

0057745

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

March 30, 1998
Oregon Office of Energy, 625 Marion St., Salem Oregon

Distribution:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| L. D. Arnold | FDH | H8-67 |
| M. L. Blazek | OOE | Oregon |
| R. E. Erickson | DOE-HQ | |
| J. W. Graybeal | FDH | B3-35 |
| K. K. Randolph | DOE-RL | A7-75 |
| G. M. McClure | DOE-RL | A7-75 |
| F. R. Miera | DOE-RL | A5-15 |
| R. D. Morrison | FDH | G3-27 |
| N. B. Myers | BHI | H0-14 |
| J. E. Rasmussen | DOE-RL | A5-15 |
| G. H. Sanders | DOE-RL | A5-15 |
| K. Niles | OOE | Oregon |

RECEIVED
JUL 23 2002
EDMC

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

March 30, 1998
Oregon Office of Energy, 625 Marion St., Salem Oregon

Apprvl.: *Felix R. Miera*
for George Sanders, U.S. Department
of Energy

Date: *5/28/98*

Apprvl.: *Mary Lou Blazek*
Mary Lou Blazek, Oregon Office
of Energy

Date: *5/28/98*

Attendees:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| L. Arnold | FDH |
| M. Blazek | OOE |
| D. Dunning | OOE |
| D. Huston | OOE |
| G. McClure | DOE-RL |
| F. Miera | DOE-RL |
| R. Morrison | FDH |
| K. Niles | OOE |
| G. Sanders | DOE-RL |

AGENDA

DOE/OREGON BI-MONTHLY FORUM MARCH 30, 1998

- I. Introductions
- II. Groundwater/Vadose Zone - Conference call w/ Mike Thompson
- III. Meeting Between Gov. Kitzhaber and Mr. Wagoner - Blazek/Miera
- IV. FFTF Public Involvement - Sanders
- V. TWRS Privatization Contract Announcement - Sanders
- VI. TPA Activity Status & Update - Sanders/Miera
- VII. Public Involvement Activities - McClure
- VIII. DOE Support to Oregon Hanford Waste Board - Blazek
- IX. Follow-up on Action Items from January 1998 Bi-Monthly Meeting - Morrison
- X. Future Meeting Dates - Morrison
- XI. Closing Remarks

MEETING MINUTES, March 30, 1998 (Salem, Oregon)

I. Introductions

M. Blazek introduced Doug Huston, a new employee of the Oregon Office of Energy who will be assuming Ralph Patts position.

Alice Murphy Briefings

F. Miera briefly discussed the Alice Murphy bi-weekly briefings to the regulators and that M. Blazek is now invited to participate in these briefings. This closed an action item from the January meeting.

U.S. Department of Energy-Headquarters (HQ) Oversight Visit to Oregon

M. Blazek emphasized the need for coordination/liaison by U.S. DOE HQ in DOE/Oregon interactions. M. Blazek cited the recent visit with the State of Oregon, by Glenn Podonsky, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oversight, EH-2, for the U.S. DOE. Mr. Podonsky met with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to discuss the State of Oregon's satisfaction with emergency preparedness at Hanford. The appropriate Oregon agency on this issue is the Oregon Office of Energy concerning Hanford. The Oregon Office of Energy has not been able to talk with Mr. Podonsky to follow up. Oregon staff reiterated a need for DOE HQ participation in these bi-monthly meetings to help communicate these types of frustrating interactions in the State of Oregon.

Contract Reviews

M. Blazek shared her discussion with W. Taylor, U.S. DOE, concerning the Hanford Advisory Board's decision not to participate in the review of the U.S. DOE privatization contracts for the RL TWRS Program. M. Blazek emphasized the Hanford Advisory Board decision did not necessarily represent the State of Oregon's position on this issue, further stating that Oregon staff may have chosen to participate in this review.

FFTF Related Developments

M. Blazek inquired if anyone was familiar with a recent FFTF related newspaper article in which statements were made that tritium may not be considered "Special Nuclear Material" and that certain Tennessee Valley Authority reactors may not be considered to be "commercial" reactors. This appears to be a not so subtle way of skirting the non proliferation issues with producing tritium in commercial reactors in Tennessee. G. Sanders responded that neither he, nor his staff, had not seen the article and could not comment on it.

Groundwater/Vadose Zone

D. Dunning asked if Groundwater/Vadose Zone activities within RL, were slated to become an independent program at Hanford. G. Sanders responded that all DOE efforts and activities for groundwater/vadose zone work, would be overseen by RL's Environmental Restoration program which is managed by Linda Bauer.

M. Blazek inquired about recent press releases from Representative Hastings implying that the groundwater/vadose zone needs could be damaging to the Hanford Site budget. G. Sanders responded that this was because RL direction on resources to deal with the vadose zone needs would have to come from other Hanford Site activities since there is no "new money" coming to Hanford for this work. M. Blazek inquired about the \$15 million extra which was requested. G. Sanders stated that the requested

\$15 million in additional Hanford Site funding was not approved by OMB. M. Blazek asked if there was anything the State of Oregon could do to affect this. G. Sanders responded that if any "lobbying" is to be done, it would have to occur within the next two weeks. G. Sanders went on to explain that other Federal budget priorities appear to leave little optimism for an increased budget for the Hanford Site.

III Proposed Meeting between Governor Kitzhaber and John Wagoner

F. Miera pointed out that J. Wagoner had been summoned back to Washington D.C., leading to cancellation of a date to meet with Governor Kitzhaber. G. Sanders asked if it would be advantageous for Governor Kitzhaber to come to see the Hanford Site in conjunction with a meeting with J. Wagoner. M. Blazek will check to see if the Governor would be interested in visiting the Hanford Site.

Action: M. Blazek to check Governor Kitzhaber's schedule for opportunities. F. Miera to check Secretary Peña's schedule for opportunities to tie in with a meeting between J. Wagoner and Governor Kitzhaber.

II Conference call with K. Mike Thompson to discuss groundwater and vadose zone issues

Mike Thompson explained that a couple of things are going on related to these issues. The DOE had asked for an additional \$15 million for the Single-Shell Tank Stabilization program but, did not receive it. Of the total requested, \$2.5 million was to have been earmarked for vadose zone activities. Current funding levels are at \$900,000. Involvement by the National Laboratories and expert review probably won't be possible at this funding level.

D. Dunning asked if the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) recommendations were being adopted. Mike Thompson responded that the intent was to use the CRCIA as a template for developing the RL approach at least with respect to the first four modules.

M. Blazek talked about the General Accounting Office (GAO) report that recommended a three tier process for review of the groundwater/vadose zone work, and whether the recommendations would be utilized in the DOE's efforts. Mike Thompson responded that yes this approach would include: 1) review by the National Academy of Scientists, 2) the National Laboratories would help develop the program, and 3) technical review groups from the National Laboratories will look at our work. M. Blazek stated that overview by the National Academy of Scientists would receive the State of Oregon's support. M. Blazek asked if the technical review would respond to the concerns in the GAO report. Thompson responded that there are several efforts needed to address the findings of the GAO report.

M. Blazek asked if the groundwater/vadose zone implementation plan is still scheduled for release in October, in light of the funding shortfall. Mike Thompson responded that the DOE is working with the various programs to identify a schedule and to identify the unfunded activities and the gaps in resources to determine a path forward. G. Sanders added that this effort basically represents unfunded work, and that taking funds from other Hanford Site work will impact compliance budget cases.

M. Blazek asked Mike Thompson if the GAO report came as a surprise to the DOE. Mike Thompson responded that it did not, although there were some aspects of the Report that the DOE did not necessarily agree with. However, in general, groundwater/vadose issues have just not received the emphasis, for many reasons, that it probably should have in the past.

Mike Thompson provided an overview of the SX tank farm groundwater contaminant movement. It is believed that all contaminants are still within about one hundred feet of the ground surface, due to the forming of a chemical barrier in the soils beneath the tanks.

M. Blazek asked if Mike Thompson agreed with slant drilling techniques being implemented on Site. Thompson responded yes, adding that avoiding drilling through high levels of contamination is important to achieving accurate information.

D. Dunning, commenting on the "SX Panel", stated that he did not think that enough data existed to support a detailed knowledge of other tanks and contaminant mobility. Mike Thompson responded that he agreed and now the task is to verify the assumptions involved.

D. Dunning also pointed out that M. Grainey of the Oregon Office of Energy did comment on the proposed funding, that the DOE must not have to sacrifice one activity to fund another. G. Sanders responded that the FY 2000 target level budget of \$0.961 billion for the Hanford Site complex presents many issues for the DOE to work through.

V TWRS Privatization Contract Announcement

G. Sanders asked if the State of Oregon was still interested in the TWRS privatization announcement. M. Blazek responded that yes, Oregon is still very interested and requested that she be contacted first so that she could appropriately notify the Governor's office. M. Blazek also requested that G. McClure please coordinate Oregon notification with notification of the State of Washington.

ACTION: M. Blazek requested a one page summary of the above from the DOE prior to the announcement. F. Miera to coordinate this activity with the TWRS Program.

IV Fast Flux Test Facility Public Involvement

M. Blazek provided copies of two letters (Attachments 2 and 3), one from the State of Oregon Office of Energy and the other from Hanford Action of Oregon, related to the FFTF public involvement efforts. M. Blazek pointed out that Lloyd Marbet is one of Oregon's most publicly active citizens and that comments submitted by his organizations need to be addressed in a responsive manner by the DOE. M. Blazek also expressed concerns that some Hood River/White Salmon and other local citizens who attended the Hood River public meeting on February 12, 1998 had to leave before having a chance to comment due to the large number of Tri-Cities attendees who commented early in the meeting. M. Blazek stated this is a problem we must address to provide a better balance of opportunity for comment.

G. Sanders responded that through lessons learned, it may be time to review the Tri-Party Agreement Community Relations Plan (CRP) and perhaps try to apply more structure to the commenting process. FFTF was an especially difficult issue to work through the complete public involvement process. M. Blazek concurred that reviewing the CRPs requirements may be a good place to start and stressed that the comments in the two letters must be carefully considered in any approach.

ACTION: G. McClure and M. Blazek to confer and begin work on resolving the issues presented in the letters (Attachments 2 and 3).

VII Public Involvement Activities

G. McClure stated that the public meeting on Hanford's budget did not go particularly well. She also pointed out that the DOE needs the State of Oregon's help in getting with the stakeholders and working together to anticipate the stakeholder's needs and interests.

M. Blazek responded that the Hanford Budget may not hold as much interest as some other issues but, involved groups and citizens still need an appropriate forum in which to comment and there is still the need to work effectively with them to make these meetings practical.

VIII DOE Support to Oregon Hanford Waste Board

M. Blazek commended F. Miera for his participation in the activities of the Oregon Hanford Waste Board.

A copy of a presentation "TWRS Privatization for Tank Waste Cleanup" presented to the Oregon Office of Energy (Attachment 4) was provided for information.

X Future Meetings

The next meeting between the State of Oregon and the U.S. DOE was proposed for May 19 or 20, 1998 to be coordinated with the Tri-Party Agreement Interagency Management Integration Team Meeting.

ACTION: G. Sanders to provide background information to M. Blazek on the affected Indian Nations.

DEPARTMENT OF
STATE POLICE

OREGON EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1998

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

March 23, 1998

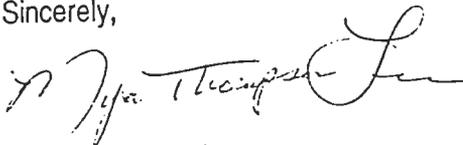
Glenn S. Podonsky
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oversight
U.S. Department of Energy
Environment Safety and Health
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Podonsky:

Thank you for your recent visit and for making us aware of the role you play within your agency. I want to once again encourage you to contact the Oregon Office of Energy. They serve as the "lead" technical agency in Oregon pertaining to radiological emergencies involving nuclear facilities, commercial nuclear power plants, and radioactive materials transport.

The Administrator for the Oregon Office of Energy, Nuclear Safety Section, is Mary Lou Blazek. She can be reached at (503) 378-5544.

Sincerely,



Myra Thompson Lee
Director

c: Mary Lou Blazek

John A. Kitzhaber
Governor



395 Cottage Street NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-2911
FAX (503) 588-1378
TTY (503) 373-7857
oemd@oem.state.or.us



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Office of Energy

625 Marion St. NE

Salem, OR 97310-0830

Phone: (503) 378-4040

Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035

Fax: (503) 373-7806

Web site: www.cbs.state.or.us/external/oe/

March 3, 1998

Mike Wilson
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504

Gail McClure
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms. ^{Gail} McClure & Mr. ^{Mike} Wilson:

I recently read with interest that the series of Tri-Party FFTF public meetings were considered a substantial success. In general I agree that the Tri-Parties and USDOE have come a long way in public involvement efforts. I must however, bring to your notice an issue about the FFTF meetings that demands our attention.

The Hood River FFTF public meeting was well attended by interested and vocal individuals. Unfortunately for Hood River/White Salmon residents, the Tri-Cities citizens that attended signed up early for public comment which resulted in a substantial delay for local folks who may have commented. My staff requested the format be changed to alternate local citizens with non local speakers. That request was denied. I understand that some of the Tri-City residents agreed to speak later on the agenda to allow local residents an opportunity to speak earlier on the agenda. I'm sure that was appreciated. It is not clear to me whether or not the delay for some resulted in not gaining comments from local citizens attending the meeting. It is clear to me that we need to avoid that potential in the future.

We request public meetings in various Oregon communities to ensure that a broad base of Oregonians can provide input to the process. This recent effort did not allow maximum opportunity for the local communities to comment.

We should have a process in place that ensures a more balanced procedure. I recommend we work together to find a means to ensure that local community members have priority or at least

equal opportunities to present their views when public meetings are conducted in that community. We should jointly develop a policy to address this issue.

I am anxious for resolution because this same situation may arise again at other Tri-Party public hearings. The design of the Budget public meetings (workshop format) allows for discussions between people with opposing opinions. The testimony then becomes less contentious. It would be worth evaluating the productivity of a workshop format before public testimony in the future, with separate sign up sheets for local/non-local to balance the testimony. I look forward to discussing this issue with you. Please call me at 503-378-5544 to decide a convenient meeting time either by phone or in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Lou Blazek, Administrator
Nuclear Safety Division

HANFORD ACTION OF OREGON

25-6 Northwest 23 Place, Suite 406, Portland, OR 97210

Tel: (503) 235-2924 Fax: (503) 736-0097 Email: hannie@aol.com

Mr. Federico Pena
Secretary of Energy
James Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

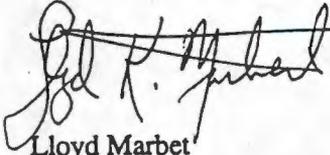
Dear Secretary Pena,

Hanford Action of Oregon (HAO) recently participated in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) public hearings on altering the 1989 Hanford Tri-Party Agreement and restarting the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF). While we greatly appreciate the opportunity for public participation in these hearings, the process used for holding them needs improvement and we offer the following suggestions:

1. Individuals testifying in DOE hearings should be allowed to testify once and should not be allowed to repeat their testimony at each hearing location which is devoted to taking testimony from those who live in the immediate area. This restriction should not apply to those individuals who are paneled to make presentations at the beginning of a hearing.
2. At the time people sign in they should check a box by their name which indicates whether they are for or against the DOE proposed action. Testimony should then be alternated between those in favor and those opposed, followed by which ever category of testimony remains.
3. There should be no time limitation on public testimony but the public should be encouraged to be succinct and non-redundant in their statements. People with time constraints should be given an opportunity to testify early in the hearing. If there is more testimony than time allows, the DOE should be prepared to extend the hearing to the following day until all testimony has been heard. The DOE is responsible for the safety of nuclear operations and the disposal of nuclear wastes which will remain in existence magnitudes of time over that which is given to adequate public input. Upon the completion of the public hearings, the record should be kept open at least 30 days for additional comment. All written testimony submitted in writing should be made available on the Internet at the DOE's website.
4. While hearings on FFTF are now over, the DOE will soon be holding new hearings on its proposed location for pit disassembly and MOX fuel fabrication of weapons grade plutonium. Multiple hearings should be held in the vicinity of the candidate sites. For the Hanford location, HAO believes hearings should be held at least in the following locations: Hood River, Pendleton and Portland, Oregon; Richland, Seattle, and Spokane, Washington.
5. Extensive news, radio, and television advertisements announcing the MOX hearings should be purchased by the DOE with input from active stakeholder interests. The DOE should prepare draft ads which are then circulated to the stakeholders groups. If there are objections to content or alternative proposals which cannot be agreed upon by the stakeholder interests and the DOE, then the Congressional delegations of each state should resolve any disputes in a timely fashion for advertising purchased within their borders.
6. Notification of any DOE public hearings should given at least one month before the hearings are to be held.

Hanford Action of Oregon provides the above procedural rules for your consideration and adoption. We believe that they are in the public interest and further the quality and integrity of the DOE hearing process. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this proposal. We welcome your response

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lloyd Marbet", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is positioned to the left of the line, with the line extending to the right.

Lloyd Marbet
On behalf of the Hanford Action of Oregon Working Group

cc: Oregon & Washington Congressional Delegation
Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber
Washington Governor Gary Locke
Oregon Office of Energy
Washington Department of Ecology

TWRS Privatization for Tank Waste Cleanup Presentation for the Oregon Office of Energy



March 30, 1998

William J. Taylor, Director

Robin Sweeney, Technical Advisor

DOE-Richland Operations Office

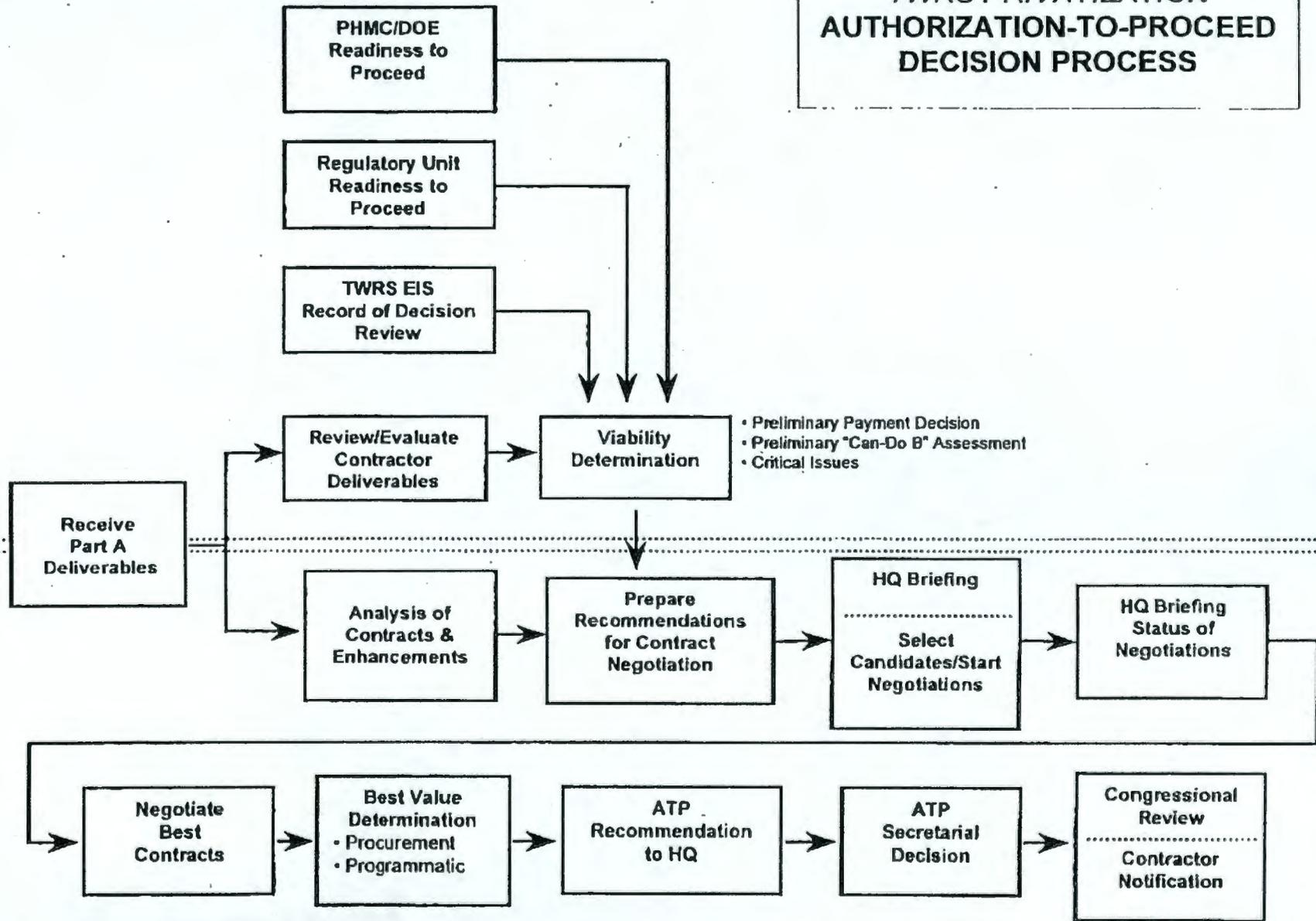
| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|------------|---|
| Post-it [®] Fax Note | 7671 | Date | 3/30 | # of pages | 5 |
| To | Dirk Dunning | From | Pete Bergtson | | |
| Co./Dept. | DOE | Co. | | | |
| Phone # | | Phone # | (509) 373-9431 | | |
| Fax # | (509) 373-7806 | Fax # | 373-0628 | | |

Status of Proposals and Negotiations

- Proposals received January 26
 - Evaluations and analysis conducted by DOE and independent experts are ongoing
 - Headquarters recommended independent reviews are underway
 - HQ reviews have been positive and support RL's technical analysis
 - HQ independent team here this week
- Discussions with private contractors began in early March, ongoing

VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

TWRS PRIVATIZATION AUTHORIZATION-TO-PROCEED DECISION PROCESS



Summary

- Initial Reviews complete and discussions are underway
- Briefings are or will be scheduled continually with HQ, Congressional Members, Other Agencies, Tribes and Stakeholders
- Schedule remains challenging - On target to meet July 31 TPA milestone
- Stakeholder participation recognized as key element by DOE to obtain tank treatment facilities

Stakeholder Values and Involvement

- Discussed in February with a small group of stakeholders, core values, issues, and concerns
 - Purpose of values list: Apply stakeholder values universally to the “can do B” evaluation process
 - Values list as well as stakeholder values in Future Site Uses and Tank Waste Task Force Reports are being applied
- Status of HAB request for two members to participate in TWRS Review and Oregon’s request to be present during Technical Review Briefing
 - DOE has approved the request for HAB members to participate in review
 - However, HAB stakeholders have raised some concerns. DOE is clarifying and seeking to resolve these concerns

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

January 26, 1998
Federal Building, Room 180, Richland Washington

Distribution:

| | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| L. D. Arnold | FDH | H8-67 |
| M. L. Blazek | OOE | Oregon |
| J. W. Graybeal | FDH | B3-35 |
| K. K. Randolph | DOE-RL | A7-75 |
| G. M. McClure | DOE-RL | A7-75 |
| F. R. Miera | DOE-RL | A5-15 |
| R. D. Morrison | FDH | G3-27 |
| N. B. Myers | BHI | H0-14 |
| G. H. Sanders | DOE-RL | A5-15 |
| K. Niles | OOE | Oregon |

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

January 26, 1998
Federal Building, Room 180, Richland, Washington

Approval:  Date: 3/30/98
George Sanders, U.S. Department
of Energy

Approval:  Date: 3/30/98
Mary Lou Blazek, Oregon Office
of Energy

Attendees:

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| L. Arnold | FDH |
| M. Blazek | OOE |
| R. Erickson | DOE-HQ |
| F. Miera | DOE-RL |
| N. Myers | BHI |
| K. Niles | OOE |
| K. Randolph | DOE-RL |

AGENDA

DOE/OREGON MOU BI-MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 26, 1998

- I. Introductions
- II. ATSDR Update - Sanders/Miera
- III. Partnering on TWRS Vadose Zone Efforts at Hanford - Blazek
- IV. Meeting between Gov. Kitzhaber and Mr. Wagoner - Blazek/Miera
- V. Follow-up on Moniz trip to the Hanford Site - Blazek
- VI. TPA Activity Status & Update - Miera/Arnold
- VII. Follow-up on Action Items from November 1997 Bi-Monthly Meeting - Morrison
- VIII. Future Meeting Dates - Arnold
- IX. Closing Remarks

MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 26, 1998 (Richland, WA.)

Ralph Erickson of the DOE-HQ was introduced to the attendees. Mr Erickson who travels to Richland for monthly Core Team Meetings represented the DOE HQ.

ATSDR

Felix Miera presented the current ATSDR status. DOE-HQ has provided funding, outside clean-up funds, to a total of \$5.0 Million. ATSDR scope of work proposal was estimated at \$12.9 Million. Issues regarding uncertainties for FY 1999 funding were also discussed.

Partnering on TWRS Vadose Efforts

Bechtel Hanford Inc. has been directed to manage the integrated Hanford site-wide Groundwater Program. The State of Oregon would like to be kept informed and involved with this effort and related issues. Technical issues regarding well drilling were referenced in particular.

Action: F. Miera/M. Thompson are to set up a conference call with Mary Lou Blazek to discuss Ground Water Issues. Early notification of issues is greatly desired by Oregon.

Meeting between John Wagoner and Governor Kitzhaber

Intended meeting would be about 1/2 hour in length. Possible agenda subjects discussed between Karen Randolph, Felix Miera and Mary Lou Blazek included: ATSDR, Protection of the Columbia River, Memorandum of Understanding between the DOE and Oregon State. Some possible dates suggested are: February 12, 19, and 20, 1998. Ralph Erickson requested a copy of proposed agenda in advance of finalization.

Action: Felix Miera to obtain 3 dates in March 1998 based upon John Wagoners availability.

Moniz Trip

The State of Oregon expressed strong concerns over issues of protocol regarding Under Secretary Moniz's Hanford visit in January 1998. Some "disconnects" concerning invitee's schedules and Points of Contact with Ecology were pointed out. Future Hanford Site visits from DOE-HQ will be worked and coordinated through Ralph Erickson of DOE-HQ. The State of Oregon also requested advance notice of future visits.

Tri-Party Agreement Status

The Fast Flux Test Facility Public Involvement Meeting (last of four) is scheduled for February 12, 1998 in Hood River, Oregon

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program status was presented. The current schedule baseline under consideration is still a very aggressive one. The regulators, Washington State Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency, set a February 24, 1998 date for completion of all negotiations. The regulatory agencies have indicated that should agreement not be reached between the Parties, they may use their authorities to take enforcement actions against the DOE.

Plutonium Finishing Plant budget issues and inventory of Special Nuclear Materials are open issues affecting the negotiation of transition schedules with Ecology. The DOE has proposed to address a phase-in approach to solve the current problems and address others later on in future years, pending regulatory agreement to this approach.

Tri-Party Agreement M-41-00 Major Milestone, which contains commitments to Complete Single-Shell Tank Interim Stabilization, is at issue, along with several other Tank Waste Remediation System Milestones. The February meeting of the Hanford Advisory Board is to focus most of its' meeting on the Tank Waste Remediation System milestones.

Review of November 5, 1997 Action Items:

- Oregon provided a copy of a white paper (See Attachment) - "Waste Analysis Underway at Hanford", dated January 9, 1998, which they had mailed to Oregon Concerned Citizens.
- The State of Oregon has maintained its' request to attend Alice Murphy monthly briefing of regulators.
- The State of Oregon requested that the Tri-Party Agreement status of issues be a routine agenda item for future Bi-monthly meetings.
- George Sanders, DOE/EAP, will brief DOE/RL management on Oregon concerns and issues.

Groundwater and sharing of Public Involvement information

Discussions were held about an advance, embargoed copy of a press release on Groundwater/Vadose Zone issues, sent out to interested parties, including Oregon, before a planned DOE press conference held earlier in January 1998. The information appeared in the Portland Oregonian, prior to official release of the article by DOE. Discussions were held regarding how to avoid this type of situation in the future, and still ensure that Oregon and other parties get the information ahead of time to keep them informed in a timely manner. The DOE will continue to share information on Groundwater/Vadose Zone issues. The primary contact for Oregon on sensitive releases of information will be Mary Lou Blazek.

Next Meeting on March 30, 1998 in Salem Oregon

The next meeting between the State of Oregon and the U.S. DOE will be on March 30, 1998 in Salem Oregon. The meeting will discuss Hanford Site cleanup issues and the DOE will provide a briefing on the basics of the Tri-Party Agreement.

Date: January 9, 1998

To: Concerned Citizens

From: Mary Lou Blazek, Administrator
Nuclear Safety Division

Subject: Waste Analysis Underway At Hanford

DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement relating to the treatment, storage and disposal of several types of radioactive and hazardous solid waste at the Hanford Site in Washington state. The information sheet attached to this memo describes these wastes. Plutonium and high-level radioactive waste are not included in this evaluation.

USDOE plans to look at the potential environmental impacts from current activities involving these wastes and activities expected during the next 20 years. USDOE is now accepting public comments and suggestions on the extent (or "scope") of its analysis.

USDOE proposes to analyze four different alternatives for the waste. A "no action" alternative would continue waste handling and disposal activities as they currently exist. The "proposed action" would somewhat expand these activities. We have provided a summary of the activities that would occur under both of these alternatives in the attached information sheet.

USDOE will also examine a "minimize" alternative, which would result in limited on-site disposal of existing wastes at Hanford and the removal of all newly generated waste to other sites. The "maximize" alternative would likely bring extensive amounts of waste to Hanford from other USDOE sites. In a separate analysis now underway, USDOE is considering whether to use Hanford as a disposal site for large volumes of waste from other USDOE sites around the country. That decision is expected in mid-1998. Until that decision is made, it is difficult to predict the amount of waste or sources of the waste that could come to Hanford.

Because the impacts from these actions could be significant, we wanted you to be aware of this opportunity to provide comments. Although we are still developing our comments, we do have some initial concerns to share with you. We are very concerned about plans which could result in extensive amounts of waste being brought to Hanford for disposal. We're not certain of the environmental impact these activities could have on the site, and

John A. Kitzhaber
Governor



625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-4040
FAX (503) 373-7806
Toll-Free 1-800-221-8035

January 9, 1998

Page 2

potentially the Columbia River. It would likely result in a large increase in the transportation of radioactive waste through Oregon. Under some scenarios being considered by USDOE, tens of thousands of shipments of waste could be brought to Hanford for disposal.

We will request that USDOE's analysis separately examine the impact of disposing of Hanford waste and disposing of waste from other sites. We believe it is important to know what impacts are caused by continued disposal of Hanford-generated waste, and also to know what added impacts there would be from disposal of wastes from other USDOE sites. We are concerned about whether enough information is currently known about the environmental impacts from past waste disposal activities. This could make it very difficult to determine any added risk by expanding disposal operations.

If you have any concerns or suggestions about issues to be considered, alternatives to be analyzed or environmental impacts to be addressed by USDOE in this process, we encourage you to provide comments to USDOE. The comment deadline is January 30, 1998. Written comments should be submitted to:

Ms. Allison Wright
Document Manager
Hanford Site Solid Waste Program EIS
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
MSIN S7-55
PO Box 550
Richland, WA 99352-0550
509-373-7840
e-mail: solid_waste_eis_-_doe@rl.gov

USDOE conducted two public meetings in November on the scope of this Environmental Impact Statement. If you believe additional public meetings are necessary, please contact Ken Niles with the Oregon Office of Energy's Nuclear Safety Division. Ken can be reached toll free (within Oregon) at 1-800-221-8035 or direct at 503-378-4906. If you would like a copy of USDOE's Notice of Intent to conduct this Environmental Impact Statement, please call Ken or contact Allison Wright with USDOE.

You may also request to be added to the mailing list for the draft Environmental Impact Statement when it becomes available later this year. Public meetings will be held on the draft Environmental Impact Statement after it is released.

Summary of Current Hanford Solid Waste Activities and Proposed Actions

The U.S. Department of Energy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement relating to the treatment, storage and disposal of several types of radioactive and hazardous solid waste at the Hanford Site in Washington state. These wastes are described here. Current activities involving these wastes, as well as Hanford's proposed options for future activities involving these wastes are also described here.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Hanford's low-level radioactive wastes include protective clothing, gloves, plastic sheeting and contaminated equipment. Most low-level waste contains small amounts of radioactivity in large volumes of materials. Some low-level waste contains significant levels of radioactivity.

There are eight burial grounds at Hanford that are now used for low-level radioactive waste disposal. Each burial ground contains numerous trenches that are typically 1,000 feet in length and 20 feet deep. The waste is then placed in these trenches and backfilled with soil. On average, about 200,000 cubic feet of low-level waste is buried at Hanford each year. (This does not include the commercial low-level waste disposal site operated by US Ecology on land leased by the state of Washington). About 25 to 30 percent of the low-level waste disposed at Hanford comes from other USDOE sites.

One particular type of low-level waste, called "Greater than Category 3" (GTC3) waste, is not buried at Hanford. This waste has higher levels of radioactivity and long half-lives.

Under the proposed action, USDOE would continue to dispose of low-level waste in the burial grounds, would continue to accept similar amounts of waste from other USDOE sites, would likely expand and reconfigure the burial grounds, would examine ways to dispose of the GTC3 waste, and would examine the eventual closure of the burial grounds.

Mixed Low-Level Waste

Mixed low-level waste contains both radioactive and chemically hazardous materials. At Hanford, this includes sludges, ashes, resins, paint wastes, soils and contaminated equipment. Most of this waste requires treatment before disposal. This is done both on and off site. Currently, about 8,600 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste is being stored at Hanford, awaiting treatment.

Under the proposed action, USDOE will dispose of mixed low-level waste in two existing lined trenches, will expand the number of disposal trenches, will continue to use commercial treatment facilities, will receive some mixed low-level waste from other USDOE sites, will determine methods for treatment and disposal of any liquid coming from the disposal trenches, and will analyze the eventual closure of the trenches.

Transuranic Waste

Transuranic waste consists of laboratory clothing, tools, gloveboxes, rubber gloves, air filters and other waste which has been contaminated with small amounts of plutonium and certain other radioactive elements. Some of these will remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years.

Between 1970 and 1988, USDOE buried its transuranic waste in shallow trenches, with the intention of retrieving the waste, repackaging it, and shipping it to a geologic disposal site in New Mexico. The Hanford Site has an estimated 15,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste in 25 trenches, planned for retrieval. Waste generated prior to 1970 was buried with no intention to retrieve this waste. Waste generated since 1988 has been stored above ground.

The proposed action is to retrieve the transuranic waste from the burial grounds, accept some waste for treatment or storage from other USDOE sites, and treat and prepare the waste for eventual shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Hazardous Waste

Hanford's hazardous wastes include solvents, paints, oils and other materials that contain lead, other metals or other hazardous substances. They do not contain radioactive materials.

Hazardous waste is not currently treated or disposed of on the Hanford Site. It is stored for a limited time before being transported to commercial facilities for treatment and disposal. On average, about 1,200 containers of hazardous waste -- such as 55 gallon drums -- are shipped each year from Hanford to commercial treatment and disposal sites. Some of this waste is eventually buried at the hazardous waste landfill near Arlington, Oregon.

Under the proposed action, Hanford would continue to use commercial companies for treatment and disposal of its hazardous waste. There would be no significant change in how it handles hazardous waste.

Decontamination

Contaminated equipment -- ranging from hand tools to cranes -- is decontaminated at Hanford's T Plant. Equipment that can be successfully decontaminated is reused or sold as surplus. Equipment that can't be completely decontaminated is disposed in the burial grounds.

The proposed action will be to determine future decontamination activities and consider alternative technologies, including whether to continue to use the T Plant or to use mobile decontamination facilities instead.