



Department of Energy

625 MARION ST. NE, SALEM, OREGON 97310 PHONE 378-4040 TOLL FREE 1-800-221-8035

TO: Governor Atiyeh
Gerry Thompson
Pat Amedeo

DATE: June 2, 1986

FROM: Lynn Frank

SUBJECT: Hanford -- Follow Up

Enclosures

Enclosed for your consideration are **drafts** of:

- Remarks for media availability;
- Press Release;
- Letter to Congressional Delegation;
- Letter to Ben Rusche, US Department of Energy, regarding Oregon funding -- Ben is in charge of repository review.

Decisions

We need your direction regarding:

- The draft enclosures, which we can revise and have available by 9 AM Tuesday, or whenever you need them.
- Joining the Washington lawsuit; Bill Gary will offer advice.
- Meeting with Ben Rusche. If the Governor is in Washington June 17 to testify on the Gorge Legislation, he could meet with Rusche. Time is being reserved on Rusche's schedule June 17, as well as June 16 and 18.
- Whether you would like to meet with some or all of the delegation on this or other issues -- if you go to Washington.

LF:djb
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June 5, 1986

STATUS REPORT ON NUCLEAR ISSUES WITH USDOE

1. N Reactor Safety:

We have begun a review of N reactor safety. We are using our nuclear engineers responsible for safe operations of Trojan.

The review will focus on three areas to ensure public health and safety:

- Ability of plant systems to prevent damage to the nuclear fuel.
- Ability of plant systems to prevent radioactive releases which would adversely affect public health and safety.
- Ability to respond to accidents effectively.

When other reviews are undertaken, we will either participate in them or evaluate them. Governor Atiyeh has requested that the National Academies of Science and Engineering include us in their review.

2. Hanford Defense Wastes:

Two public workshops were held in late May. We are meeting with Washington State in mid-June to discuss specific concerns. Comments will be given to USDOE at a public hearing on July 10.

3. Hanford Repository:

The nine member Hanford Review Committee made comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The final EA was issued on May 28. Although Hanford was ranked fifth, USDOE has decided to continue studies. The studies will take about five years and cost about \$1 billion.

On June 3, Governor Atiyeh announced that Oregon will challenge this decision in court.

Governor Atiyeh is asking for about \$500,000 for each of the next five years to allow Oregon to participate fully in continuing studies.

4. Historical Data Review:

A regional review group is directing a review of the Hanford historical reports. Past, current, and future impacts from 40 years of Hanford operations will be reviewed.

The nine person review group includes three members each from Oregon, Washington, and the three Indian tribes.

The review will be done in two parts. Phase I includes:

- a. An initial assessment by the group of the available documents.
- b. A review of existing health studies by the Centers for Disease Control and a scientific peer review panel.

Phase I should be complete by September.

The schedule and scope of work for Phase II of the review process will come out of Phase I findings. Phase II may include more health studies. There may be further work with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It also may include more complex regional environmental monitoring.

5. High-Level Waste Transportation:

USDOE proposed a four part transportation plan. We co-chair, with Nevada, the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) High Level Waste Committee. WEIB and ODOE have asked USDOE to combine all pieces of their plan into one complete plan.

The WIEB Committee also will coordinate a review of transport issues. Some subjects to be looked at are:

- Highway and rail routes
- Cask safety
- Emergency response
- Inspections

We have begun a joint program for truck inspection with Washington State. The focus of this effort is the high level radioactive shipments from Hanford.

We have a contract with Oregon State University to do a study on cask design. More funding for this effort is being discussed with Washington State and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

6. Submarine Shipments:

The states of Oregon and Washington inspected the shipment prior to release for transport from Bremerton on March 31. The shipment of the Navy submarine reactor compartment left Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on April 2. It arrived at the Port of Benton at Hanford on April 5.

The shipment went without incident. We will work with the Navy and USDOE when more shipments of this nature occur.

7. Old Reactors:

We are beginning to study the decommissioning of the old reactors along the Columbia River. We intend to participate in the environmental review process. It is scheduled to start in about two years.

8. Process Facility Modification:

The purpose of changes to PUREX is to reduce waste from N reactor fuel reprocessing. ODOE will not make a large effort on this issue. If more plutonium is produced, these changes will reduce waste. Reprocessing would then be viewed as a benefit.

9. Lakeview Uranium Mill Tailings:

Contracts have been signed for the construction and removal activities in Lakeview. Final site design is complete. We should be breaking ground in July. USDOE has about \$5 million set aside for Lakeview in FY '86. The budget request for FY '87 is \$9.5 million. We will strive to complete clean-up by the fall of 1987.

10. Albany Research Center:

The U.S. Bureau of Mines Albany Research Center is part of a USDOE clean-up program known as FUSRAP (Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program). About 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil will be moved for final disposal. USDOE agrees with us that the best disposal option would be shipment to the low level defense waste trenches at Hanford. Our concern is that Washington State must be comfortable with this plan. Governor Atiyeh is working with Governor Gardner on the matter.

There is money in USDOE's budget request for FY '87 for the Albany Research Center clean-up. The budget request is for \$1.3 million for the first year. We believe this is enough for first year work.