

GOVERNOR ATIYEH SPEAKING NOTES

June 3, 1986

Hanford

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS CHOSEN HANFORD AS ONE OF THREE FINAL CANDIDATE SITES FOR A PERMANENT REPOSITORY FOR HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTES. THE PRESIDENT ACTED ON A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ILL-ADVISED. I BELIEVE USDOE IS WRONG.

TODAY, I WANT TO ANNOUNCE THREE ACTIONS THAT I WILL TAKE OR HAVE TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE HANFORD ISSUE.

**FIRST:** THE STATE OF OREGON WILL TAKE LEGAL ACTION TO CHALLENGE THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECISION TO UPGRADE HANFORD FROM FIFTH OF FIVE CANDIDATE SITES TO ONE OF THREE FINALIST SITES. OREGON MAY JOIN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN ITS SUIT AGAINST USDOE AS A "FRIEND OF THE COURT" OR AS AN INTERVENOR AND LITIGANT. OR, OREGON MAY FILE ITS OWN SUIT IN THE NINTH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IN SAN FRANCISCO. ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVE FROHNMAYER WILL ADVISE ME ON FRIDAY ON WHAT COURSE OF ACTION WILL BEST SERVE OUR INTERESTS.

**SECOND:** IF USDOE IS ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITH ITS ANNOUNCED PLANS, HANFORD WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF AN INTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDY OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO EIGHT YEARS. I HAVE TODAY AGAIN REQUESTED DIRECT USDOE FUNDING -- A TOTAL OF \$2.5 MILLION -- SO THAT OREGON CAN PARTICIPATE IN AND REVIEW THE HANFORD STUDIES. I INTEND TO MEET PERSONALLY THIS MONTH WITH THE HEAD OF USDOE'S OFFICE OF CIVILIAN WASTE MANAGEMENT TO PRESS MY CASE FOR DIRECT FUNDING FOR OREGON.

THIRD: I HAVE ASKED EACH MEMBER OF OREGON'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT OUR LEGAL CHALLENGE OF USDOE'S DECISION. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE ASKED THEM TO SUPPORT AND PUSH FOR DIRECT USDOE FUNDING FOR OREGON.

I AM TAKING THESE ACTIONS BECAUSE OREGONIANS DESERVE TO KNOW WHY:

- WHY WAS HANFORD RANKED DEAD LAST AMONG FIVE STATES -- AND THEN RE-RANKED AMONG THREE TOP SITES FOR FURTHER EXPENSIVE AND DETAILED STUDIES?
- WHEN MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR WASTE IS GENERATED IN EASTERN STATES, WHY HAS THE SEARCH FOR AN EASTERN REPOSITORY BEEN ABANDONED? WHY MUST ALL THE NATION'S NUCLEAR WASTE BE STORED IN THE WEST?
- WHY MUST THE PEOPLE OF OREGON PAY AGAIN FOR THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHETHER A REPOSITORY AT HANFORD WILL OR WILL NOT HARM OREGON? USDOE HAS ALREADY COLLECTED \$45 MILLION FROM OREGON RATEPAYERS TO FINANCE A SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT STORAGE PLACE FOR NUCLEAR WASTES. WHAT I AM ASKING FOR FROM USDOE -- \$2.5 MILLION -- IS ONLY ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY PAID.  
WE NEED THIS LEVEL OF FEDERAL COMMITMENT SO THAT WE CAN REACH OUR OWN CONCLUSIONS ON THE IMPACTS OF A HANFORD REPOSITORY ON:
  - GROUNDWATER AND THE COLUMBIA RIVER,
  - TRANSPORTATION.
- PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT -- SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF OREGON KNOW WHAT WE KNOW WHEN WE KNOW IT.
- GUIDANCE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL PROCESS.

WE NEED THIS MONEY TO DO THE JOB THAT WE MUST DO. OREGON'S INTEREST SIMPLY CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE IGNORED.

Those of you who have been aware of these issues for years -- as I have -- may share my surprise that an opportunistic few discovered the issues last week.

- We were there in 1981 and 1982 when the Act was being written. Where were they? I urged and our Congressional delegation agreed to fight long and hard for language in the Act that would give host states and affected adjacent states a role in the siting decision process. Many in Congress opposed any role for states -- including host states. We won the battle for host states. We lost the battle for affected adjacent states -- but we can and will represent Oregon's interests.
- We were there -- at every opportunity and through every conceivable channel -- to fight for direct funding for states like Oregon that have distinct and vital interests that must be considered. Where were they? We have not yet won that battle...but we did win an agreement by which Washington State shared some of its direct funding with us.
- We are there today joining Washington in the review of the last 40 years of past practices at Hanford to ensure that we and Oregonians understand their implications.
- We are there today meeting with Oregonians about critical decisions about what can and ought to be done to clean up defense wastes at Hanford.

The opportunists' motive are clear. It also is very clear that they do not know what we have done...and what we are doing...or what we must do...and how much that will cost. The hard work continues long after tomorrow's headlines are history.