unnecessarily spent thousands of dollars. They conducted the meeting at a costly hotel. Oregon Energy and the Board are surprised and disappointed in the lack of communication and coordination in this meeting. We are concerned about this major set back, especially since so much progress has been made by DOE-RL in the past five years. However, we are confident that the Tri-Party agencies are committed to working with Oregon to improve problems identified in our annual evaluations.

Oregon Energy and the Board continue to struggle with USDOE Headquarters' public involvement efforts in Oregon. It is our goal to actively urge and assist Headquarters in coordinating and conducting productive and cost effective meetings in the state. Unfortunately, Headquarters continues to evade our help. As a result, Headquarters unnecessarily spends thousands of dollars on expensive meeting locations. Oregon Energy and the Board has for years encouraged Headquarters to allow Oregon staff to provide them with minimal cost meeting rooms and other logistical support.

As major decisions are now being made involving Hanford cleanup, it is vital that we have a solid public involvement process in place. It is Oregon Energy and the Board's job to ensure that Oregonians are informed and have the opportunity to provide input into Hanford decisions that affect us all. We look forward to working with you to continue improving Hanford public involvement activities in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Blazek, Administrator
Nuclear Safety Division



Patty Yraguen, Chair
Oregon Hanford Waste Board

Attachment

cc: Marilyn Reeves, Hanford Advisory Board
Karen Randolph, USDOE-Richland
Dennis Faulk, EPA
Max Power, Washington Ecology

Attachment 4

OPEN OREGON/DOE ACTION ITEMS - September 23, 1998

1.	M. Blazek requested the DOE review the Quarterly Progress Report for adequacy.	F. Miera	OPEN M. Blazek requested input on specific areas of change needed within the report.
2.	M. Blazek and M. Grainey will meet with K. Randolph and J. Rasmussen when the Oregon budget request is ready.	M. Blazek J. Rasmussen	OPEN CLOSED Meeting conducted on 9/23/98.
3.	M. Blazek asked F. Miera to check on status of outcome of the Glenn Podonski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oversight, visit the State of Oregon.	F. Miera	OPEN Letter from the DOE Headquarters forthcoming on this subject.
4.	Investigate opportunities for a meeting between Governor Kitzhaber and John Wagoner possibly to include visiting the Hanford Site or in conjunction with any future visits to the site by the Secretary of Energy.	F. Miera M. Grainey M. Blazek	OPEN Opportunities may not now be feasible until Spring of 1999.
5.	M. Blazek requested a one page summary of the TWRS Privatization Contract Announcement from the DOE prior to the announcement.	P. Bengtson	OPEN CLOSED
6.	W. Taylor to review public involvement plans for Privatization effort and discuss with M. Blazek.	W. Taylor	OPEN