PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT
SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

padssab@apex.net *www.oro.doe.gov/pgdpssab/*

2000 McCracken Boulevard • Paducah, Kentucky 42001 • (502) 744-9010

Co-Chairs

Mark Donham
Vicki Jones

Board Members

Kit Atkinson
Nola Courtney
Edward Duff
Angela Farmer
David Fuller
Judy Ingram
Merryman Kemp
Ronald Lamb
Linda Long
Douglas Raper
Craig Rhodes
Rosa Scott
Jim Smart, Ph.D.
Pat Stephenson
Bill Tanner
Rev. Gregory Waldrop

***Ex Officio* Members**

Carl Froede, Jr.
Environmental Protection Agency

Wayne L. Davis
Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Kentucky)

Tuss Taylor
Division for Waste Management
(Kentucky)

John A. Volpe, Ph.D.
Radiation Control Branch
(Kentucky)

Jimmie C. Hodges
Department of Energy

DOE Federal Coordinator

John D. Sheppard

Additional information about contacting board members directly can be obtained from the SSAB web site or by contacting Shirley Speer at (502) 462-2550.

Final agenda for the July 15, 1999, meeting:

- Call to order/Discussions
- Minutes
- Public Comments and Questions
- Information Handouts
- Program Status Updates
  - EM&EF Projects
  - Vortec
  - Depleted UF_6
  - DOE Public Workshop
- Sitewide Cumulative Effects
- Programmatic Presentations
  - WAG 6—Gregory Waldrop
  - ITRD
  - *Paths to Closure* document—Mark Donham
- SSAB Subcommittee Reports
  - Community Relations—Judy Ingram
  - Consultant—Bill Tanner
  - Membership—Nola Courtney
- SSAB Recommendations Status—Jimmie Hodges
- Administrative Issues for the Board
  - Co-chair Status
  - Review of the SSAB Draft Workplan
  - Tours
  - Financial Update
  - SSAB Letterhead
  - Status of Name Change Proposal
  - Member Orientation Packet

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Dale Jackson
Department of Energy

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SSAB Meeting Minutes
Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board
July 15, 1999

The July 15, 1999, Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting took place at the Paducah Information Age Park Resource Center in Paducah at 5:30 p.m.

The following board members were present: Nola Courtney, Mark Donham, Judy Ingram, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Linda Long, Doug Raper, Craig Rhodes, Jim Smart, and Bill Tanner. *Ex officio* member present was Todd Adams. The facilitator present was Steve Kay. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) federal coordinator present was John D. Sheppard. Brian Begley, LeRoy Chittenden, Mike Guffey, Linda Martin, and Jon Maybriar, all of Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) were present. Also present were the following members of the public and employees, contractors, and subcontractors of the DOE: Jimmy Massey, Shirley Speer, and Debbie Wattier.

Agenda

Steve Kay called the meeting to order and asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. The agenda was amended to add a briefing by Nola Courtney on the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) National Transportation Workshop conference call. Craig Rhodes added the SSAB website. The modified agenda was approved and adopted.

Facilitator's Orientation

Steve Kay reviewed highlights of the SSAB bylaws. Kay said the facilitator's role is to help the board stay on the agenda, to reach closure on issues, and to check for consensus when there are decisions to be made. His role also includes making sure all views are heard and valued until a decision is reached.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 17, 1999, were amended to clarify a statement by Mark Donham in the Lifecycle Baseline section. In the Transportation Workshop section Nola Courtney added, "and Doug Raper" as planning to participate in an upcoming conference call. She also requested the addition of "SSAB" to the National Transportation Working Group title. Minutes were approved by consensus and adopted.

Public Comments from Guests

There were no comments made during this period.

Information Handouts

John Sheppard handed out DOE News Release titled, "Richardson Unveils Health Initiative for DOE Workers." He also handed out "Instructions to log on and participate in the Paducah TCE Discussion Forum," including the website address for the Innovative Treatment Remediation Demonstration (ITRD). Mark Donham asked whether groundwater information from the June ITRD session at Paducah would be available. Sheppard said this information is expected to be part of the minutes from that session when posted.

Environmental Management and Enrichment Facilities Project Updates

Vortec Update

Linda Martin of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) asked if DOE planned to go forward with the Vortec project. John Sheppard said the status is that DOE will issue a revised Draft Environmental Assessment soon.

Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF_6)Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Update

A fact sheet was provided on the PEIS for disposition of DUF_6 and the DOE's Final Plan for Conversion of DUF_6. The status of the conversion plants that DOE plans to build at Paducah and Portsmouth was discussed. The number of jobs that would be created by the new plants has not been determined. Mark Donham said that the economic impact of the plant is of significant interest, but that environmental issues should be considered. Donham asked if a whole new cylinder wash process would be used at the new plants. Jimmy Massey said that the current washing system has been effective for years at the existing gaseous diffusion plants. This system would not have the capacity for both the gaseous diffusion plant and the DUF_6 conversion plant.

In a month, DOE plans to issue a Draft Request for Proposals for the conversion plants and the current inspection and maintenance program for the cylinders.

Sitewide Cumulative Effects

Mark Donham said that as soon as a decision is made about a Sitewide Cumulative Effects Analysis this subject would be relative. Merryman Kemp suggested leaving this subject on the agenda as a reminder to ask about impacts. Donham said that a Sitewide Cumulative Effects Analysis needs to be done earlier than DOE plans. Bill Tanner said that a sitewide analysis might not be needed if the risk analyses done at the project level is comprehensive. He suggested that the board request an overview on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)/cumulative effects process by Rich Bonzcek and David Allen.There was a decision made to put this on the agenda for the September meeting and devote time to this in order to make a decision on the board's position. Merryman Kemp said that written material would be helpful. John Sheppard suggested that members review past meeting minutes and handouts for background. Shirley Speer noted that the member orientation kit has NEPA information.

Waste Area Group 6

No comments.

ITRD

Discussion was held regarding the ITRD meeting in June. Mark Donham, Craig Rhodes, and Jim Smart attended part of the meeting. Mark Donham stated that at the ITRD meeting someone had said the highest concentration of TCE in groundwater is near the location of the railroad cars transfer area at the C-400 Chemical Cleaning Facility at the plant. Craig Rhodes said that it also was stated that cleanup could not be done in that switch area because the crane is still in operation for current production. Steve Kay asked: Is it that operations take precedence over remediation? John Sheppard and Jimmy Massey said that it is complicated to do environmental remediation on any operating plant. Brian Begley (KDWM) said the ITRD process looks at limitations and looks at technologies that are available to deal with the limitations. Sheppard said DOE is looking at a broad spectrum of technologies that can be used during operations. Massey said the Groundwater Record of Decision will show alternatives.

Discussion of the importance of early involvement in the decision-making process took place. John Sheppard added that being at the ITRD meetings is an early-on information opportunity for the board. Mark Donham suggested looking at the CERCLA regulations. Sheppard noted that the CERCLA process provides opportunities for public involvement. He added that forums such as the ITRD are helpful for regulators and the SSAB because they hear the whole technical discussion. Jimmy Massey said that all documents prior to the feasibility study have been subject to public comments. Jim Smart commented that he had appreciated getting to attend the ITRD meeting and thought the information was helpful. Linda Martin of KDWM noted that the SSAB can ask representatives of the Kentucky Environmental Cabinet who serve on the ITRD Paducah team to make presentations to the SSAB. Brian Begley of KDWM said that as a member of the ITRD team that he could bring ideas from the SSAB to the team, and provide information to the SSAB.

Steve Kay summarized that the board will keep the ITRD/Groundwater Operable Unit process

on the agenda for discussions and updates on progress, and that members can monitor the ITRD website also for updates.

Paths to Closure

Mark Donham discussed areas of the May 1999 DOE document, *"Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure,"* which has been provided to the board. He said the board should be aware of various sections of the document that would be of interest. These were:

- the plan to: maximize use of the on-site landfill through revisions to the landfill waste acceptance criteria.
- the "end use scenario" in the document states that the burial grounds will be kept in place with long-term monitoring.
- two actions listed as significant critical path items: removal of scrap metal and shipment of transuranic (TRU) wastes to Oak Ridge and then to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).
- plans to off set costs of scrap metal by selling some.
- the "Priorities List" has been taken out of the *Paths to Closure* document.

Bill Tanner asked if DOE plans to involve the private sector in the scrap metal removal project. Jimmy Massey said that is the plan. Tanner said that if the government breaks even on the project, that is positive because the scrap would be removed. He said it would be good to keep the scrap metal project on the agenda for periodic updates.

Community Relations

Judy Ingram provided copies of the SSAB's ad for the DOE July 27, 1999, workshop, a handout for the workshop, and poster for the workshop for review by the board, and comments were noted. The board will host an information table at the event.

Judy Ingram reported that the subcommittee is offering an exclusive story to *The Louisville Courier-Journal*. The paper's local reporter will be invited to sit down with the board and different people involved and do a broad, open interview. An informal proposal was made and approved. John Sheppard asked if this interview would be a special meeting of the board. It was agreed to keep it an informal meeting.

The board decided not to run the advertisement on its meetings in *The Paducah Sun* for the August meeting.

Consultant

Bill Tanner handed out copies of responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a technical consultant to the board and said he needed comments by July 26, 1999. Conference call will be set up at a later date with candidates.

Membership

Membership issues were discussed by Nola Courtney. She noted that Vicki Jones, David Fuller, Nola Courtney, and Greg Waldrop had served on the board for two years and that they would need to decide whether or not they would continue to serve.

Transportation Working Group

Nola Courtney reported on the SSAB Transportation Working Group conference call. She said they mainly discussed the roles and functions of the group and the fact that there must be some common concerns regarding transportation issues. Courtney and Doug Raper will be representing the board on this group.

Co-Chair Discussion

After discussion about nominations, Bill Tanner suggested trying to have 75 percent of the board present at the next meeting in order to decide whether to change the bylaws to have a chairperson rather than co-chairs.

Workplan

The workplan is going to be addressed by Nola Courtney and Mark Donham at the August meeting.

Tours

It was suggested and approved that the September 16, 1999, board meeting will include a tour of the Surface Water Operable Unit (SWOU) locations. The tour will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the DOE Site Office at the PGDP, and the formal meeting will follow the tour, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the DOE Site Office.

Financial Update

Financial report was given by John Sheppard.

Site Specific Advisory Board Letterhead

The present letterhead was approved.

Status of Name Change Proposal

John Sheppard reported that it was not possible to change the name officially, but the board could use the name: Paducah DOE Environmental Management SSAB, also known as the Citizen's Advisory Board if they desired. It was decided to adopt this name.

Webpage

Craig Rhodes addressed a need for webpage to be updated. He is going to e-mail information to Shirley Speer for changes and updates.

Member Orientation Kit

Member kit was approved and will be provided to all board members.

Jim Smart asked about the board's plan to write a letter to send to Congressional representatives, supporting funding for cleanup and other DOE projects at the PGDP. Merryman Kemp said it needed to be done as soon as possible. The proposal was made and approved to empower the Community Outreach subcommittee to write letter, e-mail to co-chairs, sign and send.

Merryman Kemp made an additional proposal: that individual board members also write letters. Samples of such letter will be provided at the August SSAB meeting.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held August 19, 1999, at the Information Age Park Resource Center at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be in the Training Room (left side of Great Room) again for August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

You're invited to the meetings of the U.S. Department of Energy's

Site Specific Advisory Board

for the

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 15
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Paducah Information Age Park Resource Center

Agenda Highlights:

- Update on ongoing DOE environmental cleanup and other projects.
- Plans for DOE Public Workshop.

SSAB meets the third Thursday of every month. For information, please call co-chairs Mark Donham, 618-564-3367, or Vicki Jones, 270-441-5058; or administrative contact Shirley Speer, 270-462-2550.

PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT (PGDP)
SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT UPDATES
July 12, 1999

1. PROJECT: Waste Area Groups 3, 8, 28 and Data Gaps

Summary: Current work on Waste Area Groups 3, 8, and 28 has been combined into one project. Remedial Investigations will be done on WAGs 3 and 28. A Site Evaluation will be done on WAG 8. In addition, this project includes a "Data Gaps" investigation to collect groundwater and subsurface soil samples to supplement existing data.

- WAG 3 includes three burial grounds within the plant security fence, in the western section: C-747 Contaminated Burial Yard (Solid Waste Management Unit/SWMU 4), C-746-F Classified Burial Yard (SWMU 5) and C-747-B Burial Yard (SWMU 6).
- The concern at WAG 3 is potential contributions to groundwater contamination from the content of the burial grounds: natural and slightly depleted uranium, technetium-99 (Tc-99), magnesium fluoride, uranium-contaminated solid waste, security-classified weapons components, radionuclide-contaminated scrap metal, and slag from nickel and aluminum smelters.
- WAG 8 includes: SWMUs 82-85, which are the plant electrical switchyards (C-531, C-533, C-535, and C-537), as well as the C-340 Reduction and Metals Facility, which is inactive and is part of the Decontamination and Decommissioning program.
- The concern at WAG 8 is similar to WAG 28, but the Site Evaluation will first determine whether contaminants have been released.
- WAG 28 includes SWMUs 99, 183, 193, 194, which are locations related to the 1950s construction of the plant, including the C-745 Kellogg Building Site, the McGraw Underground Storage Tank, McGraw Construction Facilities, as well as Area of Concern 204 (potential construction debris area).
- The concern being addressed at WAG 28 is potential contributions to groundwater contamination.

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Status:

- Remedial Investigation and Site Evaluation field work for WAGs 8 and 28 continued in June 1999, and is on schedule for completion in mid- to late-summer 1999. Some field work for WAG 3 was begun in April 1999, with additional field work initiated in June 1999. Most of the WAG 3 field work is projected to begin in the early fall.
- Upcoming regulatory documents will be: the Draft (D1) Remedial Investigation Report for WAG 28, scheduled to be issued to regulatory agencies in January 2000; the D1 Site Evaluation Report for WAG 8, June 2000; and D1 Remedial Investigation Report for WAG 3, August 2000.

2. PROJECT: Waste Area Group 22, SWMU 2

Summary: SWMU 2 is the C-749 Uranium Burial Ground in the west-central portion of the plant.

- The SWMU 2 Feasibility Study (September 1998) presented four potential remedial alternatives: 1) No further action other than: continued groundwater monitoring, current institutional controls, and implementation of deed restrictions; 2) In-situ containment with soil cap and subsurface barriers; 3) In-situ containment using low-pressure grout injection with a cap; and 4) Excavation of waste and soils.
- The preferred remedy, for DOE, in the D1 Proposed Plan (October 1998) for SWMU 2 is the "No further action" option. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection considers excavation to be the only acceptable remedy.

Status:

- A revised (D2) Proposed Plan is expected to be issued within 1 or 2 months of the approval of the PGDP Land Use Control Assurance Plan.
- A final (D3) Proposed Plan and D1 Record of Decision could then be issued during 2000.

- more -

3. PROJECT: Waste Area Group 22, SWMUs 7&30

Summary: This project includes the investigation of the C-747-A Uranium Burial Ground and C-747-A Burn Area in the northwest corner of the plant.

- The D2 Feasibility Study for SWMUs 7 & 30 was issued to regulatory agencies for review in November 1998, proposing four remedial alternatives: 1) No action; 2) Limited action (installation of additional monitoring wells and long-term groundwater monitoring); 3) Soil cover and groundwater monitoring with additional monitoring wells; and 4) Surface soil removal and groundwater monitoring with additional monitoring wells.

Status:

- The Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 has given conditional approval of the D2 Feasibility Study.
- The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection approved the D2 Feasibility Study on May 3, 1999.
- Information from this Feasibility Study will be incorporated into the Burial Grounds Operable Unit project.

4. PROJECT: Northwest/Northeast Plume Groundwater Systems

Summary: Approximately 385 million gallons of groundwater water have been treated through June 1999 at the Northwest Plume Groundwater Treatment Facility since operations began in September 1995. The facility operates under a 1993 Record of Decision to contain a high contamination zone of TCE and Tc-99. Approximately 213 million gallons of groundwater have been treated via the Northeast Plume system since the facility began operations under a Record of Decision in March 1997. The facility operates under a 1994 Record of Decision to contain a high contamination zone of TCE.

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Status:

- 9.5 million gallons groundwater were treated at the Northwest System during June 1999, with the facility operational 99.8% percent of the time.
- 6.2 million gallons groundwater were treated at the Northeast System during June 1999, with the facility operational 97.5% of the time.
- The Northeast Plume system was shut down on June 25 to enable USEC to conduct maintenance on the C-637-2A cooling tower lines. Maintenance is expected to be completed by September 1, 1999.

5. PROJECT: Lasagna™ Soil Remediation at SWMU

Summary: Lasagna™ is a soil remediation technology already demonstrated at PGDP by DOE and industry partners (Monsanto, DuPont, General Electric), and then selected to reduce TCE levels in soil at SWMU 91 under a 1998 Record of Decision. SWMU 91 is an area of approximately one acre on the west side of the plant once used to drop test empty DUF6 cylinders. Lasagna™ is an in-situ technology that uses buried electrodes to move water through soil, picking up contaminants. The water passes through buried treatment zones that degrade the TCE.

Status:

- Bechtel Jacobs Company awarded a subcontract February 12, 1999, to CDM Federal for the design, construction, and operation of the Lasagna™ treatment system at SWMU 91. D1 Remedial Design Report, Remedial Action Work Plan, and Construction/Quality Control Plan were issued to regulators on May 18, 1999. The state has approved these documents.
- The D1 Operation and Maintenance Plan was issued June 3, 1999.
- Construction of the treatment system is scheduled for August 1999, with operations scheduled to begin in October 1999.
- The system is expected to be operated for approximately 2 years in order to achieve targeted clean-up levels.

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6. PROJECT: Groundwater Operable Unit/WAG 6

Summary: WAG 6 includes five SWMUs near the C-400 Chemical Cleaning Facility, which is still in operation, and leased by DOE to USEC, Inc. Past operations at the facility resulted in TCE and Tc-99 groundwater contamination. Use of TCE for cleaning equipment was ended in 1993. Following the completion of the WAG 6, 27 and 28 Remedial Investigations, all data will be used to develop a Feasibility Study for the Groundwater Operable Unit, which includes the groundwater plumes themselves as well as the primary sources of TCE and Tc-99 groundwater contamination. Following this Feasibility Study, a Proposed Plan and Record of Decision for the selected remedial action will be developed. The selected remedial action will be designed and implemented after the ROD is signed.

Status:

- The D2 WAG 6 Remedial Investigation Report was submitted to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, State of Kentucky and stakeholders on May 7, 1999.
- Comments from the State of Kentucky were received from their review of the Feasibility Study Workplan for the Groundwater Operable Unit at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
- The WAG 6 Treatability Studies reports, which evaluate Surfactant Flushing and Chemical Oxidation of the Regional Gravel Aquifer, were issued in May 1999.

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- The Innovative Treatment Remediation Demonstration process for the Groundwater Operable Unit Feasibility Study continued with a meeting at Kevil June 22-23,1999. Representatives of the Paducah SSAB attended this. At the June meeting, the ITRD heard six different vendor presentations on soil and groundwater remediation technologies. The ITRD Technical Advisory Group presented five additional remediation technologies. A subcommittee was appointed to advise the full ITRD committee on a possible reactive media treatability study at the operating pump-and-treat facility. The scope of the ITRD process includes a cooperative public-private partnership developed to reduce remediation schedules and costs by accelerating acceptance and use of new technologies. The program coordinates DOE, EPA, industry, and regulatory agencies in evaluating, implementing and validating innovative remediation technologies at selected DOE sites.
- DOE and Bechtel Jacobs Company hosted a workshop June 24, 1999, to discuss characterization of Dense Non-aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPL) areas. The workshop, presented by the Savannah River Technology Center and Applied Research Associates, was attended by 33 representatives of industries, universities, and state and federal government from seven states (Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, and New Mexico). The workshop was held in conjunction with the Sonic Cone Penetrometer and DNAPL Detection Sensors Deployment Project.

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- The purpose of the Sonic Cone Penetrometer and DNAPL Detection Sensors Deployment Project is to: demonstrate depth capacity of the penetrometer drilling method in Paducah's geology, and test DNAPL characterization tools in a suspected contaminant source zone, all in support of the Groundwater Operable Unit. The week of June 28, 1999, this test found that the Sonic Cone Penetrometer method provided a minimal increase in depth over the conventional static cone penetrometer. A DNAPL characterization tool was successfully evaluated. This tool provides a method for detecting the presence and location of TCE Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs). The method uses a membrane that turns pink/red when contacted by TCE The membrane resembles a fire hose that can be lowered and hydraulically expanded in the borehole to define areas with pure phase TCE present. This membrane was installed at a depth of 59 feet in a suspected DNAPL source area near the C-400 Chemical Cleaning Facility. An analysis of the membrane upon removal after 50 minutes of contact with the soil showed locations that had been in contact with pure phase TCE.
- The State of Kentucky is expected to respond soon on the D2 Remedial Investigation Report. Upon approval of the D2 Remedial Investigation Report, the WAG 6 information will be combined with data from the WAG 27 and WAG 28 Remedial Investigations and incorporated into three Operable Units (Groundwater, Surface Water, and Surface Soils) for development of Feasibility Studies and related decision documents.

7. PROJECT: Waste Area Groups 9 & 11

Summary: WAGs 9 and 11 include seven in-ground tanks, vaults and pits at the PGDP. A Site Evaluation was conducted in Fiscal Year 1998 to determine whether any releases of contaminants had occurred. WAG 9 consists of the C-722 acid neutralization tank, off the northeast corner of the C-720 maintenance facility; the C-712 acid neutralization tank, off the southwest corner of the C-710 laboratory; the C-616-L Pipeline and vault soil contamination area; and the C-729 Acetylene building drain pits, just east of C-720. WAG 11 consists of the C-410-B hydrofluoric acid (HF) neutralization sludge lagoon; the C-410-E HF emergency holding pond; and the C-410-C HF neutralization tank.

- more-

Status:

- The D1 Site Evaluation Report was issued December 23, 1998.
- Any actions beyond these recommendations would be deferred to the Surface Soils Operable Unit project.
- The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection provided comments on the D1 Site Evaluation Report on March 26, 1999, and these comments are being addressed.
- The D2 Site Evaluation Report for WAGs 9 & 11 was issued to the regulators June 24, 1999. The report includes results of the Site Evaluation conducted on the seven SWMUs in 1998, and makes recommendations for each SWMU. No action was recommended for three SWMUs. Any additional work on the remaining SWMUs is expected to be addressed by the Surface Soils Operable Unit Remedial Investigation Work Plan, scheduled to begin development in November 1999.

8. PROJECT: Waste Area Group 23/PCB spill sites

Summary: WAG 23 consists of eight SWMUs inside the PGDP security fence, and one outside the fence, located near the C-611 Water Treatment Facility fence on DOE property. Past use of PCBs and subsequent accidental spills and leaks of oils that contain PCBs caused the surface soil contamination at these SWMUs. Excavation of approximately 175 cubic yards of contaminated soil at several PCB sites was completed in late 1997 and early 1998.

Status:

- A D1 Proposed Remedial Action Plan recommending No Further Action was submitted to regulators November 6, 1998. EPA provided comments, dated December 17, 1998.
- A Residual Risk document and explanation of average concentrations calculations were provided to the State of Kentucky on February 18, 1999.
- State comments on the D1 Proposed Remedial Action Plan were received April 16, 1999.

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- At the request of the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, supplemental samples have been collected from the drainage area south and east of SWMUs 56 and 80.
- The D2 Proposed Remedial Action Plan was issued to regulators May 26, 1999.
- The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection rejected the no action preferred option in the D2 Proposed Remedial Action Plan in a letter dated June 29, 1999. The letter requested a resolution meeting by July 29, 1999. DOE's no action proposal was based on promulgated EPA action levels for PCB-contaminated soils.

9. PROJECT: Waste Area Group 27

Summary: WAG 27 consists of potential or known sources of TCE on the west side of PGDP suspected of contributing to groundwater contamination. WAG 27 includes the C-747-C Oil Land Farm, SWMU 91 (the cylinder drop test area), SWMU 196 (C-746-A warehouse septic systems) and the C-720 maintenance facility.

Status:

- Issued D1 WAG 27 Remedial Investigation Report December 23, 1998.
- EPA comments were received March 31, 1999.
- State comments were received on April 5, 1999.
- The D2 Remedial Investigation Report was issued to the regulators June 3, 1999.

10. PROJECT: Surface Water Operable Unit

Summary: The Surface Water Operable Unit includes the Big and Little Bayou Creeks, all Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) outfall ditches, and the primary source areas potentially contributing to contamination in these locations, including: past releases from C-333A and C-337 vaporizers and the switchyards, and sediment from plant storm sewer systems. Primary contaminants of concern are PCBs and radionuclides with metals as a secondary concern.

- more -

Status:

- Issued the D1 Scoping Document March 29, 1999.
- Data Quality Objective meetings were conducted April 14-15, 1999, with the regulators and representatives of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Department, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
- The Risk Assessment for the Surface Water Operable Unit is scheduled to include a baseline human health risk assessment and a comprehensive baseline ecological risk assessment.
- The D1 Remedial Investigation Workplan is scheduled to be transmitted to the regulators September 30, 1999.

- End -

PLEASE SIGN IN

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
Site Specific Advisory Board

Name	Affiliation
Jimmy Massey	Bechtel Jacobs Co
Todd Adams	State - Radiation Program
John Sheppard	DOE-PAD
Debbie Wattier	Bechtel Jacobs Company
Linda J Martin	DWM - Frankfort
Linda Lung	SSAB
Vicki Jones	SSAB
Jon Maybriar	DWM / AIP
Brian Begley	KY - DWM / AIP
Bill [illegible]	SSAB
Merryman Kemp	SSAB
W. LeRoy Chittenden	Ky - AIP
Mike Goffey	KY-DWM.
Nola Courtney	SSAB
Mark Dorham	SSAB
Craig Rhodes	SSAB
Judy Ingram	SSAB
Jimmy Smart	SSAB
Doug Raper	SSAB
Shirley Speer	Jacobs

July 15, 1999

Fact Sheet
DOE Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF_6)
at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
July 1999

What is DUF_6?

DUF_6 is a white, crystalline solid material with a consistency similar to rock salt when stored at temperatures below 133° F at atmospheric pressure. Depleted uranium contains less of the fissionable isotope ^{235}U than natural uranium, which has approximately 0.7% ^{235}U and 99.3% ^{238}U.

How is DUF_6 generated?

DUF_6 is a by-product from uranium enrichment, a process that makes uranium suitable as a fuel for nuclear power reactors. In the gaseous diffusion process, a stream of heated UF_6 gas is separated into two parts: one enriched in the isotope ^{235}U and the other depleted in ^{235}U. The enriched UF_6 is used to make fuel for nuclear power reactors that generate electricity. The depleted UF_6 is stored as a solid. DUF_6 has been generated and stored in large steel cylinders at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant since production of enriched uranium began at the site in November 1952.

How much DUF_6 is stored at the Paducah Plant?

DOE stores and maintains approximately 450,000 metric tons (~500,000 tons) of DUF_6 in 36,910 steel cylinders at the PGDP. (The number of cylinders includes: the 28,351 cylinders that had been generated between 1952 and July 1, 1993; and an additional 8,559 cylinders that have been or will be transferred from USEC to DOE.) Approximately 64% of DOE's total DUF_6 inventory is stored at Paducah, with the other 36% stored at the gaseous diffusion plant sites in Portsmouth, Ohio, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. DOE is responsible for all DUF_6 generated prior to 1998. USEC is responsible for the DUF_6 generated from ongoing production of enriched uranium.

What is involved in storage of DUF_6?

DOE routinely inspects, monitors, cleans, and maintains its cylinders to assure that they are in good condition. Surfaces of more than 3,300 of the older cylinders have had been cleaned of rust and painted, with more cleaning and painting planned. New concrete storage yards are being built (23 of 53 acres complete), and cylinders are being moved from existing gravel storage yards to the new yards. The painting and move to concrete yards are major initiatives that improve storage conditions and inhibit corrosion of cylinder surfaces. DOE has made significant improvements in cylinder maintenance and storage in the 1990s, including its response to a 1995 recommendation from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

- more -

What is DOE's long-term plan for the DUF_6?

Safe storage of DUF_6 has been, and remains, a significant commitment for DOE. However, the focus now also includes converting the DUF_6 to a more stable form either for future use or disposition. Below is a summary of key developments. More details may be read in DOE's "Final Plan for the Conversion of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride," issued in July 1999.

- In 1994, DOE began working on the **Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride.** DOE published the Draft PEIS in December 1997. Approximately 600 public comments were received during the 120-day public comment period on the draft PEIS from December 24, 1997, to April 23, 1998.

- President Clinton signed **Public Law 105-204** in July 1998, which provides, in part: "The Secretary of Energy shall prepare, and the President shall include in the budget request for fiscal year 2000, a Plan and proposed legislation to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to commence construction of, not later than January 31, 2004, and to operate, an onsite facility at each of the gaseous diffusion plants at Paducah, Kentucky; and Portsmouth, Ohio, to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act."

- DOE issued a **Request for Expressions of Interest for a Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Integrated Solution Conversion Contract and Near-Term Demonstrations** on March 4, 1999. (DOE believes that the private sector is well equipped to provide the services needed for conversion of the DOE DUF_6 inventory.)

- DOE published the **"Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride"** in April 1999. DOE identified its preferred alternative as follows: Begin the conversion of the DUF_6 inventory as soon as possible, either to uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both, while allowing for use of as much of the inventory as possible. A long-term strategy will be selected in a Record of Decision, which is scheduled to be issued in July 1999. The PEIS examined DOE's management strategy for DUF_6 and potential environmental impacts of various alternatives to that strategy. The alternatives analyzed included: no action, long-term storage as DUF_6, long-term storage as uranium oxide, use as uranium oxide, use as uranium metal, and disposal.

- more -

- DOE issued its **"Final Plan for the Conversion of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride,"** in July 1999, as required by Public Law 105-204. The plan notes that Public Law 105-204 only set aside the $373 Million accrued by USEC for disposition of DUF_6. In order for DOE to award contracts to begin conversion, these funds would need to be appropriated by Congress. Decisions regarding funding and execution of the Final Plan for Conversion of DUF_6 will be made in the course of the federal budget process, and may affect the nature and timing of the conversion program.

What is included in the scope of the DOE DUF_6 conversion plan?

- DOE plans to award one or more contracts to the private sector to:
- Manage the DUF_6 cylinders pending conversion;
- Convert the DUF_6; and
- Store the conversion product.

What is the schedule for DUF_6 Conversion?

See Table 1, Final Plan for the Conversion of DUF_6:

TABLE 1 DUF_6 CONVERSION SCHEDULE AND KEY MILESTONES *(contingent on appropriations and procurement strategy)*	
Approximate Dates (Calender Year)	***Key Milestones***
July 1999	**- Issue PEIS ROD** **- Issue Final Plan** **- Issue Draft RFP for integrated conversion and management services contract(s)**
August 1999	**- Hold pre-solicitation conference**
September 1999	**- Receive comment on Draft RFP** **- Issue Final RFP for integrated conversion and management services contract(s)**
4th Quarter 1999	**- Site visits for potential proposers** **- Hold pre-proposal conference** **- Receive vendor proposals** **- Receive necessary appropriations**
1st Quarter 2000	**- Evaluate vendor proposals** **- Award DUF6 integrated conversion and management services contract(s)** **- Commence project-specific NEPA Analyses**
2nd Quarter 2001	**- Complete project-specific NEPA Analyses**
1st Quarter 2002	**- Start construction of conversion facilities**
4th Quarter 2004	**- Begin Conversion Operations**

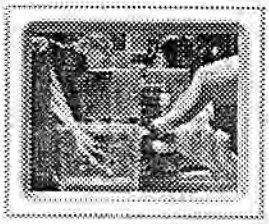
What are other recent developments on DUF_6?

Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and DOE met June 17, 1999, regarding development of an Agreed Order to assure that DUF_6 cylinders at Paducah will be maintained, painted, and inspected until the material is converted. Ohio and Tennessee have similar Orders in place.

- end -

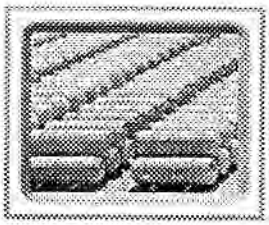
Isotope Programs

- Isotope Programs: Overview *
- Facilities & Capabilities
- Isotope Programs Fact Sheets
- Mo-99 Production Privatization
- Expert Panel: Forecast Future Demand for Medical Isotopes*



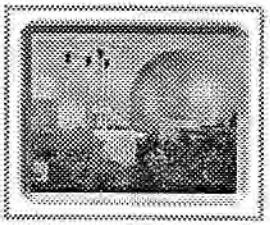
Technology

- Nuclear Energy Research Initiative (NERI): Overview *
- NERI Web Site
- University Reactor Fuel Assistance and Support: Overview *
- University Programs Activities
- Technology Partnerships
- Nuclear Energy Plant Optimization (NEPO)*



Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Management

- NEW! Final Plan for the DUF6 Conversion *
- DUF6 Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- Uranium Programs Activities

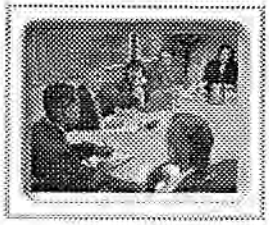


Nuclear Facilities Management

- Program Description
- Reactor Operations (FACILITY LOCATIONS)
- Electrometallurgical Treatment Technology: Overview *
- Test Reactor Area Landlord: Overview *

Space & Defense Power Systems

- Program Description
- Advanced Radioisotope Power Systems
- Pu-238 Production Environmental Impact Statement
- Radioisotope Heater Units (RHU)
- Space Technology and Applications International Forum



Management, Planning and Analysis

- Budget
- Presidential Commitments
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U.S. Department of Energy

Final Plan for the Conversion of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride

As Required by Public Law 105-204

July 1999

Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last four decades, large quantities of uranium were processed using gaseous diffusion in order to produce enriched uranium for national defense and civilian purposes. Depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF_6) was generated as a byproduct of the process and was stored at the three uranium enrichment sites. A relatively small portion was converted to metal or oxide for other uses.

A legacy of approximately 700,000 metric tons (MT) of depleted UF_6, containing about 476,000 metric tons of uranium, is currently stored at the Paducah site in Kentucky, the Portsmouth site in Ohio, and the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) in Tennessee (formerly known as the K-25 Site) in about 57,700 steel cylinders and includes about 11,200 cylinders of material that have been or will be transferred to the Department from the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) under two recent Memoranda of Agreement. This material is a stable but toxic, granular solid, much of which has been stored for decades.

The advanced age of some of the steel cylinders in which the DUF_6 is contained, and the way in which the cylinders were originally arranged (sometimes too close together to permit inspection, and sometimes in direct contact with the ground leading to enhanced cylinder corrosion) has created a potential environmental and safety hazard. This was underscored by Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), which issued Recommendation 95-1, *Safety of Cylinders Containing Depleted Uranium*, in 1995, to improve storage and maintenance of the DUF_6 cylinders. While DUF_6 does not present as significant a radiological threat as other isotopes, it is a potential chemical hazard if not properly managed.

Since 1990, the Department (which fully accepted Recommendation 95-1) has conducted a focused program of cylinder inspections, recoatings, and relocations to assure that DUF_6 is safely stored pending its ultimate disposition. The program has so far been largely focused on the ongoing surveillance and maintenance of the cylinders containing DUF_6. The question, however, of the long-term management and eventual disposition of DUF_6 remains and is the subject of considerable interest within the Congress, the Department, and with concerned citizens and stakeholders.

Congress stated its intentions with regard to DUF_6 in Public Law (P. L.) 105-204, signed by the President in July 1998 (See Appendix A). This law directed the Secretary of Energy to prepare and submit to Congress a plan (herein referred to as the "Plan") to ensure that all funds accrued on the books of the USEC for the disposition of DUF_6 will be used for the construction and operation of plants to treat and recycle the DUF_6 consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Approximately $373 million was accrued by USEC for this purpose, however, P. L. 105-204 only set aside these funds but did not make them available to the Department. In order for the Department to award contracts to begin conversion these funds will need to be appropriated. Conversion of the Department's depleted uranium hexafluoride inventory would represent a major new undertaking and involve a significant investment of resources beyond amounts available in the fiscal year (FY) 2000 budget request. Decisions regarding the funding and execution of this plan will be made in the course of the budget process and may affect the nature and timing of the conversion program.

The FY 1999 budget only funds DUF_6 cylinder surveillance and maintenance at $10.1 million. The FY 2000 budget request proposes funding this activity at $10.9 million including funding for the design of over-packs needed for transportation of cylinders. An additional $7.6 million for research and development for DU uses, NEPA activities

related to conversion, and preparation of the Request for Proposals is also part of the FY 2000 budget request. In addition, the Department will use a portion of the $66 million received from USEC to accept and maintain DUF_6 cylinders transferred from USEC to the Department in FY 1999 through FY 2009.

Also, P. L. 105-204 required the Secretary of Energy to prepare proposed legislation for consideration by Congress. Other than funding legislation, the Department does not believe that additional legislation is necessary at this time. The Department will continue to consider whether additional legislation is necessary or advisable in light of future developments in the program.

The Department has responded to P. L. 105-204 by initiating a procurement action through release of a Request for Expressions of Interest on March 4, 1999 and issuing the *Initial Plan for the Conversion of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride*, on March 12, 1999. The Department's *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride*, (hereafter Final PEIS) issued April 16, 1999. The Final PEIS found that the environmental impacts of all the alternatives are relatively small and that the "no-action" alternative has the lowest environmental impact. The Department believes, however, that it is good management practice to proceed toward conversion in a cost effective manner, consistent with overall budget priorities.

The Final PEIS describes the preferred alternative for managing the depleted uranium hexafluoride: to begin conversion of the DUF_6 inventory as soon as possible, either to uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both, while allowing for future use of as much of this inventory as possible. Although conversion for long-term storage of depleted uranium metal was not analyzed in depth in the Final PEIS, recent information indicates that some elements of the private sector support such an activity and the Department remains open to exploring this option further. If the successful bidder proposes to convert the DUF_6 to metal for long-term storage, the Department would need to consider whether to conduct additional programmatic NEPA analysis. A Record of Decision (ROD) concerning the Department's decision on the long-term management and use of DUF_6 is expected to be released in July 1999.

The first step — for either future use or disposition — is to convert the material by removing the fluorine component and transforming the material into a safer, more stable form. To do so, construction and long-term operation of conversion plants are essential. Conversion, then, is the centerpiece of an integrated approach for management of the Department's DUF_6 inventory.

The Department has developed a program that encompasses the following elements:

- cylinder surveillance and maintenance;
- conversion services that include the design, construction, operation, and decontamination and decommissioning of conversion facilities;
- storage of uranium conversion products to include design, construction, operation, and decontamination and decommissioning of storage facilities;
- use of conversion products; and
- disposal of products not used — uranium and fluorine compounds, and empty storage cylinders.

Conversion of the DUF_6 inventory will take place in plants on each of the Paducah and Portsmouth gaseous diffusion plant sites. The primary drivers for two conversion plants are the direction of Congress expressed in P. L. 105-204, the increased risk associated with transportation of large numbers of DUF_6 cylinders, increased transportation costs and potential issues with regulatory and stakeholder

acceptance of large quantities of new cylinders moving through or into their states. To meet the intent of the Consent Order with the State of Tennessee it is anticipated that the relatively small quantity of material in storage at the ETTP will be relocated to the Portsmouth site after conversion operations begin in cooperation with the State of Ohio.

The Department believes that the private sector is well equipped to provide the services needed for the conversion of the Department's DUF_6 inventory. Therefore, the Department desires to award one or more contracts to:

- manage the UF_6 cylinders pending conversion;
- convert the DUF_6 inventory to uranium metal or oxide; and
- store the conversion products pending use or disposal.

The Department intends to require the contractor(s) to obtain private financing for the conversion project. The Department may, however, finance the project as a normal construction project, or finance it through some combination thereof. The Department believes that private financing represents the best option and is proceeding on this basis. As the procurement process matures the Department will maintain the flexibility to seek the most efficient and cost effective financing method.

Economically recoverable conversion products will be sold and revenues may be used to offset a portion of the conversion costs. The uranium metal or oxide conversion products will remain the property of the Department until such time as the material is sold or transferred to a commercial user.

Reliable cost estimates will not be available until responses are received from the Department's Final Request for Proposals, though it is believed that the total life-cycle cost of the integrated approach for the conversion program, including operation of the facilities for nearly 25 years, storage, and disposal of conversion products not used, is between $3 - $4 billion. Reliable estimates of revenues from the sale of conversion products are also not yet available, though the Department believes that sales would be about $200 million. Further funding requirements will be determined by: the annual budget process; the specific form of the competitive procurement strategy, process, and schedule; and the underlying costs in proposals such as the technology used and the size of facilities.

This Plan describes the steps that would allow the Department to convert the DUF_6 inventory. It provides an aggressive schedule with the goal to award one or more integrated conversion and management services contracts in calendar year (CY) 2000 in order to begin construction of conversion facilities in CY 2002. Of course, the schedule is contingent on future budget requests and receipt of adequate appropriations.

This Plan incorporates information received from the private sector in response to the Department's Request for Expressions of Interest, ideas gained from members of the affected communities, Congress, and other interested stakeholders, as well as the results of the analyses for the Final PEIS. Although this Plan is presented in as definitive a form as possible, the Department recognizes that some aspects of the approach presented herein will evolve as the procurement process and interactions with the private sector and stakeholders continue. The Department looks forward to close coordination with affected State and local governments and local communities, stakeholders, and interested Congressional delegations as this program completes its planning phase and moves rapidly toward implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last four decades, large quantities of uranium were processed using gaseous diffusion in order to produce enriched uranium for national security and civilian purposes. Depleted uranium hexafluoride was generated as a byproduct of the process and was stored at the sites of existing and closed gaseous diffusion plants. A relatively small portion was converted to metal or oxide for other uses. In all, a legacy of approximately 700,000 MT of DUF_6 containing about 476,000 MT of uranium is currently stored at the Paducah site in Kentucky, the Portsmouth site in Ohio, and the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) in Tennessee (formerly known as the K-25 Site) in about 57,700 steel cylinders. This includes 145,000 MT of DUF_6, in approximately 11,200 cylinders, that has or will be generated by USEC.

Depleted Uranium is uranium that, through the enrichment process, has been stripped of a portion of the ^{235}U that it once contained, so that it has a lower proportion than the 0.711 weight-percent ^{235}U found in nature. Most of the DUF_6 discussed in this plan has between 0.2 to 0.4 weight-percent ^{235}U.

Several different cylinder types are in use, although the vast majority of cylinders have a 12 metric-ton capacity. The cylinders are typically 12 feet long by 4 feet in diameter, with most having a wall thickness of 5/16 inches of carbon steel. Similar, but slightly smaller, cylinders with a capacity of 9 metric-tons are also in use. During storage, a cylinder contains solid, granular DUF_6 at its bottom with a small percentage of DUF_6 gas resting on top.

This DUF_6 inventory is the result of over 40 years of uranium enrichment activities by the Federal Government. Most of the uranium enrichment activities conducted by the United States from the 1940's through the 1960's was performed to create highly enriched uranium (HEU) for defense purposes. Most of the oldest cylinders in the inventory (generally located at the ETTP) are associated with defense materials production.

Since the mid-1960's the Federal enrichment enterprise began to devote its production to primarily commercial nuclear power customers — electric utilities that would ship "natural" uranium hexafluoride to the Department for "toll" enrichment services. After enrichment, these commercial customers received low enriched uranium hexafluoride (used to fabricate fuel for commercial nuclear power plants), leaving the Department with the associated depleted uranium hexafluoride.

These operations continued through July 1993, at which time the USEC took over responsibility for the enrichment of uranium from the Department. The Department, however, retained the responsibility to manage all the DUF_6 created up to that point. Subsequent law clarified that the Department would be responsible for all the material produced by USEC after its formation and up to its privatization in July 1998 (9,186 cylinders). In addition, USEC paid the Department to take ownership of an additional 2,026 cylinders generated by the privatized USEC, which have been or will be delivered over a six year period.

The advanced age of some of the steel cylinders in which the DUF_6 is contained, and the way in which the cylinders were originally arranged (sometimes too close together to permit inspection, and sometimes in direct contact with the ground leading to enhanced cylinder corrosion) have created a potential environmental and safety hazard. While DUF_6 does not present as significant a

radiological hazard as other isotopes, it is a potential chemical hazard if not properly managed.

In 1994, the Department began working on the draft *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride* (Draft PEIS)[1]. The Draft PEIS and supporting documents were published in December 1997.

The Draft PEIS included a "no-action" alternative and several additional alternatives for the long-term management of the DUF_6 stockpile. These additional alternatives included: long-term storage as DUF_6 at a new site(s), conversion of the DUF_6 and long-term storage as an oxide, conversion of the DUF_6 to an oxide for use as radiation shielding, conversion of the DUF_6 to uranium metal for use as radiation shielding, and conversion of the DUF_6 to an oxide for disposal.

Original plans for the management of depleted uranium hexafluoride were to continue safe storage of the cylinders and, if feasible alternative uses for the depleted uranium had not been found by about the year 2010, to take steps to initiate conversion of the DUF_6 to triuranium octaoxide (U_3O_8) in the year 2020. The U_3O_8 would be stored until there was a determination that the depleted uranium was no longer needed. At that point the material would be disposed of as low-level radioactive waste. Since then several factors have led the Department to change its original plans. Chief among these factors were:

- In recent years, the Department, State environmental agencies, and the public have become increasingly sensitized to the need for better management of the DUF_6 cylinders. This culminated in an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Violation which recommended that the Department improve storage and maintenance of the DUF_6 cylinders.

- DOE entered into a Consent Order with the Department of Environment and Conservation of the State of Tennessee with respect to the management of the depleted UF_6 stored at the K-25 site (ETTP). DOE agreed that if it chooses any action alternative as the outcome of the PEIS, it shall, subject to appropriate NEPA review, either remove all known DUF_6 cylinders from K-25 or complete the conversion of their contents by December 31, 2009.

- The Department held four public meetings in February and March 1998 as part of PEIS development process. Based on the comments received at those meetings, other discussions with stakeholders, and the over 600 comments received during the draft PEIS comment period, the preference of the public and involved industry is not to wait for uses to be developed, but rather to begin conversion of the DUF_6 promptly.

- Public Law 105-204 was signed by the President in July 1998 (See Appendix A). This law directed that the Secretary of Energy *"...shall prepare, and the President shall include in the budget request for fiscal year 2000, a plan and proposed legislation to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to commence construction of, not later than January 31, 2004, and to operate, an onsite facility at each of the gaseous diffusion plants at Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio, to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act...."*

The culmination of the Department's analysis, the factors described above, and incorporation of public comments was the *Final Programmatic*

Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride,[2] DOE/EIS-0269, issued on April 16, 1999. The Final PEIS found that the environmental impacts of all the alternatives are small and that the "no-action" alternative has the lowest impacts. The Department believes, however, that it is good management practice to proceed toward conversion in a cost-effective manner, consistent with overall budget priorities.

The Final PEIS identified a preferred alternative for long-term management of its DUF_6: to begin conversion of the UF_6 inventory as soon as possible, either to uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both, while allowing for future use of as much of this inventory as possible. A ROD concerning the Department's decision on the long-term management and use of DUF_6 is expected to be released in July 1999.

On March 4, 1999, the Department issued a notice seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI)[3] from commercial entities for the conversion of the DOE's inventory of depleted uranium hexafluoride as part of its strategy to involve the private sector in developing solutions to this complex issue. The large majority of responses indicated that the Department's proposed procurement approach of using the private sector to convert the DUF_6 materials is not only possible, but in fact, preferable. Respondents also reacted favorably to the concept of a single integrated contract. The Department's inquiries regarding the availability of conversion technologies received many valuable responses. The responses stated that there is very little technical risk with respect to the conversion process. A number of respondents indicated available technologies and capabilities exist in industry today, and little research is required with respect to conversion. However, there was a general consensus among the respondents that there is a significant financial risk which must be addressed in the Request for Proposals. Additionally, few potential innovative uses for the products of conversion were identified and a need was expressed for the Department to define a strategy for product development and final disposition.

The responses to the EOI indicated that some elements of the private sector would like to convert the DUF_6 to uranium metal and place it into long-term storage. Although conversion for long-term storage of depleted uranium metal was not analyzed in depth in the Final PEIS, the Department, in order to allow innovative commercial approaches for managing the material to be proposed, remains open to this option. If the successful bidder proposes to convert the DUF_6 to metal for long-term storage, the Department would need to consider whether to conduct additional programmatic NEPA analysis.

The Plan is divided into five main sections. The first section describes the overall program and provides a description of the underlying policy decisions made to vivify the program. The second section describes cylinder management. The third section discusses conversion and provides the key assumptions and program elements that will guide implementation of the conversion activity. Section four describes conversion product storage. The last section discusses near-term activities that will help reduce the overall costs of the program, answer key questions regarding the conversion program, and help retain experienced and skilled workers needed to support conversion operations.

Section One: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department has developed a program with the following elements: cylinder management; conversion, including the design, construction, operation, and final decontamination and decommissioning of conversion facilities; storage, including design, construction, and operation of storage facilities; use of conversion products; disposal of products not used — uranium and fluorine compounds and empty storage cylinders; and certain near-term activities.

Program Goals

Under this Plan the Department would:

- Award one or more conversion and management services contracts no later than March 31, 2000;
- Begin construction of conversion facilities no later than March 31, 2002;
- Begin conversion operations no later than December 31, 2004;
- Transfer the cylinders at ETTP to Portsmouth as soon as practical after conversion operations begin in cooperation with the State of Ohio; and
- Safely, expeditiously, and efficiently convert all of the approximately 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride.

Procurement Approach

The Department believes that the private sector is well equipped to provide the services needed for the efficient conversion of the Department's DUF_6 inventory. Therefore, the Department plans to engage the private sector in a series of interactive activities focused on the issuance of a Request for Proposals from the Department to the private sector for an integrated approach for DUF_6 cylinder management, conversion services, and product storage. The Department will award one or more contracts to manage the cylinders pending conversion and design, construct, operate, and ultimately decontaminate and decommission the needed conversion plants and storage facilities. Development by the contractor of commercial uses of depleted uranium will be encouraged. Disposal of commercial products is presumed to be the responsibility of the product's owner and not the government's. Figure 1 shows the relationship of the program elements in a process flow diagram along with a depiction of those elements that would fall within the integrated contract scope. The other elements of the program, e.g., government use and disposal of unused DUF_6 products, will remain the responsibility of the Department.

This Plan describes the three primary aspects of the procurement strategy along with the near-term activities the Department will undertake to meet the management challenge of DUF_6 conversion. These will be described in detail in the four subsequent sections of this plan:

- ***The continued inspection and maintenance of the Department's UF_6 cylinders located in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee.*** Until the inventory is completely converted, the Department's cylinder management program must continue;
- ***The establishment and implementation of the capability to convert the DUF_6*** owned by the Department to either uranium oxide or uranium metal plus fluorine compounds;
- ***Storage of conversion products.*** Storage of conversion products is required pending sale, use, or disposal; and

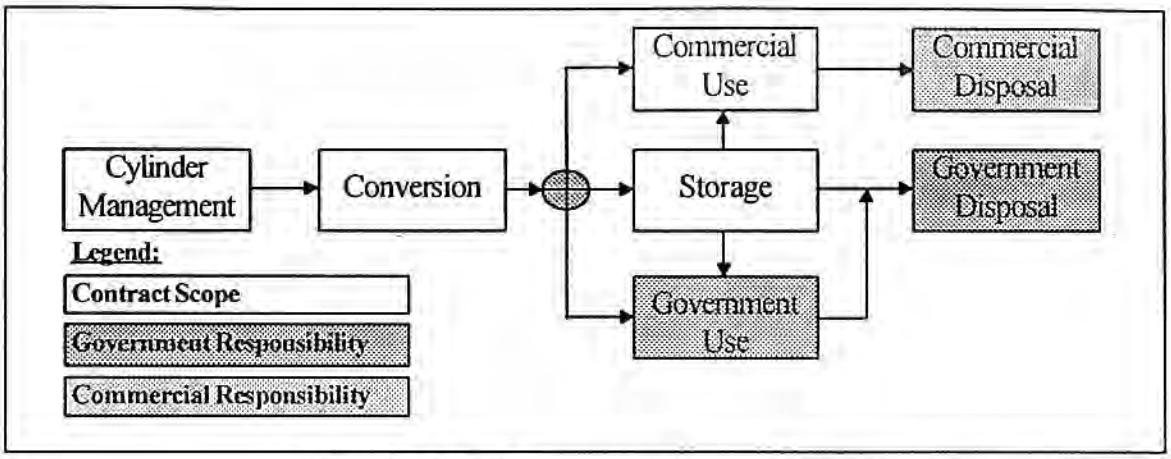


Figure 1. DUF_6 Management Program Elements

- ***Near-term activities.*** Certain activities that will help reduce the overall costs of the program, answer key questions and help retain experienced and skilled workers needed to support conversion operations are envisioned.

Under this Plan, conversion of depleted uranium hexafluoride will occur on an aggressive schedule. Meeting this schedule will require significant Congressional, Departmental, State and local government, and private sector involvement and cooperation. A summary schedule of activities needed within the next several years is provided in Table 1.

The following elements provide the programmatic basis by which to proceed with conversion:

- ***Regulation.*** Design, construction, operation, and decontaminating and decommissioning of conversion and storage facilities will be undertaken in a manner that ensures adequate protection of workers, the public, and the environment taking into account appropriate Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Transportation, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Energy environment, safety and health requirements and standards. Environmental permits will be obtained from appropriate state authorities.

- ***Cost Estimate.*** Reliable cost estimates will not be available until responses are received from the Department's Final Request for Proposals, though it is believed that the total life-cycle cost of the integrated approach for the conversion program, including operation of the facilities for nearly 25 years, storage, and disposal of unused conversion products is between $3 - $4 billion. Reliable estimates of revenues from the sale of conversion products are also not yet available, though the Department believes that sales would be about $200 million. Further funding requirements will be determined by: the annual budget process; the specific form of the competitive procurement strategy, process, and schedule; and the underlying costs in proposals such as the technology used and the size of facilities.

- ***Funding.*** Conversion of the Department's depleted uranium hexafluoride would represent a major new undertaking and involve a significant investment of resources beyond amounts available in the current budget. Thus, the schedule provided in this Final Plan is of course contingent upon future budget requests and the receipt of adequate appropriations. Decisions regarding the funding and execution of this plan will be made in the course of the budget process and may affect the nature and timing of the conversion program.

TABLE 1 DUF_6 CONVERSION SCHEDULE AND KEY MILESTONES *(contingent on appropriations and procurement strategy)*	
Approximate Dates (Calender Year)	***Key Milestones***
July 1999	**- Issue PEIS ROD** **- Issue Final Plan** **- Issue Draft RFP for integrated conversion and management services contract(s)**
August 1999	**- Hold pre-solicitation conference**
September 1999	**- Receive comment on Draft RFP** **- Issue Final RFP for integrated conversion and management services contract(s)**
4th Quarter 1999	**- Site visits for potential proposers** **- Hold pre-proposal conference** **- Receive vendor proposals** **- Receive necessary appropriations**
1st Quarter 2000	**- Evaluate vendor proposals** **- Award DUF6 integrated conversion and management services contract(s)** **- Commence project-specific NEPA Analyses**
2nd Quarter 2001	**- Complete project-specific NEPA Analyses**
1st Quarter 2002	**- Start construction of conversion facilities**
4th Quarter 2004	**- Begin Conversion Operations**

- ***Financing.*** The Department intends to require the contractor(s) to obtain private financing for the conversion project. The Department may, however, finance the project as a normal construction project, or some combination thereof. The Department believes that private financing represents the best option and is proceeding on this basis. As the procurement process matures the Department will maintain the flexibility to seek the most efficient and cost effective financing method. Payments to the contractor(s) for cylinder management and conversion product storage services are expected to be provided on a fixed unit price basis. Payments for conversion services are also expected to be made on a fixed unit price basis that, during the base period of the contract, will include the capital costs of the conversion facilities amortized over the number of units of DUF_6 converted. The contractor(s) would be required to propose a base period that will maximize the amount of conversion product per dollar of capital investment. The Department intends to provide advance payments to the contractor(s) for conversion services as indicated by P. L. 105-204. Guarantees of minimum conversion quantities and feedstock will also be provided. The final financing arrangements will be dependent on the outcome of the procurement process.

- ***NEPA.*** The Final PEIS lays the foundation for the environmental analyses needed to proceed with conversion and provides the strategy and preferred alternative for the long-term management of the DUF_6 inventory: to begin conversion of the DUF_6 inventory as soon as possible, either to uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both, while allowing for future use of as much of this inventory as possible. Although conversion for long-term storage of depleted uranium metal was not analyzed in depth

in the Final PEIS, recent information indicates that some elements of the private sector support such an activity. If the successful bidder proposes to convert the DUF_6 to metal for long-term storage, the Department would need to consider whether to conduct additional programmatic NEPA analysis. Additional follow-on, project-specific NEPA reviews and supporting analyses will evaluate issues such as where to locate facilities, which specific technologies or processes to use, and what site-specific impacts might arise from conversion and storage activities.

- ***Liability.*** Consistent with the Price-Anderson Act, the Department intends to indemnify the contractor for any nuclear incident resulting from their contractual activity associated with the transportation and conversion of governmental depleted uranium. Non-nuclear aspects and any operations utilizing non-government depleted uranium will be the responsibility of the contractor.

- ***Legislation.*** Other than funding legislation, the Department does not believe that additional legislation is necessary at this time. The Department will continue to consider whether additional legislation is necessary or advisable in light of future developments in the program. Execution of this Plan is expected to require future appropriations to the Department to support the DUF_6 program in addition to the $66 million obtained from USEC for the management of its material. In addition, P. L. 105-204 identified $373 million for the conversion of these materials that would need to be made available.

- ***Labor Strategy.*** The Department will require the contractor to develop a comprehensive labor strategy for the entire life cycle of conversion operations that complies with the requirements and objectives of Section 3161 of the Fiscal Year 1993 National Defense Authorization Act. The labor strategy will identify appropriate participation by the building trades and workers represented by the industrial unions at Paducah and Portsmouth. A key element of the labor strategy will be to focus on ways to retain the skilled and experienced workforces at Paducah and Portsmouth. To this end, the Department commits to do all that it is able to do within its available resources to maintain as much of the existing workforce as possible to support conversion operations. This includes initiating near-term work that can be productively performed by the existing workforce and providing training and first offers of employment for potentially displaced current workers at these sites, where feasible and consistent with law.

- ***Diversity.*** The Department will also strive to promote diversity in all aspects of the conversion process and will work with the contractor, unions and appropriate stakeholders to promote diversity through (1) the contractor's workforce, (2) educational outreach, (3) community involvement and outreach, (4) subcontracting, and (5) economic development including technology transfer, as applicable.

- ***Stakeholder Input.*** The conversion of DUF_6 is seen as an opportunity to strengthen the historic relationship between the Department and the Paducah and Portsmouth sites and surrounding communities. Stakeholder input is valued. The Department intends to solicit and incorporate feedback on this program, from the local community, community reuse organizations, local and State governments, Congress, and interested citizens.

Section Two: CYLINDER MANAGEMENT

The first element of the Plan is to continue to maintain the DUF_6 inventory to assure safe storage in accordance with the *UF_6 Cylinder Program Management Plan*[1] as appended to the Ohio Amended Consent Decree and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Agreement. Cylinder management involves the general maintenance and monitoring of the cylinders, including such activities as the construction and repair of cylinder storage yards, and the control of cylinder corrosion by surface cleaning and painting. Additionally, the collection and maintenance of information concerning the characteristics of the depleted uranium and cylinders is a function of this element.

Table 2 provides a view of the quantity and location of the cylinders to be managed pending conversion as well as the materials to be converted. The amounts represent the standard 48-inch cylinders at each site. Other non-standard cylinders exist and will be managed as part of any contract. An exact inventory of materials will be part of the request for proposals.

The day-to-day management of the cylinders includes actions designed to cost effectively improve the storage condition of cylinders. This work includes:

- Building new concrete cylinder storage yards to provide a suitable platform for long-term storage (cylinders allowed to rest on the ground tend to corrode faster);
- Repainting cylinders to arrest corrosion;
- Restacking cylinders to improve drainage and enable inspections;
- Inspecting cylinders to assure no degradation of their condition;
- General cylinder and yard maintenance; and
- Moving cylinders from the storage yards to the conversion plants as needed for conversion.

The Department recognizes that it will take decades to convert all of the DUF_6 in the inventory. As a result,

Table 2
Inventory of Standard 48-Inch DUF_6 Cylinders

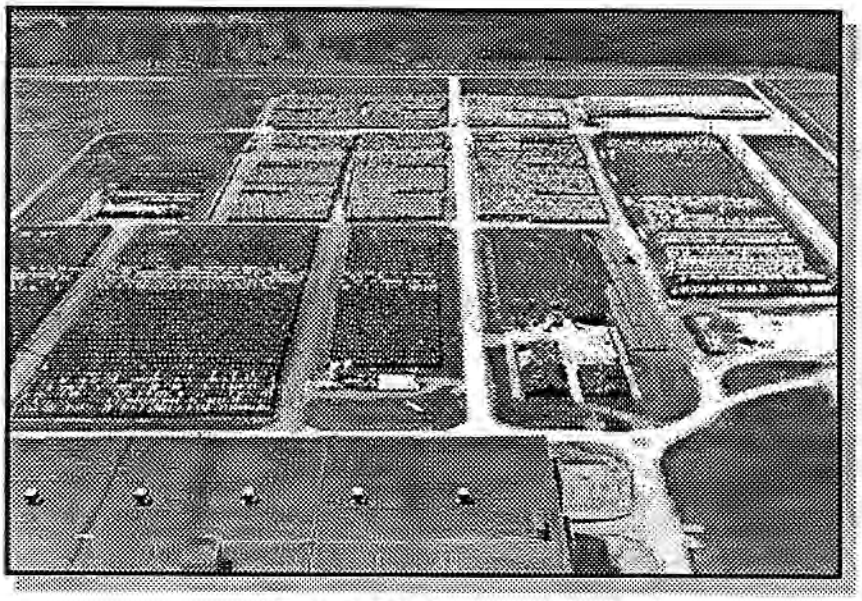
Location	Original DOE Cylinders	Cylinders from USEC	Total Cylinders	Total DUF_6 (metric tons)
Paducah, Kentucky	28,351	8,559	36,910	450,000
Portsmouth, Ohio	13,388	2,653	16,041	198,000
Oak Ridge, Tennessee	4,683	0	4,683	56,000
TOTAL	**46,422**	**11,212**	**57,634**	**704,000**

the long-term management of existing cylinders, the management of any future cylinders added to the inventory from USEC operations, and the continual effort to remediate and maintain the safe condition of the cylinders will remain a Departmental responsibility for many years into the future. As such, the Department will abide by all relevant Federal and state regulatory requirements and to keep all applicable commitments (such as those with the DNFSB, and the States of Ohio and Tennessee) associated with the safety of the inventory.

In addition, the Department intends to manage its inventory to:

- Assure effective conversion operations that minimize the handling and transport of the cylinders;
- Facilitate experimentation and demonstration with inventory material;
- Develop and foster potential industrial activity that employs DUF_6-derived materials; and
- Relocate the relatively small quantity of material in storage at ETTP for conversion to the Portsmouth site as soon as practical after conversion operations begin in cooperation with the State of Ohio.

Cylinder management may be performed by a private vendor as part of the integrated conversion and management services contract. Management of the cylinders will become the responsibility of the conversion contractor as soon as practicable after contract award. The selected vendor would be responsible for transportation of the ETTP cylinders to Portsmouth. Cylinders that may contain transuranic constituents and/or low enriched uranium (> 0.711 weight-percent ^{235}U) will not be converted as part of the conversion contract. However, these cylinders will be included in the cylinder management scope of work. A fixed unit price for cylinder management is expected to be established in the contract.



A Typical Cylinder Storage Yard

The second, and most important, component of this Plan addresses the Department's effort to establish a DUF_6 conversion capability. Traditionally, a project like this might be the subject of a multi-year Federal government-managed project to build conversion plants. However, such projects require a significant outlay of Federal funds early on and require many years to complete. In comparison, the private sector is well-equipped to pursue plant projects expeditiously and economically as needed for the DUF_6 program. The Department believes that the private sector can and will be willing to take on the primary responsibility for designing, constructing, operating, and decontaminating and decommissioning the needed conversion plants and storage facilities.

Specifically, the Department believes:

- the private sector, rather than the Department, is well equipped to design, build, operate, and decontaminate and decommission needed DUF_6 conversion plants and storage facilities; and
- the private sector can complete the plants expeditiously and apply the most cost-effective technologies and methods.

This Plan includes an aggressive schedule of activities to enable the execution of conversion contracts in the first quarter of CY 2000.

Key Assumptions and Program Elements

Based on the inputs received from the EOI responses, comments received from the initial conversion plan, and the preferred alternative in the Final PEIS as supported by the Department's upcoming ROD, the program is proceeding with its procurement planning activities based on the following working assumptions:

- ***Two Plants will be utilized.*** Conversion of the DUF_6 inventory will take place in plants on each of the Paducah and Portsmouth gaseous diffusion plant sites. The primary drivers for two conversion plants are the direction of Congress expressed in P. L. 105-204, the increased risk associated with transportation of large numbers of DUF_6 cylinders, increased transportation costs and potential issues with regulatory and stakeholder acceptance of large quantities of new cylinders moving through or into their states. To meet the intent of the Consent Order with the State of Tennessee the relatively small quantity of material in storage at the ETTP will be relocated to the Portsmouth site after conversion operations begin.

- ***Guaranteed Conversion Quantities.*** The Department will guarantee a minimum total quantity of DUF_6 to be converted during the duration of the contract. In this way the contractor will be able to determine an equitable fixed unit price for conversion services.

- ***Additional Processing.*** The contractor may be allowed to process non-Department DUF_6 on a "not-to-interfere" basis. Liability for these operations will be the responsibility of the contractor.

- ***Existing Facilities.*** Certain facilities extant on the conversion sites will be made available to the contractor for reuse in conversion operations. It is not required that the contractor use these facilities; the decision to use existing facilities rests with the contractor. Proposers interested in using the facilities will have the opportunity to inspect them prior to submitting their proposal.

- ***Pre-conceptual Design.*** The Department has developed pre-conceptual designs and cost estimates based on generic processes to convert DUF_6 and manage the conversion products. These

designs are nonproprietary and will be made available to all potential proposers as a source of information. Use of these pre-conceptual designs is not required and their use is at the risk of the bidder. The pre-conceptual designs and cost estimates will be used by the Department as benchmarks to help evaluate contract proposals.

- ***Decontamination and Decommissioning.*** The contractor would be responsible to decontaminate and decommission the conversion and storage facilities to a condition agreed upon with the contracting parties and appropriate stakeholders.

- ***Management of Wastes.*** Consistent with applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and Department Policy, pollution prevention and waste minimization will be required by the contract. Disposal of all wastes generated during all phases of the conversion project, including decontamination and decommissioning, will be the responsibility of the contractor. Access to Department waste management processes and disposal sites may be made available to the contractor if it is programmatically and economically beneficial to the Department.

- ***Conversion Product Form.*** Based on the Final PEIS and the responses received from the Requests for EOI, the Department anticipates that the conversion process will produce uranium oxide (U_3O_8 or UO_2) and fluorine or fluorine compounds. However, conversion to uranium metal will be considered for use or storage if it can be demonstrated that there is a safe, verifiable, and viable path to disposal. A viable disposal path is one for which the life-cycle cost, including regulation and disposal, is equivalent to that of the oxide form(s). The Department wants to allow for the opportunity of innovative commercial approaches for managing the depleted uranium as metal while ensuring that disposal of the material is possible if no use is found. If the successful bidder proposes to convert the DUF_6 to metal for long-term storage, the Department would need to consider whether to conduct additional programmatic NEPA analysis.

- ***Ownership of Uranium Conversion Products.*** Uranium products of conversion will remain the property of the Federal government. The Department will make available the products of conversion to public and/or private sector parties for product development purposes. If products are developed, the existing contractor(s) or a new contractor(s) may be allowed to sell or transfer the material under conditions agreed to between the contracting parties as a means to incentivize product development by the private sector. As part of the Final RFP the Department would entertain proposals on product development incentives. If uranium metal is produced and commercially used the Department presumes that liability for the disposal of the product at the end of its useful life is the responsibility of the product's owner and not the government's.

- ***Ownership of Fluorine Products.*** Fluorine products of conversion may become the property of the conversion contractor. Net proceeds from any sales may be used to partially offset conversion costs in a manner agreed upon in the contract.

- ***Direct Sale.*** Direct sale or transfer, by the Department, of DUF_6 is permitted as long as the quantity sold or transferred does not affect the guaranteed quantities to be supplied to the contractor(s).

- ***Duration of Conversion Services.*** A maximum of 25 years will be allowed for the conversion of any DUF_6. However, the contractor will be encouraged to design, construct, and operate the conversion processes and facilities for an optimal throughput to permit completion of conversion operations as soon as possible.

- ***Transportation of Conversion Products.*** Intra-site movement of the uranium conversion products to the storage location will be the responsibility of the contractor. Transportation of uranium conversion products to users or to a disposal site is outside the scope of the anticipated contract. However, the potential exists to modify the contract at a later date to allow the contractor to perform this service. Transportation of fluorine products to a user or disposal site will be the responsibility of the contractor.

- ***ETTP Cylinders.*** The cylinders located at the ETTP will be transported to Portsmouth as soon as practical after conversion operations begin. Transportation of the ETTP cylinders may require an over-pack in order to meet Department of Transportation requirements. The Department of Energy expects to design, certify, and procure any needed over-packs, however, the Department may require the integrated contractor(s) to perform these functions.

Section Four: STORAGE

The contractor(s) will be responsible for the design, construction, and operation of conversion product storage facilities. A maximum amount of uranium product to be stored and the duration of storage will be specified in the contract. A fixed unit price is expected to be established for the cost of design, construction, operation and decontamination and decommissioning of the converted DU storage facility for the specified duration. Interim storage of fluorine products will occur at the conversion site under the best available industry practices and for the least practical duration. Specific aspects related to conversion product storage are provided below.

Fluorine

- The fluorine recovered from the conversion process represents the greatest potential hazard to the workers and communities associated with the conversion program. As such, the storage and transportation of the fluorine conversion products will be conducted using best available technologies and industry safety practices.

- Established industry safety standards will be adhered to in the design, construction, and operation of equipment and facilities that house or process fluorine.

- The fluorine product will be stored on the Paducah and Portsmouth sites for a brief interim period pending use or disposal.

- While liability for any accidents involving fluorine rests with the contractor, the Department, acting in its oversight role, will ensure that safe operating practices are maintained and that all risks associated with the handling of fluorine are kept to the minimum possible.

Depleted Uranium

- Design, construction, operation, and decontaminating and decommissioning of all storage facilities will take into account appropriate Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Energy environment, safety and health requirements and standards.

- The conversion products will be stored on the Paducah and Portsmouth sites pending use or disposal.

- The storage of the uranium conversion products may be in either an oxide or metal form.

- The Department will provide the requirements for storage as part of the request for proposals.

- The storage criteria will be consistent with the relevant low-level radioactive waste acceptance criteria and allow for ultimate disposal without further sampling or packaging if no use for the product is identified during the storage period.

- The conversion products will be stored for a period of up to 5 years after their conversion at which time, if no use is identified, a decision will be made on whether to continue storage or dispose of the material as low-level radioactive waste.

- Storage of other Department-owned depleted uranium is permitted provided that it meets the storage standard.

- An environmental review of storage activities will be completed as part of the project-specific NEPA analysis.

- A standard package for storing the uranium, e.g. bins, drums, may be employed to create efficiencies in storage, use, and disposal. The specification for the storage package would be part of the requirements for storage provided in the request for proposals.

Information needed to meet applicable requirements, e.g., waste acceptance criteria, future use specifications, safeguards and security requirements, will be collected by the contractor(s) during the conversion process and maintained in a database. The needed information will be maintained with the material until it is disposed of or is no longer the responsibility of the Department.

Section Five: NEAR-TERM ACTIVITIES

The final element of this conversion plan focuses on the Department's intent to carry out technology activities to reduce the overall costs of the DUF_6 program, to answer key questions, and to mitigate employment impacts at the Paducah and Portsmouth sites.

The Department had been willing to carry out demonstration activities on conversion technologies if these were necessary to support the overall program. Many responses to the EOI indicated that demonstrations of the conversion process are not needed and would not provide benefit commensurate with their costs.

In recent years the Department has gained valuable insight from industry about using materials derived from DUF_6 in various industrial processes. There are important barriers to many possible applications–such as regulatory uncertainties related to *de minimis* levels of radioactivity, but many potential applications hold considerable promise in the nuclear industry and to other Government programs. For example, the potential use of depleted uranium oxide derived from the DUF_6 to make DUCRETE™ (a concrete material containing depleted uranium) may provide significant benefits as a tool in the management and storage of spent nuclear fuel. Another potential nuclear industry application is the reuse of fluorine derived from the DUF_6 in the nuclear fuel industry. While these applications are unlikely to use all of the material available, they hold the potential for making a significant impact on the overall cost of this program, and the cost of the Department's programs as a whole. The Department has proposed, in its FY 2000 budget request, funding for technology activities that will develop the application of DUF_6-derived materials to governmental programs.

The Department will develop a *DUF_6 Materials Use Roadmap* to establish a corporate plan for the application of DUF_6 and DUF_6-derived materials that will focus on potential governmental uses of DUF_6, but will also incorporate limited analysis of established uses of DUF_6-derived materials in the private sector. The roadmap is planned to be released in September 1999.

To the extent that available DOE/USEC Memoranda of Agreement funding permits, innovative projects will be initiated to begin conversion-related activities that will answer key questions on potential handling and storage of conversion products. These activities are targeted to begin in late 1999 and will last up to the start of the construction of the conversion facilities. Examples include decontaminating and cleaning a portion of a building at Paducah and a facility at Portsmouth to provide information and experience with the storage of uranium conversion products and to demonstrate safe handling methods, optimize storage methods for inspection, and develop appropriate handling practices and procedures.

CONCLUSION

The Department is committed to the proper management of its inventories of DUF_6. These inventories have been maintained in their current form because the Department and its predecessor agencies believed that these materials represent an asset to the Nation. Execution of this plan would allow conversion of DUF_6 to uranium oxide, uranium metal, or a combination of both to begin as early as 2004.

Conversion of the Department's DUF_6 is a major new undertaking that will span several decades and involve a significant investment of resources beyond the amount requested in the FY 2000 budget. This program would require a significant commitment and investment for the Department and demands careful planning, skillful execution, and timely communication with stakeholders. This Plan provides an outline for such a program. Although this plan is presented in as definitive a form as possible, it must be recognized that some aspects of this approach will evolve as a result of the budget process and as interactions with the private sector and stakeholders continue.

Under this Plan the Department would:

- Award one or more conversion and management services contracts no later than March 31, 2000;
- Begin construction of conversion facilities no later than March 31, 2002;
- Begin conversion operations no later than December 31, 2004;
- Transfer the cylinders at ETTP to Portsmouth as soon as practical after conversion operations begin in cooperation with the State of Ohio; and
- Safely, expeditiously, and efficiently convert all of the approximately 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium hexafluoride.

Converting the Nation's inventory of legacy DUF_6 is a daunting challenge, if for no other reason than the sheer magnitude of the task. Yet, it is also an opportunity to apply the imagination and initiative of the government and private sectors to transform what could be seen merely as the refuse of a bygone era to a resource providing a safe and productive future for the affected areas as well as the Nation. Working together with the workforces, local communities, local and state governments, Congress, and interested citizens the Department will do its utmost to quickly and creatively close this chapter of our Cold War history in a way that profits the Nation. This is our pledge.

We anticipate strengthening our relationships with the affected State and local governments, affected communities, stakeholders, and interested Congressional delegations as we move forward together.

END NOTES

1. DOE/EIS-0269, *Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride*, U.S. Department of Energy, December 1997.

2. DOE/EIS-0269, *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride*, U. S. Department of Energy, April 1999.

3. U. S. Department of Energy, *Request for Expressions of Interest for a Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Integrated Solution Conversion Contract and Near-Term Demonstrations*, March 4, 1999.

4. Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc., *UF_6 Cylinder Program Management Plan*, K/TSO-30, Rev. 2, prepared by the Project Support Organization, East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge, TN, for the U.S. Department of Energy, July 1997.

PUBLIC LAW 105-204
[[Page 112 STAT. 681]]
105th Congress

An Act

To require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT CORPORATION

15. Plan.-- The Secretary of Energy shall prepare, and the President shall include in the budget request for fiscal year 2000, a plan and proposed legislation to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to commence construction of, not later than January 31, 2004, and to operate, an onsite facility at each of the gaseous diffusion plants at Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio, to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act.

(b) Limitation.-- Notwithstanding the privatization of the United States Enrichment Corporation and notwithstanding any other provision of law (including the repeal of chapters 22 through 26 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2297 et seq.) made by section 3116(a)(1) of the United States Enrichment Corporation Privatization Act (104 Stat. 1321-349), no amounts described in subsection (a) shall be withdrawn from the United States Enrichment Corporation Fund established by section 1308 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2297b-7) or the Working Capital Account established under section 1316 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2297b-15) until the date that is 1 year after the date on which the President submits to Congress the budget request for fiscal year 2000.

(c) Sense of the Senate.--It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should authorize appropriations during fiscal year 2000 in an amount sufficient to fully fund the plan described in subsection (a).

Approved July 21, 1998.

Appendix B

Request for Expressions of Interest for an Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Integrated Solution Conversion Contract and Near-Term Demonstrations

The U.S. Department of Energy through its Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) on the disposition of the Department's depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF_6) inventory. The Department's objective is an integrated solution to eliminate or reduce the long-term liability, including potential environmental and safety concerns, to the Federal government for upkeep of the DUF_6 inventory. The Department will soon issue a final *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride* followed by a Record of Decision. This EOI request will likely provide information to implement the Department's preferred alternative, if selected in the Record of Decision, and formulate a viable procurement strategy for an integrated solution.

One of the most important policy statements made by the Government with regard to DUF_6 has been Public Law 105-204, signed by the President in July 1998. This law directed the Secretary of Energy to prepare and submit a plan to ensure that all funds accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) for the disposition of DUF_6 will be used for the construction and operation of plants at Paducah and Portsmouth to treat and recycle the DUF_6, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Law also stipulates that the plan should be structured for construction of the plants to begin by January 31, 2004.

"Treat and recycle," in this context, refers to the chemical processing of DUF_6 to remove the fluorine and create products that would present both a lower long-term storage hazard and provide materials that would be suitable for use or disposal. Importantly, this process would also allow the private and government sectors to explore the use of the products.

The Department remains concerned about the future potential displacement of workers and economic disruptions at the Gaseous Diffusion Plants in Kentucky and Ohio in the wake of USEC privatization. The Department plans to work with the existing bargaining units for the onsite workforce, and community reuse organizations to assist in this transition. The Department is willing to commit funds to cover worker wages during training and training support to local community colleges. Many of these workers represent important experience which may be valuable to the Department's DUF_6 disposition program.

One of the most significant legacies left with the Department after the privatization of USEC is approximately 700,000 metric tons of DUF_6 stored in approximately 57,700 cylinders (37,000 are in Paducah, Kentucky, 16,000 in Portsmouth, Ohio, and 4,700 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee).

DUF_6 is a stable but toxic, granular solid, much of which has been stored for long periods. The advanced age of some of the steel cylinders in which the DUF_6 is contained has highlighted a potential and significant environmental and safety hazard. This was underscored by Defense Nuclear Safety Board Recommendation

95-1 which recommended that the Department improve storage and maintenance of the DUF_6 cylinders. While DUF_6 is not as significant a radiological threat as other isotopes, it is a chemical hazard. Since 1990, the Department has conducted a focused program of cylinder inspections, recoatings, and relocations to assure that DUF_6 is safely contained until the Department arranges for its disposition.

The Department believes that the private sector, rather than the Government, may be better able to provide solutions for the management of the Department's DUF_6 inventory. A key Departmental objective is to fully integrate all elements of managing the Department's DUF_6 inventory into a single contracting arrangement. Management of the Department's DUF_6 inventory involves the following elements: cylinder surveillance and maintenance; the design, construction, operation, and final decommissioning of conversion facilities; storage or use of conversion end products; and disposition of end products not used — uranium and fluorine compounds and empty storage cylinders. The Department anticipates that required conversion facilities will be built, owned, and operated by the private sector.

The Department wishes to better understand the capability of the private sector to handle this significant challenge. The Department is considering a variety of activities including the construction of facilities ranging from demonstration size plants to full-scale conversion plants.

The Department solicits your organization's ideas, opinions, and interest in participating in all or part of the Department's management of the DUF_6 inventory. Information provided through this EOI request will assist the Department in determining the best procurement strategy. Responses should be structured specifically addressing the following:

1. Description of your organization, its capabilities, and its interest in the Department's DUF_6 program.

2. The feasibility of a single integrated contract approach which fully incorporates all or most of the Department's DUF_6 management elements.

3. Description of your organization's proposed approach to meet the Department's objective. Describe the process that would be used to convert the DUF_6. Identify if this process is a proprietary process and is patented or has a patent pending. If this process is patented, identify who owns the patent and any licensing information. Identify and describe if the proposed process has been demonstrated or commercially applied and at what scale. Identify any challenges and risk in applying the proposed process in a full scale production plant. Identify how your organization would minimize these risks.

4. The necessity, in terms of technological and economic considerations, of near-term demonstration-scale facilities at Paducah and Portsmouth that will provide substantive information which benefits the overall DUF_6 Program. Include any information your organization considers relevant, but specifically address:

   - the purpose of the demonstrations with analyses that such demonstrations are safe and cost-effective;

- availability of equipment and buildings at the Paducah and Portsmouth sites that could support such demonstrations;

- NEPA and regulatory oversight issues which would need to be addressed to conduct the demonstrations;

- cost, schedule, safety considerations, and approximate numbers of personnel required to perform the demonstrations — including the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of the demonstrations;

- transition to full-scale production.

5. Recommendations regarding the characteristics that should be reflected in full-scale plants. Include any information your organization considers relevant, but specifically address:

   - product forms, throughput, waste streams, process chemical requirements, and general plant utility and other support requirements;

   - modularity of facility design — including advantages and disadvantages of modular approach;

   - availability of existing plant designs, equipment, and buildings that could help accelerate the construction of full-scale plants at the Paducah and Portsmouth sites;

   - NEPA and regulatory oversight issues which would need to be addressed to construct and operate the conversion plants;

   - cost, schedule, safety considerations, and approximate numbers of personnel required to construct and operate full-scale plants — including the eventual D&D of the conversion facilities.

6. Innovative approaches regarding the use of government land or facilities at Paducah and Portsmouth.

7. Private sector financing, construction, ownership and operation of conversion facilities that can be used to minimize cost, and begin conversion facilities construction as soon as possible before January 2004. Identify and justify the appropriate contract type(s) for each phase of the project.

8. Government actions that are needed to ensure successful implementation of respondent's concepts for this program.

9. Potential factors that should be considered by the government in selecting the proposed approach to implement this program.

10. Beneficial use or sale of DUF_6 and DUF_6-derived materials for restricted end-uses in commercial and Federal nuclear programs that could reduce the government's life-cycle costs for conversion, storage and disposition of the material, and innovative approaches to establish such activities.

11. The safe transportation, conversion, and disposition of approximately 4,700 DUF_6 cylinders currently stored at the Oak Ridge site.

12. The establishment of worker training programs with respect to the handling of materials and operation of the conversion facilities.

Proprietary information provided in your organization's response should be marked appropriately. This information will be held in confidence by the Department.

Send 12 copies of your responses to Thomas E. Brown, Procurement Analyst, U.S. Department of Energy, MA-52, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585 no later than April 5, 1999. Before submitting questions regarding this EOI, please review the *"frequently asked questions"* section on this web page.

Paducah Project Costs by FY

FY90 to Present

(000s)

FISCAL YEAR	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99*	Totals
Environmental Restoration Program	20,824	24,178	17,890	26,773	46,789	37,572	30,094	22,278	24,954	29,348	280,69
Waste Management Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11,536	22,453	22,269	18,260	16,115	13,932	104,56
Totals for ERWM	**20,824**	**24,178**	**17,890**	**26,773**	**58,325**	**60,025**	**52,363**	**40,538**	**41,069**	**43,280**	**385,26**
Enrichment Facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,690	17,966	23,500	18,463	14,322	9,251	92,19
Paducah Project Totals	**20,824**	**24,178**	**17,890**	**26,773**	**67,015**	**77,991**	**75,863**	**59,001**	**55,391**	**52,531**	**477,456**

	FY99 thru June
Environmental Restoration Program	15,519
Waste Management Program	8,701
Totals for ERWM	**24,220**
Enrichment Facilities	4,572
Paducah Project Totals	**28,792**

NOTES:

Source of Financial Information for EM&EF: Financial Information System (FIS)

* **Fiscal Year 1999 Forecast:** Based July's EU Estimate for ER (Including the Lasagna BCP) & WM ; and EF's Baseline, plus most current BCP.

Site Specific Advisory Board

Actual Costs to Date *(Including Prior Year)* thru
June, 1999: $ 96,930

Participant	Prior Year	Actual OCT	Actual NOV	Actual DEC	Actual JAN	Actual FEB	Actual MAR	Actual APR	Actual MAY	Actual JUNE	Actual JULY	Actual AUG	Actual SEPT	TOTAL FY 99
Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC	11,487	190	(86)	966	288	701	1,727	1,061	(1,099)	650	0	0	0	4,400
BJC Sub. - Roberts & Kay, Inc.	15,570	0	1,292	1,186	0	4,277	496	2,008	(3,561)	2,323	0	0	0	8,023
BJC Sub. - Jacobs Engineering Group	19,713	0	0	10,171	2,996	3,204	19,669	9,627	(12,458)	4,528	0	0	0	37,737
Total Project	46,770	190	1,207	12,323	3,284	8,183	21,892	12,697	(17,118)	7,501	0	0	0	50,160

NOTES: *Cost Corrections were made in May to move cost for the SSAB to a single charge code.*
Accruals for Roberts & Kay, Inc. and Jacobs Engineering were overstated in March & April. Corrections have been made in May's Report.

Budget for FY99: $ 92,484
FY99 CTD: $ 50,160
Remaining Funding: $ 42,324

Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC
Paducah Project

15-Jul-99
9:09 AM

Participant	Description	Prior Year	Actual OCT	Actual NOV	Actual DEC	Actual JAN	Actual FEB	Actual MAR	Actual APR	Actual MAY	Actual JUNE	Actual JULY	Actual AUG	Actual SEPT	TOTAL FY 99
BJC Engineering Cost Center	OR - Ron Wells - Task Support	858	84	(84)	42	42	88	87	48	83	88	0	0	0	479
BJC Procurement	Contract Work	982	92	(92)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BJC Project Controls	Project Analyst/Finance Officer Support	829	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SSAB - Misc Expenses	Rents, Food, Sound Recording, Public Notice, etc.	840	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	101	0	0	0	0	162
Support Activities Distributable	Telecommunications, Computing Support, etc.	7,979	14	90	923	246	613	1,640	951	(1,283)	562	0	0	0	3,758
Total Project		11,487	190	(86)	966	288	701	1,727	1,061	(1,099)	650	0	0	0	4,400

Roberts & Kay, Inc.
Paducah Project

15-Jul-99
9:09 AM

Material Charge Number
54 / P / JEC04

Participant	Type of Service	Prior Year	Actual OCT	Actual NOV	Actual DEC	Actual JAN	Actual FEB	Actual MAR	Actual APR	Actual MAY	Actual JUNE	Actual JULY	Actual AUG	Actual SEPT	TOTAL FY 99
BJC Sub. - Roberts & Kay, Inc. (Payments)	Subcontractor Independent	13,033	0	1,292	1,186	0	1,202	1,015	1,108	1,063	1,155	0	0	0	8,023
BJC Sub. - Roberts & Kay, Inc. (Accruals)	Facilitator to the SSAB	2,537	0	0	0	0	3,075	(519)	900	(4,624)	1,168	0	0	0	(0)
Total Project		15,570	0	1,292	1,186	0	4,277	496	2,008	(3,561)	2,323	0	0	0	8,023

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
Paducah Project

15-Jul-99
9:09 AM

TASK NUMBER:
35 - H831 - 48

Participant	Prior Year	Actual OCT	Actual NOV	Actual DEC	Actual JAN	Actual FEB	Actual MAR	Actual APR	Actual MAY	Actual JUNE	Actual JULY	Actual AUG	Actual SEPT	TOTAL FY 99
BJC Sub. - Jacobs Engineering (Payments)	8,381	0	0	1,402	3,836	3,694	3,161	5,920	4,636	3,796	0	0	0	26,445
BJC Sub. - Jacobs Engineering (Accruals)	11,332	0	0	8,769	(840)	(490)	16,507	3,707	(17,094)	732	0	0	0	11,292
Total Project	19,713	0	0	10,171	2,996	3,204	19,669	9,627	(12,458)	4,528	0	0	0	37,737

INVOICES

35-H831-48 Statement of Cost - Voucher Number: N/A

Total Amount Due $ 107.00 PAID - JUNE

35-H831-48 Statement of Cost	Voucher Number: 59	Voucher Number: 60	Voucher Number: 61	Voucher Number: 62	Voucher Number: 63	Voucher Number: 64	Voucher Number: 65	Voucher Number: 66	Voucher Number: 67	Voucher Number: 68	Voucher Number: 69
LABOR @ Office	95.63	107.58	234.49	46.26	439.87	495.27	386.97	286.59	245.64	532.24	163.77
LABOR @ Site	182.28	130.21	294.94	286.75	477.19	870.92	1,468.86	763.57	1,206.48	676.09	554.96
Teaming Subcontractors: PAI Corporation	258.03	680.28	1102.53	950.04	0.00	1570.63	1,013.77	754.99	1,138.10	2,433.13	2,046.82
Other Direct Costs	1,195.00	16.21	2706.46	94.80	485.07	899.24	824.41	1,356.22	3,330.10	994.37	1,030.21
Amounts Previously Invoiced	(137.76)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Amount Due	$ 1,593.18	$934.28	$4,338.42	$1,377.85	$1,402.13	$3,836.06	$3,694.01	$3,161.37	$5,920.32	$4,635.83	$3,795.76
	PAID - JULY	PAID - SEPT	PAID - SEPT	PAID - SEPT	PAID - DEC	PAID - JAN	PAID - FEB	PAID - MAR	PAID - APR	PAID - MAY	PAID - JUN

The Paducah Sun

July 15, 1999
Paducah, Ky., 42002

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Vol. 103 • No. 195

HOLD THE THOUGHT: *Kentucky should benefit from two-party competition — Editorial, 4A*

Paducah won't get exposure funds

■ **The DOE** *admits its work has harmed people and offers compensation, but only to those exposed to beryllium and not radiation-related illnesses.*

By Joe Walker
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The Department of Energy is offering at least $110 million in benefits to more than 500 contract workers who got sick from exposure to beryllium, a light metal used in nuclear weapons and reactors.

But the offer — marking the first DOE admission that its work has harmed people — apparently doesn't apply to current and former workers of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant because they have other risks, said an official of the plant's main labor union.

Richardson

"Bill Richardson (DOE secretary) deserves an A-plus for effort here," said Richard Miller, policy analyst for the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy (PACE) Workers International Union. "There is no question that he has busted his butt to get the (Clinton) administration to move the right way, and the shame of it is, the administration won't."

Miller urged federal lawmakers from Kentucky to insist that the deal be expanded to include asbestosis, radiation-induced cancer and toxin-related illnesses at the Paducah plant.

He gave his views ahead of a press conference today at which Richardson is expected to announce that DOE will offer an average of $11 million a year for 10 years to contract workers suffering from chronic beryllium disease, a disabling and sometimes fatal lung ailment. Eligible workers will be reimbursed for medical costs associated with the illness and a portion of lost wages. Former workers may opt for a $100,000 lump-sum benefit.

DOE reportedly will propose to establish a presidential task force to study if and how much compensation would be given to contractors with asbestosis, cancer and other diseases related to work exposure.

The beryllium benefits and any other compensation must be approved by Congress. Miller said that despite Richardson's efforts, the White House does not want to broaden benefits to other diseases because that could include thousands of contract workers in U.S. Navy

Please see **EXPOSURE** / 15A

Continued from 1A

shipyards exposed to asbestos.

"The good part of this deal, from our point of view, is that for the first time the Energy Department is going to admit that it harms people and is prepared to take a step to remedy them," he said. "This is an agency that has spent millions in scorched-earth defenses against worker compensation claims everywhere, including Kentucky."

First District U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield was expected to be at the press conference, set for 11:30 a.m. CDT at DOE headquarters in Washington. Media from various DOE sites, including Paducah, were invited to monitor the event.

"I've talked with Whitfield's office and have encouraged Ed very strongly to come to the press conference and make it clear that this program needs to be expanded when legislation is written," Miller said.

Richardson "will unveil a proposal to give DOE contract workers with certain chronic medical conditions access to benefits similar to those now available to federal employees," DOE said Wednesday in a news release. "Currently these benefits are largely unavailable to DOE contract workers."

DOE spokesman Mike Terwilliger would not elaborate on the announcement. However, the Sun obtained a DOE press conference narrative that gives details of the proposal. It says that while the department "has routinely opposed claims for work-related illness, regardless of merit" and generally wins in court, the proposal would "allow the government to take responsibility where it is clear harm has been done."

The narrative says most DOE workers with chronic beryllium disease worked at defense-related facilities in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Rocky Flats, Colo. Others were employed at three other, similar facilities in Washington, New Mexico and Illinois, and by beryllium vendors in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Miller said those sites produced 500 to 600 sick workers eligible for compensation next year if the proposal is passed. Fifty other chronic beryllium disease cases are expected to develop each year, he said.

DOE's narrative says its contractors in weapons complexes "have been shown to be at high risk for developing asbestosis," a slowly progressive, chronic lung disease. The department estimates there will be 250 to 700 radiation-induced cancers among its contract employees during the next 30 years, of which about 60 percent will be fatal.

Jim Chesnut, who is helping coordinate a DOE-sponsored health study of about 2,000 former Paducah plant workers, said he was asked to view the press conference by satellite at the DOE contractor facilities at Kevil. He said he was "literally surprised" at the significance of the announcement but was unsure of the specifics.

"I assume that because I'm on the medical surveillance program, maybe they think I might have some input or discussion whether to accept or reject such a proposal," Chesnut said.

The health study focuses on historical information and testing of former Paducah plant workers. Chesnut, a retired plant employee and former president of the atomic workers' union local, said about 30 people have been screened, including himself

Hearing loss from heavy-equipment noise is a common problem seen in the early tests, he said, but asbestosis may also be identified. Chesnut said nearly 60 former plant workers have joined other class-action asbestosis lawsuits.

Miller said the beryllium disease cases represent only a fraction of the approximately 19,000 current and former PACE workers at 11 DOE sites, including Paducah, and it is imperative that Congress push to look harder for occupational diseases.

Robert Wages, executive vice president of 320,000-member PACE, wrote White House Chief of Staff John Podesta in mid-June, saying that a DOE study found that only 1 percent of all merited claims for radiation-induced cancer are compensated through state workers' compensation systems. That is because of an "adversarial litigation system and the lack of adequate exposure data to establish proof," he said.

Another huge labor group, the 400,000-member International Union of Operating Engineers, also has fired shots at the White House regarding the proposal. Frank Manley, union president, also wrote Podesta in June, saying he opposed the plan because it "refused to recognize the dangers of radiation and other toxic chemicals prevalent at these nuclear sites." He asked Podesta for help in persuading the Clinton administration to expand the proposal.

Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Official: Number of workers for conversion plant unknown

The DOE *nuclear energy official says that 'a significant number' of jobs will be created, but the exact number is unknown.*

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

Although the head of the nation's nuclear energy program isn't sure how many people will work at a new uranium conversion plant in Paducah, he insists that creating jobs will help decide which firm will run it.

"That will be a definite advantage for anyone who is expecting to win this contract," said Bill Magwood, director of the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.

DOE expects to spend nearly $400 million — $200 million at Paducah and a similar amount for a sister facility near Portsmouth, Ohio — to start building the plants by March 2002 and have them running by December 2004. Draft requests for proposals are due by the end of this month, and a contract will be awarded early next year.

Magwood said in a media conference call Tuesday that building and operating the plants will create "a significant number" of jobs for which current and displaced Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant workers will have "first-hire opportunity." But the exact number depends on factors such as the technology chosen to convert the material, he said, and whether commercial uses are developed.

DOE estimated in an environmental impact study that as few as 100 jobs earning about $5.1 million year would result from merely maintaining its inventory of nearly 57,000 cylinders of depleted uranium hexafluoride, or UF6 — a byproduct of enriching uranium for nuclear fuel. Long-term storage and viable use of the material could generate as many as 2,100 jobs earning $130 million a year, the study said.

Nearly 65 percent of the canisters, each containing a solid resembling rock salt, are stored at Paducah. But the production schedule, not the amount of material stored, will determine the size of the conversion plants, Magwood said. He explained the facilities will be of similar size and built at the two diffusion plants at roughly the same time.

Two of the biggest question marks about the conversion plants are funding and commercial use of the material.

Congress passed a law last year mandating the project and requiring that $373 million be used to fund it. The money, transferred to the U.S. Treasury during the privatization of USEC Inc., must be appropriated before it may be spent, Magwood said.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson recently announced offsets for $46 million to get the conversion project started. Magwood said the balance of the money, not in DOE's budget, will be needed to award the contract and cover construction costs if the contract is ended. Some of the money also may be needed for demonstration plants for the long-term storage of uranium oxides and metals, he said.

"It will clearly require working with Congress to find that money in time (by early next year), and everyone is working on that," Magwood said. The project is a high priority for federal lawmakers from Kentucky and Ohio, he said.

The work — including construction, conversion, storage and disposal — would handle DOE's entire inventory, about 700,000 metric tons of depleted UF6. The project is expected to cost $3 billion to $4 billion over 20 to 25 years. Magwood said the firm hired will build and run the plants, earning conversion fees and sharing some of the revenue from any sales of useful material.

DOE issued its final plan for the conversion project July 6. While the plan was being compiled, more than 20 firms filed expressions of interest in the conversion facilities, Magwood said. The companies were diverse in size and technology, he said.

Many respondents said they had the ability to convert the material, but most indicated a "significant financial risk" and expressed concern about few potential innovative uses for conversion products, the plan said. The firms said DOE needed "to define a strategy for product development and final disposition."

Magwood said the ultimate contractor will not be saddled with disposing of recycled UF6 if it can't be sold. "We don't expect the private sector to take responsibility for that material," he said.

Magwood said expressions of interest covered a range of functions utilizing the latest technology, including producing uranium oxide and metals and fluorine compounds. He said one promising application for oxide is in making DUCRETE, a trademark concrete material that could help in manag ing and storing spent nuclear fuel Another possible application is th reuse of fluorine in the nuclea fuel industry.

The plan says that by Septem ber, DOE will release a "roa map" focusing on potential govern mental uses of the material an including limited studies of privat sector applications.

DOE plants to use displaced, existing workers

The Paducah Sun Thursday, July 8, 1999

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

The U.S. Department of Energy says it will make every effort to use existing or displaced Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant workers to operate a facility to convert spent uranium hexafluoride into material for storage or sale.

DOE made the commitment in its final plan to build conversion facilities at Paducah and Portsmouth, Ohio, in compliance with a 1998 law. Released this week, the plan says DOE wants to hire a private firm or firms to do the work, but it does not estimate how many jobs would be created.

In previous documents, DOE said as few as 100 jobs earning about $5.1 million year would result from merely maintaining its inventory of nearly 57,000 cylinders of depleted uranium hexafluoride, or UF6. Long-term storage and viable use of the material could generate as many as 2,100 jobs earning $130 million a year, DOE said. Nearly 37,000 of the canisters are stored at Paducah.

Kristin Reese, chairwoman of the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization, said the final plan probably omitted job numbers because they would be determined by the company or companies hired. She said she is pleased that the report emphasizes using current or laid-off plant workers.

"Our priority obviously will be job creation," she said. "This is exactly in line with PACRO's mission."

PACRO was created to look for ways to stimulate jobs and economic development to offset closing or cutting employment at the diffusion plant. Last month, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson renewed his promise to give the organization a $6 million grant.

"We're excited to see the conversion project moving forward. The organization is going to evaluate this plan and make comments as requested by the department," Reese said.

The plan also does not specify whether conversion plants would be built simultaneously at Paducah and Portsmouth or on a staggered schedule, she said.

"We're going to be keeping an eye out for that, so we're acting in our community's best interest," Reese said.

DOE issued an initial plan March 12, eight days after starting to seek expressions of interest from firms about the conversion facilities. The final plan says DOE will hire one or more companies next year to start construction by March 2002 and have the facilities running by the end of 2004. The entire inventory of depleted UF6 — about 700,000 metric tons — would be converted.

Although reliable figures won't be available until final bids are received, DOE estimates the cost of the conversion program to be $3 million to $4 million. That includes running the conversion plants for nearly 25 years, and storing and disposing of products not used.

According to the final plan, most firms submitting expressions of interest said there is "little technical risk" to converting the material because of available technologies. But the bid process must address the "significant financial risk" of converting the material, particularly because there are few potential innovative uses for products from conversion, the firms said.

Some companies responded

Kristin Reese
Plan is in line with mission

they want to convert the material to uranium metal for long-term storage; DOE said it would consider that option if it is safe.

"The department wants to allow for the opportunity of innovative commercial approaches for managing the depleted uranium as metal while ensuring that disposal of the material is possible if no use is found," the report said.

DOE expects that conversion will produce uranium oxide and fluorine compounds. The final plan says a potential use for the oxide is in making DUCRETE, a trademark concrete material that may be helpful in managing and storing spent nuclear fuel. Another possible application is the reuse of fluorine in the nuclear fuel industry.

The plan says that by September, DOE will release a "road map" focusing on potential governmental uses of the material and including limited studies of private sector applications.

DOE issued the plan to comply with a law passed last year to make use of about $373 million set aside for the conversion plants. Because DOE must find budgetary offsets for the money, Richardson announced a plan last month to free the first $46 million to get the program under way.

The Paducah Sun
06/25/99 - P. 4A
Editorial # 1

Editorials

SECURITY LAPSE

USEC guards need enhanced authority

Officials with the federal Department of Energy would be wise to act quickly to restore the arrest powers of security guards at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. In the wake of reports showing that the DOE failed to protect the nation's nuclear secrets, Congress isn't likely to respond tolerantly to fresh evidence that the agency is taking a casual attitude toward security.

The USEC Inc. uranium enrichment plant in Paducah isn't a top-secret facility like the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, where Chinese spies obtained information on the design of U.S. nuclear weapons. However, the Paducah plant *is* a potential target for sabotage, terrorism and industrial espionage. The facility doesn't need massive security, but it does require a trained security force that has the legal authority to deal with a variety of threats.

Security guards at the plant believe they lost part of the authority they need to do their jobs effectively when the Nuclear Regulatory Commission began regulating the facility in March 1997. Under the NRC, which generally believes local police should assist in plant security, the guards lost their power of arrest. Four years earlier, USEC ended heavy weapons and tactical training for the plant's security force.

Last fall representatives of the security guards' union convinced key members of Congress that the guards needed arrest power. The matter should have been settled when Congress approved legislation requiring the DOE to restore the guards' authority.

Federal energy officials operate on their own timetable, however. Eight months have passed since the legislation was approved, and the guards are still waiting for DOE to complete the process of recertifying the guards to establish their arrest powers.

We recognize that USEC officials and the DOE are trying to balance the need for security with efforts to create a more businesslike atmosphere at the newly privatized facility. Even so, security must remain a priority at every facility that deals with nuclear materials.

The danger posed by terrorists of all stripes simply is too great to make the uranium enrichment plant's security dependent in part on overstretched local law enforcement agencies. Only well-trained and well-armed security guards with arrest power and authorization to use deadly force can protect the plant from determined intruders.

The Paducah Sun
06/25/99 - P. 4A
Editorial # 2

NEW OPPORTUNITY

Uranium recycling could boost Paducah's future

Local and state officials' heated pursuit of the AVLIS laser-based uranium enrichment plant temporarily obscured the promise of the recycling facilities the federal Department of Energy plans to build in Paducah and Portsmouth, Ohio. Now that USEC Inc., the operator of the two plants, has scrapped plans for AVLIS, the community's focus is shifting to the recycling program, which could bring more than 1,000 jobs to Paducah.

Congressman Ed Whitfield, who represents the 1st District, and U.S. Sens. Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning have been grappling with DOE officials over the agency's plans to use $375 million Congress set aside last year for the recycling plants. Recently, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson pledged that he would release $46 million to start work on the plant in Paducah.

The plants are needed to convert more than 55,000 cylinders of depleted uranium hexafluoride into a safer, more stable material. They also will serve to cushion the impact of job losses at the Paducah and Portsmouth facilities. More than 500 positions at the plants will be eliminated as USEC prepares for stiff competition in the world market for enriched uranium.

The recycling project offers short-term job insurance for the workers at the Paducah and Portsmouth gaseous diffusion plants. By contrast, the new, more efficient enrichment technology that will replace gaseous diffusion sometime in the next decade will provide a guarantee of high-tech employment well into the next century.

Even so, the uranium recycling program should play an important role in economic development in this region. Federal officials say the conversion plants could cost a total of $2.6 billion, employ as many as 2,100 workers and generate $130 million in annual payroll.

It's no wonder that Whitfield, McConnell and Bunning are pushing hard for DOE to follow through on its plans to recycle uranium hexafluoride. The cylinders of spent uranium stored at the Paducah plant represent job opportunities that could improve the economic outlook for all of western Kentucky.

DOE awards $6 million for job creation

The Department of Energy has awarded a $6 million grant to the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO) to help offset job losses at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

The grant fulfills a promise made by Energy Secretary Bill Richardson in a visit to the plant in October.

He made the formal announcement Wednesday, a day after meeting with federal lawmakers from Kentucky to reveal the news.

Richardson thanked Sens. Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning, and Rep. Ed Whitfield for supporting the effort.

"These grants will help the Paducah community diversify its economy and help offset the economic impacts of reduced uranium operations," Richardson said.

Whitfield said the money "is an important investment" in PACRO's future.

"With continued hard work, these efforts and those to make the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant a viable facility for the future will help protect the thousands of jobs made possible by this industry," he said.

PACRO, composed of 60 civic leaders from five counties, is studying ways to create jobs through new businesses, training displaced workers for new careers, developing industrial parks and facilities and reusing plant facilities and resources.

DOE Paducah Site Manager Jimmie Hodges, a member of the PACRO executive committee, said the money allows the organization to look "at total regional economic development," rather than merely reusing Paducah plant resources.

Portsmouth Daily Times
Thursday, June 24, 1999
Page A1

Recycling plant planned for Paducah, Piketon

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has unveiled his agency's plan for providing $46 million to start work on a uranium recycling plant in Paducah.

RICHARDSON

Richardson made the commitment Tuesday during a meeting in Washington with U.S. Sens. Jim Bunning and Mitch McConnell and U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield.

"Before this, we had $5 million and a promise," said Bunning, referring to money included for the plant in the Department of Energy's fiscal 2000 budget. "Now we have a total of $46 million to get the program under way."

Other than the $5 million budgeted,

■ See RICHARDSON on A10

The Paducah Sun

June 23, 1999
Paducah, Ky., 42002

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Vol. 103 • No.

HOLD THE THOUGHT: Al Gore promises new 'era of big government' — Column, 4A

Millions vowed for USEC recycling

■ **Bill Richardson** *made the $46 million pledge Tuesday to start work on a uranium recycling plant in Paducah.*

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

After months of pressuring the Department of Energy, federal lawmakers say they are delighted with Energy Secretary Bill Richardson's plan for $46 million to start work on a uranium recycling plant at Paducah.

"Before this, we had $5 million and a promise," said Sen. Jim Bunning, referring to money included for the plant in DOE's fiscal 2000 budget. "Now we have a total of $46 million to get the program under way."

Richardson made the pledge in a meeting Tuesday with Bunning, Sen. Mitch McConnell and 1st District U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield. Other than the $5 million budgeted, it was the first financial commitment from DOE since the three lawmakers backed legislation last year to build a recycling plant here.

Besides the $5 million, Richardson pledged $24 million left over from a DOE fund to maintain depleted uranium hexafluoride stored in cylinders at Paducah and $17 million from the sale of low-level nuclear materials from DOE stockpiles, Bunning said.

Richardson also will release a $6 million grant to retrain displaced workers at Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. In a visit last fall to the plant, Richardson promised the money to the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO).

Bunning said Richardson promised to continue seeking funding or

Please see **RECYCLING** / 15A

offset funding for the rest of the $373 million mandated in legislation last year for recycling plants here and in Portsmouth, Ohio.

"This will at least get the recycling project started," Bunning said. "I think it's important we take in good faith the Department of Energy's promise, and I have reason to trust Secretary Richardson."

McConnell said he was pleased to work with Bunning in getting DOE to meet its recycling plant commitment. "This funding is critical for western Kentucky to establish an economic transition plan to mitigate any job losses at the plant," McConnell said.

After meeting with Richardson, Bunning released his hold on the confirmation of three of Richardson's assistant secretaries — Carolyn Huntoon for environmental management, James Lewis for minority programs and David Goldwin for international affairs. Earlier this year, McConnell had held and then released the confirmation of Deputy Secretary of Energy T.J. Glauthier. The senators said they blocked the confirmations because DOE wasn't moving ahead with the recycling project.

"This meeting was kind of a last-ditch attempt to come to solution to get his nominees moved and get our financing moved," Bunning said. "I had the holds released, so I'm sure he (Richardson) will be happy about that."

McConnell said Richardson agreed to other terms, including:

■ Releasing a record of decision on an environmental study for the recycling plants, which will convert depleted uranium hexafluoride into other safer materials that can be used or sold. The study will expedite the project.

■ Publishing, no later than June 30, a draft request for proposals from private companies to design and build the plants.

■ Working to protect terms of an agreement reached last year limiting layoffs by plant operator USEC Inc. to 500 employees by July 2000.

■ Seeking to minimize layoffs by rehiring USEC plant employees for DOE environmental work.

In previous documents, DOE has said viable, long-term use of material converted from depleted uranium hexafluoride could lead to as many as 2,100 direct jobs earning $130 million annually at the two plants. The conversion plants could cost as much as $2.6 billion.

Energy secretary: Security not perfect

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson conceded Tuesday that "more needs to be done" to protect U.S. nuclear secrets, and Republican senators pushed anew to overhaul security at the nation's weapons labs.

Richardson

Appearing with Richardson on Capitol Hill, the head of an intelligence advisory group that issued a critical report on nuclear security said that unclassified computer systems at weapons labs continue to be accessible from the outside.

Asked whether nuclear secrecy was assured, Warren Rudman, chairman of the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, said: "I don't think it's safe now. I don't think the secretary does."

Rudman and Richardson spoke at a House Commerce Committee hearing. At a joint hearing of four Senate committees earlier in the day, they sparred over restructuring the Energy Department.

Richardson said that a "firewall" had been established to prevent people from accessing computer systems at the weapons labs except for the labs' widely accessible Web sites.

"I don't take any confidence in that statement," said Rudman. "These firewalls are penetrated all the time."

Richardson conceded: "The firewalls have been set up. Are they perfect? No."

But he emphasized that this applies to unclassified computer systems used by scientists at the labs. A separate classified computer network contains the top-secret weapons data, and additional measures have been taken in recent months to safeguard against transfers between the two systems, he said.

Meanwhile, momentum was growing in the Senate for a radical restructuring of the Energy Department that would insulate its nuclear weapons programs under a largely autonomous agency.

The Paducah Sun

June 23, 1999
Paducah, Ky., 42002

www.sunsix.com

Vol.

Security guards still denied arrest powers

By Joe Walker
Sun Business Editor

Grappling with allegations of spying in its nuclear weapons program, the Department of Energy still hasn't restored arrest powers to security guards at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a situation that upsets the president of the guards' union.

"Security has been put on the back burner across the country," said John Driskill, president of

Please see GUARDS / 15A

Continued from 1A

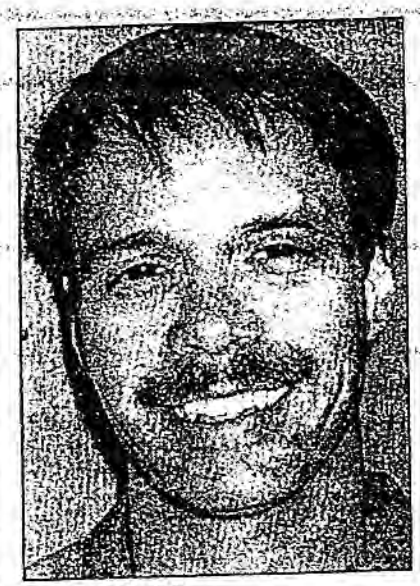
34-member Local 111 of the United Plant Guard Workers of America. "If this Chinese espionage thing doesn't draw attention to it, I don't know what will."

Although the Paducah plant doesn't have the security needs of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, where Chinese spies allegedly stole nuclear secrets, "we're dealing with the same kinds of issues," Driskill said. Security and protecting sensitive information from spying, sabotage and terrorism are just as important at Paducah, he said.

The owners, operators and regulators of the diffusion plant, which enriches uranium for nuclear fuel, disagree with the guards' union regarding what level of security the plant needs.

"The officers won't like this, but there is not a requirement for a security guard to be involved in protecting classified information," said Bern Stapleton, security manager for USEC Inc., which operates the plant.

Los Alamos, which handles plutonium and nuclear weapons, is classified two security levels higher than the Paducah plant and requires tactical security officers armed with military rifles, he said.



John Driskill
Security on back burner

Since it started running the Paducah plant in 1993, USEC has relaxed some security requirements, such as heavy weapons and tactical training, to make the plant more businesslike. When the Nuclear Regulatory Commission began regulating the plant in March 1997, guards lost their longtime arrest power because the NRC didn't require it.

USEC, which is trying to be more cost-efficient, saw no reason to veer from the NRC's stance. Neither did the Energy Department, which owns and still regulates parts of the facility.

The guards' union sought the help of federal lawmakers, who got legislation passed last fall requiring that guards' authority be reinstated. That was eight months ago, and the details still are in the works, said Anthony Hulen, press secretary for 1st District U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield.

"We received a commitment in meetings with DOE and USEC to fully implement arming and arrest authority, but they told us that to do the training needed and other things, full implementation might not take place until the end of the year," Hulen said. "We've had several contacts with them on why they seem to be dragging their feet."

Stapleton said DOE inspected the plant about a month ago and required some changes in restoring arrest authority. Training should be finished by early August, after which cards — similar to a driver's license — will be issued to certify arrest powers, he said,

adding that guards have citizen's arrest authority until then.

Attempts to reach Jimmy Hodges, DOE site manager for the Paducah plant, were unsuccessful Monday and Tuesday. Bill Wicker, a DOE spokesman in Washington, said all the Paducah guards should be recertified by the end of the year. "We believe USEC is making good progress, and we're expediting it as much as possible," Wicker said.

Stapleton stressed that before last year's legislation, USEC was "above and beyond the requirements," allowing guards to continue carrying firearms even though the NRC didn't require it.

Aside from arming and arrest power, DOE and the NRC security requirements for the Paducah plant are "virtually identical," Stapleton said, and USEC uses the most conservative rules if there is a question.

NRC regulations say the plant must have security personnel to control access, but not necessarily armed officers. NRC Senior Resident Inspector Ken O'Brien said not requiring guards to be armed and have arrest power is partly because the plant poses less security risk than some nuclear power plants regulated by the NRC.

O'Brien said the commission generally views guards and local police as having "a complementary role" in law-enforcement matters at NRC-regulated facilities. However, the Paducah police chief and McCracken County sheriff have written letters saying they are not equipped to handle calls to the plant, Driskill said.

Driskill raised concerns about arming and arrest authority as DOE tackled the broader problem of international spying in the nuclear weapons program. Earlier this week, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said polygraphing has started on about 5,000 nuclear weapons scientists and other sensitive employees at DOE. That marked the first wholesale use of "lie detector" tests outside the CIA and the National Security Agency.

Driskill said he has complained to the NRC about several issues relating to the plant's visiting and escorting practices, particularly that USEC is ending the routine signing in and out of people who are not security cleared, yet must be at the Paducah plant for extended periods. That lessens accountability and increases the chances that someone will do something wrong, he said.

"We think that's a serious problem," Driskill said. "It's the same kind of nonsense that caused all the trouble at Los Alamos."

O'Brien said USEC cannot make that or any other "significant" change in security procedures without approval by the NRC. As for controlling access to classified material, the NRC places the most emphasis on the people, the procedures and the areas of the plant that deal with the material, he said

For example, people without a "Q" security clearance — including all uncleared visitors and most plant employees — do not have access to classified information, O'Brien said.

Jan Strasma, spokesman for the NRC's regional office in Chicago, said he could not discuss the specifics of Driskill's complaints. "I can say we've been made aware of concerns with the security program at the Paducah facility and are actively reviewing those concerns," he said.

An NRC inspection in March found the plant was adhering to its security plan and had no violations.

DOE NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Mike Terwilliger, 202/586-5806

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 1999

PRESS CONFERENCE

Secretary Richardson to Unveil Worker Health Initiative

On Thursday, July 15, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson will unveil a proposal to give Department of Energy (DOE) contractor workers with certain chronic medical conditions access to benefits similar to those now available to federal employees. Currently these benefits are largely unavailable to DOE contract workers.

WHO: Energy Secretary Bill Richardson
Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health David Michaels
Congressional members (invited)
Union representatives and DOE workers

WHAT: Press Conference on Energy Department Health Initiative

WHEN: Thursday, July 15, 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time

WHERE: Department of Energy Forrestal Building Auditorium
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C.

NOTE: The press conference will be broadcast via satellite. Coordinate information follows. Out-of-town reporters can watch and listen to the press conference from a number of DOE operations offices that will broadcast the press conference live. Reporters unable to attend the event may listen to the press conference by calling (202) 287-1373.

SATELLITE COORDINATES: Telstar 6 Location: 93 deg. West Longitude

TRANSPONDER: 7 FREQUENCY: C-Band, 3840 MHz

POLARIZATION: Vertical AUDIO SUBCARRIER: 6.2 and 6.8

Technical assistance will be available prior to the event at 202/586-4284.

-DOE-

N-99-047

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

DOE NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Mike Terwilliger/Jeff Sherwood
202/586-5806

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 1999

Richardson Unveils Health Initiative for DOE Workers

Reverses Decades-old Practice, Proposes to Help Workers' Made Ill From DOE Operations

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson today announced a Clinton administration proposal that will help current and former Department of Energy (DOE) contract workers who are ill because of exposure to beryllium at DOE nuclear facilities. The legislation would reverse a decades-long DOE practice of opposing most worker health claims and, for the first time, would provide financial assistance to DOE workers made ill by their exposure to beryllium.

"This is long deserved and long overdue," said Secretary Richardson. "Many of the men and women who helped us win the Cold War worked in extremely hazardous conditions and were exposed to extremely hazardous substances. Those who contracted Chronic Beryllium Disease deserve to receive the same occupational illness benefits available to regular federal employees, not to be punished with health care bills they can't pay. It's time to stop spending money litigating against these workers and focus our efforts on getting them the help they need," he added.
The program will be modeled after the Federal Employees' Compensation Act program, administered by the Department of Labor for all federal employees, and will provide similar benefits.

The program will be focused on workers with Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) where there is a clearly established connection between disease and work. All DOE contract workers, including those employed by the companies who supplied the government with beryllium products, will be included in the new program. Because other toxic and radioactive materials also may contribute to occupational illnesses, Richardson said that President Clinton has tasked the National Economic Council (NEC) to lead an interagency review focusing on whether there are other illnesses that warrant inclusion in this program and how this should be accomplished.

(MORE)

R-99-178

"This will not be a major new budget item," Richardson added. "Costs are well defined and we expect to handle them within the existing budget. Estimates for benefits paid under the beryllium disease program are about $13 million per year over the next ten years. As the department improves its ability to protect workers from beryllium through a new beryllium rule, the program's costs will fall.

The proposal was developed with assistance from a number of agencies, including the Department of Labor. Based upon its broad experience, the Department of Labor will continue to work closely with DOE to develop a workable program that delivers the benefits called for in this proposal efficiently and promptly. Over the next several weeks, both agencies will work with policy officials in the administration to develop a final legislative proposal. Secretary Richardson said that several Members of Congress have already expressed their strong support for the proposal.

The proposal was designed to fill in gaps in the current system for DOE contract workers with Chronic Beryllium Disease and would not apply to contract employees of other federal agencies. Unlike federal employees who are covered by a federal workers' compensation system, employees of DOE contractors have historically been covered by the various state workers' compensation programs, where it is more difficult to prove occupational illness and where benefit schemes are more suited to traumatic injuries.

Chronic Beryllium Disease is a debilitating lung disease caused by exposure to beryllium, a metal used by the government in the production of nuclear weapons. While symptoms can be arrested with treatment, there is no cure. Beryllium has historically been used at 20 DOE sites, though most DOE workers with Chronic Beryllium Disease were employed at Rocky Flats (Colo.) and Oak Ridge (Tenn.), with others from Hanford (Wash.), Los Alamos (N.M.) and Argonne (Ill.). There are also cases of Chronic Beryllium Disease and sensitization among employees of firms that sold beryllium products for the government in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Arizona.

DOE estimates that almost 20,000 workers may have been exposed to beryllium at DOE sites. To date, DOE screening programs have identified 115 cases of CBD among current and former workers. Workers covered by the legislation are eligible to receive reimbursement for medical costs, compensation for lost wages, and permanent impairment and vocational rehabilitation assistance.

The department has opened a Web Page for workers and other interested parties to discuss the proposal. The address is **http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits**. General information about beryllium disease and the proposed new rulemaking to protect current workers from beryllium disease can be found at **http://www.eh.doe.gov/be**.

DOE

R-99-178

Occupational Illness Program for Department of Energy Workers

The Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing legislation to establish an occupational illness compensation program for DOE's contract workers at nuclear facilities as an alternative to current state systems. The new program will be administered by the Department of Labor and modeled after the workers' compensation system for federal employees. The program will immediately address clearly-defined occupational illnesses caused by beryllium, such as chronic beryllium disease.

Workers covered by the legislation are eligible to receive reimbursement for medical costs, compensation for lost wages, and vocational rehabilitation assistance. Survivors of workers who have died as a result of beryllium disease would be provided survivors' benefits and reimbursement for burial expenses. Workers diagnosed with a beryllium-related condition prior to the effective date of the legislation, or their survivors, will have the option of receiving a single, lump sum benefit of $100,000.

Background

The men and women who worked in the Nation's nuclear weapons program over the past 50 years have been exposed to radiation and extremely hazardous substances. Under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE has been responsible for the health and safety of these workers in lieu of protection from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. While not military veterans per se, these workers faithfully served the Nation as soldiers of the Cold War, and, in doing so, faced risk to their health.

However, these workers do not have access to the same benefits as military veterans with service-related disease. Further, DOE's workers are not considered federal employees because they are employed by private contractors who operate the Department's weapons plants. As a result, they are restricted to State workers' compensation programs.

State workers' compensation programs, while effective for injured workers, don't adequately address the needs of workers with occupational illnesses. It is often difficult to prove that illnesses are work-related, and diseases can have long latency periods before workers become disabled or need medical care. Under State workers' compensation programs, many DOE contract workers who have become sick from workplace exposures are not being fairly compensated for their illnesses.

In the past, DOE has routinely opposed claims of work-related illnesses, regardless of merit. Several dozen suits have been filed against the federal government in Colorado and Tennessee, with additional suits expected shortly. While the government generally wins such lawsuits -- often based on procedural defenses -- its position has generated strong criticism. The proposed program will reverse this approach and allow the government to take responsibility where it is clear harm has been done.

(more)

Beryllium Disease

The program will provide coverage for all current and former DOE contract workers at nuclear facilities with beryllium disease, including workers who produced beryllium products that were supplied to DOE by vendors. Inhalation of beryllium dust or particles causes both Chronic Beryllium Disease (CBD) -- a chronic, often disabling and sometimes fatal lung condition – and beryllium sensitization -- where a worker's immune system becomes allergic to the presence of beryllium in the body. CBD often develops in individuals with sensitization. Loss of lung function and disability from CBD may not appear for 10-15 years or more after exposure.

Most DOE workers with CBD were employed at Rocky Flats (CO) and Oak Ridge (TN), with others from Hanford (WA), Los Alamos (NM) and Argonne (IL). There are also cases of CBD and sensitization among employees of beryllium products vendors in Ohio and Pennsylvania; additional cases may be found in Arizona.

Other occupational disease

There are likely other cases of occupational illnesses among DOE contractor workers, but it is often difficult to determine the extent to which a disease was caused by workplace exposure. Under the proposal, President Clinton has tasked the National Economic Council (NEC) to lead an interagency review focusing on whether there are other illnesses that warrant inclusion in this program and how this should be accomplished.

- *Asbestosis and Silicosis.* Asbestos was widely used as fire retardant and insulation in the weapons complex from the 1940s to present. DOE workers, as with private sector workers, have been shown to be at high risk for developing asbestosis, a slowly progressive, chronic disease that causes fibrosis of the lung. Silicosis, another progressive lung disease with the potential to cause long-term disability, can result from drilling through hard rock that contains silica, as was done in tunneling for underground weapons tests at the Nevada Test Site. Preliminary studies have shown mild silicosis in about 10% of current and former tunnelers at the Nevada Test Site. Many of these are the same workers who dug the tunnels in Alaska and other sites where underground testing occurred.

- *Radiation-Induced Cancers.* We estimate that over the next 30 years, there will be between 250 and 700 radiation-induced cancers among DOE contractor employees, of which about 60 percent will result in death. The Veterans Administration compensates military personnel for those cancers which are determined to be more likely than not to be related to radiation exposure at work.

Cost. The costs for the program for beryllium disease are estimated to average about $13 million per year over the next 10 years, with decreasing amounts thereafter. Detailed costs of coverage for additional diseases will be developed by the Presidential Task Force.

########

Instructions to log on and participate in the Paducah TCE Discussion Forum

1. Go to the TechCon Home Page using your internet service.
The address is http://www.ead.anl.gov/techcon

2. Click the "Current Project Opportunities" link in the middle of the page. It takes you to a list of current DOE projects supported by TechCon. Each project has its own project home page.

3. Click the "Paducah" link in the table of listed projects. Note: The resultant "Paducah Remediation of Groundwater Contaminated with TCE Project Home Page" is an important navigation point. You may want to "bookmark" this page.

4. Click the link "Discussion Forum" along the top of the page.
   a. Click the OPTIONS button located at the top of the page,
   b. Within the large box that appears are two columns of check-boxes and text. The following boxes require a response from you:
      1) Under "Forums" click the box adjacent to the word Paducah, then
      2) Under "Listed Threads" click the arrow at the right side of the box and highlight "last 365 days," then
      3) Under "E-mail Notification" click the box adjacent to "From Marked Threads," then
      4) Enter your e-mail address under "Personal" within the box provided, and
      5) Click the "OK" button near the bottom center of the large box.

5. You should be viewing the Paducah TCE Discussion Forum with two threads:
   a. Administrative, and
   b. Technology Discussion

   Both threads are preceded with a white dot. Click on each of them and they should turn red. The red dot indicates that you will receive an e-mail message whenever someone adds something new or replies to an existing message at this Discussion Forum.*

That's it! You're a fully qualified Paducah TCE project internet communicator! We believe using the TechCon Paducah TCE Project Home Page and Discussion Forum is an efficient means to disseminate information about the Paducah TCE project, gather relevant capabilities and project history data, and communicate effectively amongst all interested parties. It doesn't take the place of face-to-face meetings. That's why we still have TechCon Forums and ITRD Technical Advisory Group meetings, and site project team meetings to achieve our goals.

You'll probably have questions. When you do, go to the Paducah TCE Project Home Page and contact one of the two individuals listed at the bottom of that web page either by the e-mail hotlink or listed phone number.

Thank you for your participation!

Dale Pflug
Program Manager, TechCon
Argonne National Laboratory, EA 900
9700 South Cass Avenue
630-252-6682
dpflug@anl.gov

DOE Media Advisory

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:
John Sheppard 270-441-6804
Debbie Wattier 270-441-5023

JULY 14, 1999

DOE will sponsor Public Workshop July 27

PADUCAH, KY. — The U.S. Department of Energy will bring the public up to date on its work at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant at a July 27 public workshop.

The event begins at 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Resource Center at the Paducah Information Age Park. There is no fee to attend and registration is not required.

Information will be presented on site-wide environmental cleanup; plans for conversion of depleted uranium; new environmental technologies under development; and the status of waste treatment and disposal.

Information will include examples of past and current work, and new technologies that might be used in the future. Another subject to be covered is how local businesses might become part of the effort. DOE's mission requires the availability of subcontractors and suppliers in a number of areas, from engineering and construction to printing and personnel services.

"We want people to understand the work that has to be done, how we're doing it and the new technologies and ideas that are being developed to deal with environmental concerns," said Jimmie Hodges, DOE's Paducah Site Manager. "This work has enormous implications for the entire region and we feel the more people know, the more they will see how they can aid our effort."

Representatives from the Paducah DOE Site Office and Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC, DOE's management and integration contractor, will be on hand to answer questions. Representatives from other agencies and organizations that work with DOE also plan to participate, including the Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board; the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Department for Fish & Wildlife Resources, and Radiation Health and Toxic Agents Branch; and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

For more information, or if special accommodations are needed, please call John Sheppard of DOE at (270) 441-6804.

—DOE—

Handouts for July 15, 1999, SSAB Meeting

- Newspaper articles from *The Paducah Sun* from June 17, 1999 through July 15, 1999
- Ad for *The Paducah Sun*, Sunday, July 11, 1999 (SSAB meeting notice)
- Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) Site Specific Advisory Board Environmental Management Project Updates July 12, 1999
- Fact Sheet DOE Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF_6) at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant July 1999
- Final Plan for the Conversion of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride July 1999
- DOE Media Advisory July 14, 1999, DOE will sponsor Public Workshop July 27
- DOE News Release: Secretary Richardson to Unveil Worker Health Initiative
- FY 90-99 Paducah Budgets for ER, WM, EF
- SSAB Financial Report

PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT
SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

padssab@apex.net

www.oro.doe.gov/pgdpssab/

2000 McCracken Boulevard • Paducah, Kentucky 42001 • (502) 744-9001

Co-Chairs

Mark Donham
Vicki Jones

Board Members

Kit Atkinson
Nola Courtney
Edward Duff
Angela Farmer
David Fuller
Judy Ingram
Merryman Kemp
Ronald Lamb
Linda Long
Douglas Raper
Craig Rhodes
Rosa Scott
Jim Smart, Ph.D.
Pat Stephenson
Bill Tanner
Rev. Gregory Waldrop

***Ex Officio* Members**

Carl Froede, Jr.
Environmental Protection Agency

Wayne L. Davis
Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Kentucky)

Tuss Taylor
Division for Waste Management
(Kentucky)

John A. Volpe, Ph.D.
Radiation Control Branch
(Kentucky)

Jimmie C. Hodges
Department of Energy

DOE Federal Coordinator

John D. Sheppard

Additional information about contacting board members directly can be obtained from the SSAB web site or by contacting Shirley Speer at (502) 462-2550.

TO: Paducah SSAB Members
Ex Officio Members

DATE: July 1, 1999

SUBJECT: **MEETING REMINDER**

The next meeting will be held July 15, 1999, at the Information Age Park Resource Center at 5:30 p.m. The meeting location will be the USEC Training room in the Resource Center at the Paducah Information Age Park. (One of the rooms on the left side of the open area where the SSAB met in June.)

Tentative agenda for the July 15, 1999, meeting:

- Call to order/Discussions
- Minutes
- Public Comments and Questions
- Information Handouts
- Program Status Updates
  - EM&EF Projects
  - Vortec
  - Depleted UF_6
  - DOE Public Workshop
- Sitewide Cumulative Effects
- Programmatic Presentations
  - WAG 6—Gregory Waldrop
  - ITRD
  - *Paths to Closure* document—Mark Donham
- SSAB Subcommittee Reports
  - Community Relations—Judy Ingram
  - Consultant—Bill Tanner
  - Membership—Nola Courtney
- SSAB Recommendations Status—Jimmie Hodges
- Administrative Issues for the Board
  - Co-chair Status
  - Review of the SSAB Draft Workplan
  - Tours
  - Financial Update
  - SSAB Letterhead
  - Status of Name Change Proposal
  - Member Orientation Packet

Action Items from the June 17, 1999 SSAB Meeting

- Mark Donham and Nola Courtney to work on revised workplan.
- DOE to provide fact sheet on status of DUF_6 conversion facility RFP.
- DOE to obtain copy of document requested by Ronnie Lamb. (KY-A-46)
- DOE to provide breakdown on money spent over past few years at Paducah on: Remedial Action, Waste Management, Surveillance & Maintenance, and Enrichment Facilities (includes DUF_6).
- John Sheppard to issue agenda for ITRD meeting June 22-23 via e-mail, and arrange for SSAB representative to participate.
- DOE to provide ITRD meeting minutes to board. (ITRD meeting minutes will be placed on Tech Con Web Page. (www.ead.anl.gov/techcon)).
- Subcommittee on community relations meet to develop plans for participation in July 27 DOE Public Workshop, as well as newspaper ad to encourage community attendance.
- Bechtel Jacobs Company Public Affairs to place newspaper ad for July SSAB meeting.
- Shirley Speer to identify different meeting room for July SSAB meeting, in consultation with co-chairs.

Wattier, Debbie S. (DSI)

From: Naomi Wiegler [Naomi.Wiegler@EM.DOE.GOV]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 1999 1:06 PM
To: Martha Crosland; Fred Butterfield; Michael Purkey; Charles M. Rice (E-mail); Dale Slade (E-mail); George Chandler (E-mail); H. Ray Johnson (E-mail); James Bierer (E-mail); Jim Kinsinger (E-mail); Mark Donham (E-mail); Robert W. Peelle (E-mail); Ron Zerm (E-mail); Thomas W. Marshall (E-mail); Thomas Wagner (E-mail); Vicki Jones (E-mail); Audrey Berry (E-mail); Gail McClure (E-mail); Gary Stegner (E-mail); Gerri Flemming (E-mail); Jerry Johnson (E-mail); John Sheppard (E-mail); Kevin Rohrer (E-mail); M. J. Byrne (E-mail); Mariane Anderson (E-mail); Marianne Heiskell (E-mail); Patty Natoni (E-mail); Tami Toops (E-mail); Woody Russell (E-mail); Abbey Wells (E-mail); Ann DuBois (E-mail); Becky Lopez (E-mail); Carolyn Gardner (E-mail); Dawn Haygood (E-mail); Debbie Wattier (E-mail); Donna Sterba (E-mail); Gwen Doddy (E-mail); Ken Korkia (E-mail); Michelle Smith (E-mail); Sheree Black (E-mail); Wendy Green Lowe (E-mail)
Subject: June 8, 1999, SSAB Chairs Conference Call Notes

6.8.99.wpd

All,

I am attaching notes from the June 8, 1999, SSAB Chairs Conference Call. Please call me at (202) 586-7926 should you have any questions or comments.

Naomi Wiegler

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (EM SSAB)

CHAIRS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TELECONFERENCE

Thursday, June 8, 1999

SSAB & Field Participants:

Fernald
Tisha Patten

Hanford
Merilyn Reeves

Idaho
Charles Rice
Patty Natoni
Stanley Hobson

Los Alamos
Ann Dubois

Nevada
Kevin Rohrer
Ray Johnson

Oak Ridge
Lorene Sigal
Marianne Heiskell

Los Alamos
Ann Dubois

Rocky Flats
Ken Korkia

Victor Holden

Pantex
Sidney Blankenship
Becky Lopez

Sandia
Dianne Terry

Savannah River
Gerri Flemming

Not Present:
Monticello
Paducah

DOE-Headquarters Participants:
Martha Crossland
Betsy Mullins
Fred Butterfield
Betty Nolan
Naomi Wiegler
Michael Purkey

AGENDA:

A. SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD ISSUES

Fernald

The June Fernald Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) meeting addressed results of and positive

feedback from the transportation workshop. Stake holder statements regarding the transportation workshop will be forwarded to DOE as CAB recommendation.

Hanford

The June Hanford CAB meeting discussed the positive feedback to the transportation workshop. The CAB will forward consensus items to the appropriate Board committees. The July CAB meeting will include a forum for key decision makers and the selection of a new manager.

There are now two entities at Hanford that deal with waste: the Hanford Office and the Office of River Protection (ORP). The ORP was created last year in accordance with a bill (HR 3984) requiring that the office report directly to EM-1. The ORP deals with tank waste and is managed by Dick French. During the last SSAB meeting, members addressed the responsibilities of the ORP and expressed concern regarding challenges interfacing with two site managers for waste. SSAB members stated that they do not want any challenges that may arise due to having the two offices on site impede the start of construction of a new vitrification plant.

Hanford will host the SSAB meeting in September 1999. Discussion centered on the agenda and related activities, including an invitation that the Yakama Nation extended to participants to visit Toppinish.

INEEL

Chuck Rice informed us that Beverly Cook is the new site manager at INEEL and that Stan Hobson was elected to replace Max Dakins who resigned earlier. Wynona Boyer replaced Bob Bobo as representative of the Shoshone Tribe. In addition, it was announced last week that Bechtel/B&W is the new site contractor.

The membership selection procedures that were planned last year are currently being implemented. Currently the Board is forming a pool of new candidates from which to draw when future vacancies occur. In their efforts to create a candidate pool, the Board is contacting media and other sources.

The Board will likely visit the site in conjunction with freshman state legislators.

The Board received good feedback on the transportation seminar and will develop recommendations on the seminar and on electrometareurgical and surplus plutonium disposition during its July meeting.

LANL

Board voted to increase the membership from 15 to 21 members due to increased need for assistance at the committee level. They are also looking to get more office space, probably in

Santa Fe.

The Board has been meeting with surrounding governments on environmental issues. The CAB believes that it would be difficult to meet the 2006 cleanup deadline given the current EM budget and stated that additional funding would be required in order to meet the target.

The CAB went on a retreat, and is working on the annual report.

Nevada

Kevin Rohrer announced that Dr. Ray Johnson is the new CAB Chair. The diversification committee is sending out applications for new members -- the CAB has one membership renewal and two vacancies.

The CAB received good feedback on the transportation seminar, as well as some member interest in emergency response training. The CAB is preparing for Sunrise 1999, a full participation emergency management preparedness exercise.

The next CAB meeting on July 7th in Beatty, NV, will address groundwater update and discussion and emergency response update and discussion.

ORNL

The ORNL CAB is currently in the process of revamping its membership since 6-7 members opted not to seek reappointment. Eight new members were selected, and the selection packages were forwarded to DOE HQ. Currently waiting for HQ approval.

ORNL will host a stewardship meeting in October 1999.

Pantex

The CAB June addressed the positive feedback on the transportation workshop; approval of by-laws revision to allow Board continuity; and an emergency management presentation.

Mention of a member of the public (and former Pantex SSAB member) taping a recent SSAB meeting sparked a discussion on the correct and legal response to such action. The Pantex SSAB Chair opposed the use of the tape recorder by a member of the public, but the DOE representative stated that its use was permitted. Mr. Blankenship asked whether or not the Board's response was correct and legal. Martha Crosland (DOE/EM-22) answered that she is not sure what type of control, if any, DOE has over actions of members of the public. Other SSAB Chairs and DOE representatives on the conference call said that they regularly tape their SSAB meetings, keep the original tape on file, and make a copy of the tape available for the public.

The discussion evolved to harassment suits, the background for such suits and any resolution. A related question that rose out of that discussion was whether or not members would be liable for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) suits for acting in their official capability, and if so, what protection do they have from such suits. Dianne Terry (Sandia) said that the DOE has the legal capability to recommend to the Department of Justice that SSAB Members be provided with legal representation. She added that "legals" will attend their July meeting where she will raise this question and e-mail their response **(Action Item)**. Tami Toops (Sandia) mentioned a January 14th memorandum written by Karen Griffith on the subject of SLAPP suits, which she will e-mail to Naomi Wiegler for general distribution **(Action Item)**. Mike Purkey will contact DOE GC on legal precedents of SLAPP suits on advisory boards **(Action Item)**. Lastly, it was suggested that this be an agenda item for the September meeting **(Action Item)**.

Rocky Flats

The GAO Report on Accelerated Rocky Flats Closure has been published and can be downloaded from the GAO web page. In its report, the GAO is skeptical that DOE can achieve its goal of site closure by 2006.

Ken Korkia expressed concern regarding the lack of opportunity for public participation on the DOE Secretary's cooperative agreement on endangered species.

The first Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) shipment from Rocky Flats to Sandia is scheduled for June 15th. There is a concern that transuranic waste is being produced at Rocky Flats faster than it can be shipped to Albuquerque. An environmental assessment suggested interim waste storage at Rocky Flats.

Ken Korkia said there still is no new site manager at Rocky Flats. Board activities will focus on a Vision for Rocky Flats site closure.

Sandia

Dianne Terry said that their CAB is experiencing membership problems.

SRS

The SRS CAB received positive feedback on the SSAB transportation workshop and has eight recommendations from their last meeting. The CAB is addressing the difficultly in achieving membership diversity and is initiating new outreach activities to remedy that problem such as increasing publicity, making a video of the CAB, and establishing a speakers bureau.

B. SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD ISSUES:

1. **Update on the Agenda for the SSAB Chairs Meeting in September – Fred Butterfield** (EM-22)

Fred Butterfield (DOE/EM-22) went over the items for the agenda, and will send a draft "strawman" agenda to all SSAB Chairs.

2. **Long Term Stewardship: PEIS Settlement Implementation – Jim Warner (EM-24)**

Jim Warner gave a brief presentation on the PEIS settlement implementation, and emphasized that we can only concentrate on the minimum requirements of the settlement agreement. He said that the long-term stewardship issue received the largest public comment response in the Paths to Closure Report. Therefore, in the Paths to Closure Report DOE stated that the issue of long-term stewardship would be deferred, to be dealt with in a separate, stand-alone report. That report would not involve collecting additional data and would not address individual SSAB issues. Meanwhile, the Paths to Closure Report has gone through all levels of the EM concurrence process, and Jim Warner expressed an eagerness to publish that report as soon as possible.

3. **Update on OR Seminar on Stewardship – Lorene Sigal (Oak Ridge CAB)**

The Oak Ridge seminar on long-term stewardship will be held October 26-28. The seminar's goal is to develop approximately five unified SSAB statements/recommendations for long-term stewardship.

4. **Recap of the SSAB Transportation Seminar – Tom Wagner (Fernald CAB)**

Tom sent an e-mail about the transportation seminar saying that he thought the workshop was very successful. Forty eight SSAB members attended, representing 10 cities, and an additional 77 participants also attended the workshop. The discussions resulted in a letter reporting on the workshop and listing 8 recommendations. The letter was sent to Jim Owendoff, Martha Crossland, and Kelly Kelkenberg, and requested the addressees to respond to each individual SSAB regarding the disposition of the statements within DOE by June 15th **(Action Item)**. Letters were also sent to SSAB Chairs, requesting them to designate a representative to serve as a member of the National SSAB Transportation Working Group, currently in the process of being formed, by June 30th.

C. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE/OTHER ISSUES:

Next teleconference: Tuesday, August 8, 1999, 3:20 PM to 5:00 PM, EST.

DOE-HQ POCs: Fred Butterfield, Phone: 202/586-8809, E-mail: *fred.butterfield@hq.doe.gov*
Naomi Wiegler, Phone: 202/586-7926, E-mail: *naomi.wiegler@em.doe.gov*
Mike Purkey, Phone: 202/586-0040, E-mail: *michael.purkey@em.doe.gov*

Innovative Treatment Remediation Demonstration
Paducah Site Meeting

June 22-23, 1999

PADUCAH ITRD MEETING
JUNE 22 & 23, 1999

Please sign in:

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Jeff Douthitt	1354 Kentucky Ave Kevil, Ky 42053		
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PADUCAH ITRD MEETING

JUNE 22 & 23, 1999

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PADUCAH ITRD MEETING

JUNE 22 & 23, 1999

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PADUCAH ITRD MEETING

JUNE 22 + 23, 1999

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PADUCAH ITRD MEETING

JUNE 22 & 23, 1999

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PADUCAH ITRD MEETING
JUNE 22 + 23, 1999

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PANTEX PLANT CITZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

806/373-3311 (phone) 806/372-3999 (fax)

Meeting Summary
Draft
FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 1999
2:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Amarillo College, Exhibits Hall
Amarillo, Texas

INTRODUCTION

The fifty-fourth meeting of the Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board (PPCAB) was held on Tuesday, April 27, 1999 at the Amarillo College Exhibit Hall, Amarillo, Texas. The meeting began at 2:30 p.m. and adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The agenda included the following:

- Subcommittee Reports
- Ex-Officio Reports
- Occurrence Reports

PPCAB Members in Attendance: John Blakley, Sidney Blankenship, Paula Breeding, Nathaniel Cantly, Rusty Donelson, Bob Juba, Janette Kelley, Walt Kelley, Denise Price, K. R. Ramakrishnan, Frank White and Ron Zerm.

PPCAB Members not in Attendance: Pam Allison, Galen Boothe, and Billie Poteet.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: David Hastings, TNRCC; Shawn Hess, TNRCC; Jerry S. Johnson, DOE; Joseph Martillotti, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control; and Roger Mulder, Office of the Governor.

Ex-Officio Members not in Attendance: John Bernier, DOE; Thomas Edwards, Attorney General's Office; and Rafael Casanova, EPA.

Resource People in Attendance: Becky Lopez, Office Administrator and R. Bruce Campbell, Mason and Hanger Corporation.

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Jenifer Kunz, WTAMU.

two sessions, one from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the other from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public (and answer questions) about EPA's deferral criteria, the NPL deletion process, TNRCC's RCRA permit/compliance plan, and DOE's petition to delete the site based on deferral.

Governor's Office

Mulder stated they did get WIPP funding for a 60-90 day extension. He added that Denise Brooks from his office would be attending the Transportation Seminar in Cincinnati.

TNRCC

Hastings stated that the TNRCC along with EPA would be sponsoring an informational open house concerning the DOE's petition to the EPA for deletion of the site from the National Priorities List (NPL). They will be present to provide information and to answer any questions about the process.

Hess stated TNRCC has started the second quarter ground water monitoring. Today was the first day of sampling due to the rain. Hess has received all the ground water monitoring results for the first quarter and is compiling the quarterly report. He has some adjustments to make, but he should have the results at the next PPCAB meeting.

Department of Health

Martillotti stated that emergency exercises occurred in the last two weeks in Texas. The exercise went fairly well and had good representation. There were some interface problems between State and DOE people, the information flow was reasonably good, and the DOE contamination control procedures meshed with the State's. He noted that this was the first time the exercise was held with the State Radiological office. Both teams learned good lessons with the help of the critics. DOE-Albuquerque plans to provide a video to the State, if they do he will try to provide a copy to the Board.

DOE

Johnson stated they have obtained landowner signatures for property access. This access procedure will include borings. He added that DOE conducted a presentation for the Environmental Restoration task force.

Campbell stated the access agreement contacts would not have been signed without Lee Cockrell's assistance. There will be eight test borings done on Richard Crawford's property, three test borings will be done on Cockrell's land and three on Buddy Vance's land. The reason for the borings is to see what is already there. They will be starting as soon as the ground dries. Blankenship asked if the contracts are annual. Campbell stated the contracts start now and run through August 26. Once monitoring is

inexcusable. J. Kelley suggested the possibility of a checklist they could check off. Dolezal noted that another piece of weaponry already has this and they have tried to take this into account. W. Kelley asked just how unsafe this procedure was, because it bothered enough people that there was a problem. Why were people so concerned? Dolezal stated there was not any great risk, but part of the way the program is structured is to avoid inadvertent acts. When the tester is hooked up it stops this.

Blankenship noted that two of the reports had to do with the movement of high explosives #0017. He asked what does this signify, what does the level 1.4S mean, and also was there a current tracking center for the movement of explosives. Dolezal stated that a 1.1 is mass detonating, 1.3 is mass fire, and does not detonate. 1.4 is self-contained, and S is the least hazardous. 1.4 is like a small firecracker, if detonated it would not be noticed from outside the pack. When they started becoming more concerned with the tracking movement they were not tracking 1.4, but they were finding that 1.4 explosives were ending up in buildings they were not suppose to be in. This event was unique. The person who initiated the paperwork was not on site, and the person who moved it was not aware of the regulations in process. A better segregation of boxes is now in place.

Martillotti stated that #001 was a near miss involving a radioactive source. It said it was sufficient, but the word "not" was missing which changes the meaning of the sentence.

Zerm said in relation to the W87 occurrence report that he investigated this occurrence in detail and there was absolutely no way any action could be initiated. The best allegory Zerm could put forth was to having one's car being monitored through a "sun machine". This machine monitors one's automobile's circuits to check on their integrity.

UPDATES

Johnson stated that during a background survey Zone 12 south and Zone 4 had not been flown. He sent a letter to the Board about having it re-flown. There was discussion of having an over flight done before the next cycle, but they decided to wait.

Johnson noted there was discussion of attending a Hanford board meeting and if members are still interested please contact the office. He visited with attorneys about the Chamber of Commerce membership and it was decided it was not appropriate for the PPCAB to be a member. J. Kelley noted that because of the feelings of some of the members the Board would not participate in their May program.

Johnson stated that Steve Goodrum was to attend this meeting, but was unable due to his knee. Campbell added that Hanford would be sponsoring the Co-Chair meeting in the fall. Blankenship stated that Al Young gave a presentation on risk profiles in February. He received a letter stating Johnson had Pantex's risk profile. Debra Griswold, the Environment Restoration Program team leader stated she had been working with Young, and the profile drafts are out. The report will include coordinating with stakeholders, and will be a representation of information. It will become a national

transportation and compliance with long-term storage, but the minutes would not be amended.

TASK FORCE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Personnel

Blankenship stated Policy and Personnel had met twice to review the various approaches to membership continuity and new members. Kunz asked for consensus on all recommendations. Juba suggested adding "other" to III.B.3. Blankenship stated it was already in the bylaws under stakeholder vacancies that consensus may not be broken by a member under review. Price stated she believed it should be "member under consideration should not be able to block consensus". Juba suggested the statement "the board member under review is ineligible to block a consensus vote on his or her membership renewal." He also did not agree with III.B.2. He would not want to bring them back. W. Kelley stated the bylaws do not state you cannot serve after three terms. Juba noted that with the consensus arrangement he does not believe that after six years on the Board, someone should be eligible. The Board should just thank him or her and move on with a new member. W. Kelley stated if a person wants to get back on the Board, it only takes one person to block his membership at a later date. J. Kelley noted if anyone wants to come back after six years and staying out one they still have to go through process. Juba withdrew his block. Kunz called for a consensus with the addition to III.B.3. The Board approved the changes by consensus.

Health & Safety

Blankenship stated the task force met last week. The discussion was an extension of what was done previously. The task force would like to bring presenters that reflect concerns of health and safety. They would like to approach Program and Training for a presenter. The presenter could be someone from Pantex that could present an overview of the site. He would like to know more about exposure to beryllium. Martillotti stated that DOE worker health preparers have suggested they could make a presentation to the Board. Mortality report preparers have also noted they could make a presentation to the Board. Blankenship would also like to bring someone in to the task force, such as Dolezal, to coordinate the occurrence reports.

W. Kelley stated that concerning Donelson's questions there would be an emergency management session in June.

Donelson asked if Nominations would be having a meeting. Juba stated Zerm is working on getting minority applicants, and they have talked about having a Nominations meeting soon.

PANTEX PLANT CITZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

806/373-3311 (phone) 806/372-3999 (fax)

Meeting Summary
Draft
FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 1999
10:15 a.m. – 2:39 p.m.
Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association
Amarillo, Texas

INTRODUCTION

The fifty-fifth meeting of the Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board (PPCAB) was held on Tuesday, May 25, 1999 at the Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association, Amarillo, Texas. The meeting began at 10:15 a.m. and adjourned at 2:39 p.m. Due to the lack of a quorum the meeting was informational only. The agenda included the following:

- Subcommittee Reports
- Ex-Officio Reports
- Occurrence Reports
- Emergency Management Presentation

PPCAB Members in Attendance: Pam Allison, John Blakley, Sidney Blankenship, Galen Boothe, Paula Breeding, Rusty Donelson, Walt Kelley, Billie Poteet, Frank White and Ron Zerm.

PPCAB Members not in Attendance: Nathaniel Cantly, Bob Juba, Janette Kelley, Denise Price, and K. R. Ramakrishnan.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Liz Bills for Thomas Edwards, Attorney General's Office; David Hastings, TNRCC; Jerry S. Johnson, DOE; and Roger Mulder, Office of the Governor.

Ex-Officio Members not in Attendance: John Bernier, DOE; Rafael Casanova, EPA; Shawn Hess, TNRCC and Joseph Martillotti, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control.

Resource People in Attendance: Becky Lopez, Office Administrator and R. Bruce Campbell, Mason and Hanger Corporation.

and until the Board could get clarification he did not see how the meeting could proceed. He asked if Board members could be held liable if the meetings were taped. Walton stated the accepted standards of public meetings are they have no control over what the public does. The bylaws affect official recordings of the meetings, as far as the public taping it would be stepping beyond the bounds of the Board, as long as it is not disruptive to the flow of meetings. Blankenship stated that Bylaw 9B5 restricts the public from using cell phones, etc. He is not aware of any other tapings in the past, but suggested continuing the meeting and tending to business, if the taping proves disruptive then appropriate action may be taken.

Zerm objected to the taping and left the proceedings. Hallmark noted the Board no longer had a quorum, therefore the meeting would proceed as an informational process. Blankenship stated the ex-officios would not be required to stay for the meeting, but it has been requested that W. Kelley continue with the afternoon presentation. Mulder agreed it was a public meeting, and the public has the right to participate, but asked what happens if another individual in the public does not wish to be recorded. Blankenship noted it would be outside the Board's jurisdiction unless it became disruptive. He added that if the Board meetings are taped and then taken out of context the Board may want to consider recording their own meetings as a way to protect themselves.

Hallmark stated the Board has no jurisdiction over the public, therefore members must decide if they want to speak or even be at the table. Walton noted that case law states if in a public forum there is no recourse for taping by a public member unless it is used for commercial purposes or to defame a person. Blakley recommended adjusting the agenda to hear W. Kelley's presentation and adjourn the meeting since there is no quorum.

W. Kelley stated he had no problems with taping the meetings. He is used to being taped, and is familiar with what can happen if taken out of context. Since this is a public meeting the Board needs to go ahead and tape them. He noted the Board members need some answers from the State and DOE, he thinks the Board needs to be educated on liabilities for Board members. Everyone fears being sued but members may be protected. If members can be sued, then perhaps they may want to leave the Board, or get insurance for Board members. The Board may want to have a defender for members since they do not know what the liabilities truly are. Johnson stated they do not need input from the State of Texas since they are represented as an ex-officio member. The best thing is for this board to provide input with respect to activities ongoing at Pantex. He believes as long as the Board's remarks are tailored to ongoing activities and making recommendations, then he does not see how anyone can be held liable. Johnson added that liabilities occur when personal attacks or remarks are made. He recognizes that everyone has opinions and feels certain ways about what is occurring at Pantex, as long as it takes a consensus and business is being conducted members should be all right.

recommendations to it. It seems people also complained about the cost, but continue to make it more laborious. Transportation needs to be dealt with as quickly as possible. Disposition is safer then letting barrels sit outside waiting for shipment. He thinks DOE could do a better job of explaining the risks of transportation to the public.

Mulder stated that Denise Brooks attended from his office. As of today some shipments will be going through I-20 and I-10. He does believe some shipments are currently going on I-40 through Amarillo to the Nevada Test Site. The State does have a program for training local responders. He added there is a problem in educating the public with these issues. In the history of the U.S. there has never been one incident of a person dying from exposure due to an accident involving radioactive materials.

White stated he had a letter to the editor from a publication he circulated for those interested. Boothe stated that based on Mulder's comment on the response and education of low level waste by the DOE, it seems the states are doing well training people to respond to accidents. W. Kelley added that radiological training is big in Texas. He stated that at one time I-40 was going to be a route, and radiological concerns would be on the lower end of a response. The threats are there but the advantage is all the training received because of DOE and their radiological concerns. It takes training to respond to incidents and they do not want to do away with the training.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

TNRCC

Hastings stated that the TNRCC and EPA held a joint public meeting on May 20 to provide information concerning DOE's petition for deletion from the National Priorities List. The EPA is responsible for making a determination on the petition. The TNRCC will concur or will not concur with that decision. The TNRCC's role will remain the same regardless of the decision. DOE is required by their RCRA permit to cleanup the site. The TNRCC is currently reviewing documents related to the site cleanup and ground water issues.

Governor's Office

Mulder stated the PEIS database handout was on the table. Vanessa Gonzales from his office will be attending the PEIS meeting. He noted that Pantex and the PPCAB might be interested in seeing if any of that money is going to Pantex. Blankenship stated he was under the impression that the money would not go to the sites, but to the members who were involved in the suit. Moniak noted the Boards do not receive money, but they can solicit input on what is on the database. The database is a major part of the settlement. Mulder stated he did not mean the Board would get money, but that the Pantex program might get some. Blankenship asked if there was any sort of draft or any way of knowing what is going to be in the database. Mulder suggested coordinating with those entities that might have concerns with what is in it.

suggested sending out post cards to the office's mailing list. Johnson suggested they not limit it to just the mailing list, but have a public notice. Allison noted it might be useful to do both. Johnson added he would follow up to see if it needed to be included on the federal notice. W. Kelley suggested having the office administrator research the information, the Board may be want to put a quarter frame ad in the newspaper. Hallmark suggested this could be something Community Outreach may want to do.

Community Outreach

White wanted to let everyone know that they have volunteered Board members to speak at public meetings. The Tri-State fair is coming up and they will need volunteers to man the booth.

Policy & Personnel

Blankenship wanted to remind everyone of the need for a second reading of the new bylaw changes. He noted the committee might have to look at Nominations for changes.

OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Dolezal stated there were twelve occurrences this month. Mason & Hanger is in the process of answering a defense board issue as to why some of these things are occurring.

On #27 Breeding asked if the W76 was incorrectly processed because it looked like something else. Dolezal stated there was no difference in the part. They just need to look at the part. The procedure step that identified what they needed to do was in a note, not written as a procedural step.

It was noted that #28 had happened before. It was asked if this was an outside contractor. Dolezal stated it was a labeling discrepancy. They have the breakers labeled in the breaker panel.

Moniak asked about the Tritium vacuum cleaner, and if this was approved equipment. Dolezal noted it was a brand new cleaner and it died right away. It was approved for what they were going to do.

Moniak asked about the tornado doors on Bldg. 12-66, and how long they have needed to be repaired. Dolezal stated it was 6-8 inches thick, buttons operate the doors and the operating button and rope cannot be used at the same time. They have repair problems with these doors. The stage secondaries on 12-66 in Stage B are approved containers. The tornado doors are not required to stay stationary. Moniak asked how long items had been staged there and at what point does staging become storing. Johnson noted this was a policy question and Dolezal could not reply. Walton added that stored on an

Kelley stated they are to use the buses on hand and teachers' vehicles to bring everyone to the center. They will also dispatch city buses to go pick them up.

Donelson asked how orderly the evacuation would be at the meat packing plant. W. Kelley stated it would be disorderly. Everything to do in case of an emergency has been posted in five different languages. They can just hope the public will take the steps they are supposed to. Donelson noted they might have a situation with city buses deployed to pick up children, mothers picking up children and IBP trying to come in to town. W. Kelley stated it would be a problem that will have to be dealt with after the fact.

Donelson asked what kind of training had been set up with IBP employees. W. Kelley stated there was none. Donelson asked if they were aware of the reception area, escape routes etc. and had been tested. W. Kelly stated they probably were not. It is up to the government to inform the management about the situations, they cannot go in and test them. Donelson asked if Kelley would like to see them trained. W. Kelley stated he would and that five years ago they spent $9,000 to train citizens of what to do in case of an emergency. They had one person attend the first program, two at the second and one at the third. Donelson noted that people tend not to take advantage of protection for themselves. It would be a nonstop job to make sure that everyone knows what to do and how. W. Kelley stated they have done everything possible, but if workers are not informed there may be regulatory programs that can be addressed. Allison asked what would happen if employees go home instead of the reception center. Kelley stated that if contamination is a problem then they will attempt to have management do a lock down, but the contamination will be on cars also. They may not go home, or to the reception center but probably to area hospitals. Once word is out, they cannot wait to put everything in place then warn the public, they need to warn the public first.

Blankenship stated W. Kelley had mentioned funding a study of the emergency preparedness zone. He asked what would be studied, what did they hope to find, and where would the funding come from. Kelley noted the survey would answer Donelson's questions, things like; do they know what to do, where to go, are they getting the information needed, monitors, etc. If PPCAB, as an unbiased organization, funded a study by college graduate students it may provide more information. They have distributed 500 videos, but he does not know if anyone has seen them. Moniak asked where Randall county fit in this. Kelley noted it falls under his jurisdiction. Moniak asked what would happen if the winds came hard from the northwest. Kelley noted he had been led to believe that there was no danger outside the 10-mile EPZ.

Moniak asked for Kelley's general impression of the highest credible IBP accident. W. Kelley noted it was an ammonium release. Moniak asked how high that was. W. Kelley stated it was so significant that the school has a warning system from IBP. He added that on June 21 IBP would provide documentation for this information.

Wattier, Debbie S. (DSI)

From: Martha Crosland [Martha.Crosland@EM.DOE.GOV]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 1999 12:09 PM
To: Angela Harvey (E-mail); Barb Wise (E-mail); Bobbie McClure (E-mail); Carmen Rodriquez (E-mail); Dennis Hurtt (E-mail); Frank Gines (E-mail); Gail McClure (E-mail); George Mishra (E-mail); Gerri Flemming (E-mail); John Carter (E-mail); Kathy Whitaker (E-mail); Ken Morgan (E-mail); Kevin Rohrer (E-mail); Mariane Anderson (E-mail); Mary Jo Acke Ramicone (E-mail); Mike Antiporda (E-mail); Mike Jacobs (E-mail); Ron Duvall (E-mail); Tami Toops (E-mail); Tracy Loughead (E-mail); Walter Perry (E-mail); Abbey Wells (E-mail); Ann DuBois (E-mail); Becky Lopez (E-mail); Carolyn Gardner (E-mail); Dawn Haygood (E-mail); Debbie Wattier (E-mail); Donna Sterba (E-mail); Gwen Doddy (E-mail); Ken Korkia (E-mail); Michelle Smith (E-mail); Sheree Black (E-mail); Wendy Green Lowe (E-mail); Charles M. Rice (E-mail); Dale Slade (E-mail); George Chandler (E-mail); H. Ray Johnson (E-mail); James Bierer (E-mail); Jim Kinsinger (E-mail); Mark Donham (E-mail); Robert W. Peelle (E-mail); Ron Zerm (E-mail); Thomas W. Marshall (E-mail); Thomas Wagner (E-mail); Vicki Jones (E-mail); Audrey Berry (E-mail); Gary Stegner (E-mail); Jerry Johnson (E-mail); John Sheppard (E-mail); M. J. Byrne (E-mail); Marianne Heiskell (E-mail); Patty Natoni (E-mail); Woody Russell (E-mail)
Cc: Michael Purkey; THOMPSON, LOIS; Catherine Volk
Subject: FW: Draft Cultural Resource Management Policy

The attached memo from our Office of Environment, Safety and Health has been distributed to our State and Tribal Government Working Group and to historic preservation officers. I thought it might also be of interest to you also.

Martha Crosland

-----Original Message-----
From: THOMPSON, LOIS
Sent: Monday, June 28, 1999 12:52 PM
To: Denise.Griffin@ncsl.org@hq
Cc: Volk, Catherine; Crosland, Martha
Subject: Draft Cultural Resource Management Policy

Andy Wallo and I have prepared a memo for distribution to STGWG and historic preservation contacts discussing EH's decision not to revise the draft document at this time.

Policymemo.doc

(See attached file: Policymemo.doc)

DOE F 1325.8
(8-89)
EFG (07-90)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

memorandum

DATE: June 28, 1999

REPLY TO ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance:Thompson:69581

SUBJECT: Draft Cultural Resources Management Policy

TO: State and Tribal Government Working Group
Historic Preservation Contacts

The Office of Environment (EH) is concluding the comment period for the initial draft cultural resource management policy. EH would like to thank everyone who participated in the review of this draft policy. The comments provided are broad and highlight an array of issues that reflect common concerns. All major concerns will be considered as the development of this policy moves forward.

In addition to the policy, several initiatives are currently being developed at headquarters that will impact the Department of Energy (DOE) cultural resources management program. These initiatives include: 1) revisions to the DOE Indian Policy; and 2) the historic preservation plan requested by the Secretary and recommended by the Corporate Board on Historic Preservation. These two initiatives combined with the policy statement should enhance the DOE cultural resource management program. Planning and coordination among the responsible offices will be done to ensure that there is no duplication of effort and that each document compliments one another. Consequently, at this time we will not be issuing a revised draft policy. We will keep you informed as this process continues and will provide updates in a timely manner.

If there are any questions or concerns please contact me at (202) 586-9581 or e-mail: lois.thompson@eh.doe.gov.

Lois Thompson
Federal Preservation Officer

JUN 2 1 1999

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JUN 1 6 1999

Dr. Thomas Wagner
Transportation Workshop Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 544
Ross, Ohio 45061

Dear Dr. Wagner:

Many thanks to you and the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board for hosting the 1999 DOE Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Transportation Workshop in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 20-23, 1999. From all reports, this was an extremely successful workshop.

As Chair of the Department's Senior Executive Transportation Forum, I have been requested to respond to your letter of May 24, 1999, that forwarded the eight joint stakeholder statements of concern regarding the Department of Energy's transportation of radioactive materials and waste. The Department appreciates the effort and thoughtfulness required of workshop participants to develop these joint statements. Let me assure you that Departmental officials responsible for transportation planning and implementation will give them serious consideration.

The joint stakeholder statements have been distributed to all members of the Senior Executive Transportation Forum and will be discussed initially at the Forum's June 16, 1999, meeting. As you are probably aware, the Forum is comprised of senior-level officials from all Departmental programs involved in the transportation of radioactive materials and waste. The programs represented on the Forum include: Environmental Management; Commercial Radioactive Waste Management; Materials Disposition; Defense Programs; Nuclear Energy; Nuclear NonProliferation; and Naval Reactors. The agenda for the July meeting of the Forum will include an action item to define the appropriate process or processes to address the substance of each of the joint stakeholder statements. At the conclusion of these processes, all SSABs will be provided a detailed response on how the Department will address the substance of the stakeholder statements.

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Again thank you for an outstanding workshop. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Martha Crosland, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability, 202-586-5944.

Sincerely,

Eugene Schmitt

Eugene Schmitt
Chair, Senior Executive
Transportation Forum

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DOE NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:
Bill Wicker, DOE HQ 202/586-5806
Jimmie Hodges, DOE Paducah 502/441-6806

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 1999

Department of Energy Awards $6 Million Grant To Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson today announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a $6 million grant to the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO) to fund projects to help offset job losses at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Energy Plant. Today's announcement fulfills a commitment made by Secretary Richardson when he visited Paducah in October 1998.

"These grants will help the Paducah community diversify its economy and help offset the economic impacts of reduced uranium operations," said Secretary Richardson. "I want to thank Senators McConnell and Bunning as well as Congressman Whitfield for their hard work on behalf of their community, and for their strong support of the department's worker and community transition program which makes this partnership possible."

Among the community needs PACRO has identified are:

- support for entrepreneurs' efforts to create new jobs;
- training displaced workers for new careers;
- developing new industrial parks and facilities; and
- reuse of the plant's facilities and resources, such as buildings and land.

PACRO was launched in 1997 to develop ways to create jobs to replace those being cut at the enrichment plant and to consider the economic effects should the production of enriched uranium at the site end. Congress provided DOE money to fund efforts similar to PACRO as a way to provide for workers whose jobs were eliminated as a result of defense downsizing following the end of the Cold War.

- MORE

R-99-159

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL # of pages ▶ 2

To Jimmie Hodges	From Press Office
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax # (502) 441-6821	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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DOE awarded PACRO $400,000 in planning funds in early 1998, and early this year the organization sought additional monies to fund the projects pinpointed by its planning efforts. Specific projects to be funded by the new grant are an Entrepreneur Clearing House and Revolving Loan Fund, Business/Industry Retention and Expansion of Marketing/Technical Assistance, Skills Services Assessment, Industrial Park Development, Marketing, Recruitment and Facility Reuse Programs.

"We're going to focus on developing ways to reindustrialize the site in the future using the facilities, resources and workforce here," said Jimmie Hodges, site manager for DOE in Paducah and a member of PACRO's executive committee. "But this grant goes beyond that, it allows PACRO to look at total regional economic development."

PACRO members come from the five-county area that is most affected by job cuts at the enrichment plant —McCracken, Ballard, Graves, Marshall and Massac (Ill.). Kristin Reese, CEO of the Greater Paducah Economic Development Council, chairs the 60-member organization with administrative support from the Purchase Area Development District.

-DOE-

R-99-159

JUN 2 1 199

Health · Environment · Safety

Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda
Fifty-sixth Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 1999
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Amarillo Association of Realtors
Amarillo, Texas

1:30	Welcome-Agenda Review-Approval of Minutes
1:45	Discussion of audio/video taping of minutes
2:00	Board member personal liability Presentation
2:45	Co-Chair Comments
3:00	Break
3:15	Updates - Occurrence Reports - DOE
3:30	Ex-Officio Reports
3:45	Task Force/Subcommittee Minutes
4:15	Closing Remarks
4:30	Adjourn

Questions will be invited during Presentations
Public Comment will be invited at the end of the meeting.

PANTEX PLANT CITZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

806/373-3311 (phone) 806/372-3999 (fax)

Meeting Summary
Draft
FIFTY-THIRD MEETING

Tuesday, March 23, 1999
1:00 p.m. – 5:03 p.m.
Carson County Square House Museum
Panhandle, Texas

INTRODUCTION

The fifty-third meeting of the Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board (PPCAB) was held on Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at the Carson County Square House Museum, Panhandle, Texas. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:03 p.m. The agenda included the following:

- Subcommittee Reports
- Ex-Officio Reports
- Occurrence Reports
- Groundwater Program Presentation
- Update of Pantex Pit Packaging Program

PPCAB Members in Attendance: Pam Allison, Sidney Blankenship, Galen Boothe, Paula Breeding, Nathaniel Cantly, Rusty Donelson, Bob Juba, Janette Kelley, Denise Price, K. R. Ramakrishnan, Frank White.

PPCAB Members not in Attendance: John Blakley, Walt Kelley and Ron Zerm.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Tom Walton for John Bernier, DOE; Liz Bills for Thomas Edwards, Attorney General's Office; David Hastings, TNRCC; Shawn Hess, TNRCC; Jerry S. Johnson, DOE; Joseph Martillotti, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control; Roger Mulder, Office of the Governor.

Ex-Officio Members not in Attendance: Rafael Casanova, EPA.

Resource People in Attendance: Becky Lopez, Office Administrator and R. Bruce Campbell, Mason and Hanger Corporation.

Meeting Facilitators: Dr. James Hallmark, WTAMU and Dr. Jenifer Kunz, WTAMU.

Observers: Mavis Belisle, R. M. Brady, Tom Castleman, Lewis Daniels, Boyd Deaver, Elisha L. Demerson, Timothy Dwyer, Richard Edmondson, Jeff Flowers, Joe Gantos, Johnnie Guelker, Dennis Kelly, Richard Moos, Jeri Osborne, Laura Pendlebury, Bernard Plean, Richard Lee and Scott Wood.

WELCOME

Hallmark welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Review of minutes was delayed until a quorum was reached. Once a quorum was reached Hallmark proposed that instead of making corrections to the minutes, all members contact the office with their corrections or clarifications. This would give everyone a month to review the minutes. The new process will be to read the minutes, contact the office with corrections and a revised set will go out in the next packet. Notice of the deadline will be given prior to packets going out.

CO-CHAIR COMMENTS

Blankenship reminded everyone about the transportation seminar to be held on May 20-23, 1999. A fact sheet will be presented at the next meeting for the Board's review.

The next item was a press release Blankenship wrote which he presented to the Board for their review. J. Kelley asked Blankenship to provide a synopsis. Blankenship noted it was a review of the Board's activities in 1998. He asked that everyone review it and if it was not objectionable he asked for the Board to approve its release. He would bring it up at the end of the meeting so members would have time to review it. Juba asked if the Board summary had been done in the past. He expressed that it will not be published due to it not being current and its length. Blankenship stated it would be the decision of the media whether they print it or not, but the Board could say they released it. He noted that Cockrell had suggested issuing a release after each meeting. Johnson noted that in the past Lopez had issued an annual report to headquarters. J. Kelley added that Community Outreach is also reviewing the issuance of press releases. Juba stated that if the Board is going to try to issue press releases they should perhaps have the assistance of a public relations person. Campbell suggested including the release on the PPCAB web page. Blankenship noted the web page is rather intimidating and perhaps Community Outreach should discuss it. He added he did not issue it for a specific outlet, but in a format that will allow the public to review it.

Blankenship reminded everyone that at the retreat they received a tour sheet from the site. He asked if the Board would like to pick a date for a tour. He feels this would be a good way to introduce new members and increase everyone's knowledge about issues that come before the Board. He asks that everyone contact the office for possible tour dates.

GROUNDWATER PRESENTATION

Joe Gantos made the presentation. A complete copy of the presentation is available in the PPCAB office.

Discussion Following Presentation

Juba asked what a hydro punch is. Gantos stated it punches a hole in the ground then by using a sample sleeve takes a sample without the expense of putting in a well. Martillotti asked if the injection wells were in Zone 12. Gantos stated they are adjacent to Zone 12. Blankenship asked if the contamination is suspended in the perched aquifer. Gantos noted all the contamination is soluble and spreads throughout the saturated thickness. Blankenship noted that someone from TNRCC stated in 1995 that they could drain the entire perched aquifer in 6 months. He asked if this was an accurate statement. Gantos stated that if they can control the percolation, then it is possible to drain but not sure about the 6 month time factors. Anytime there is rain it goes down to the perched. Blankenship asked where the best location is to extract dirty water and clean it. Gantos replied that 20% of the perched is contaminated, and as long as it can be controlled you can extract from the plumes.

Juba asked if there is a cut-off level or if it is a continuous effort. Gantos stated it is in the compliance plan. Hastings added that cleanup levels are the same as safe drinking water levels. Until those levels are reached they will continue to pump and treat. Juba then asked if the perched were cleaned up would there still be a concern. Hastings noted there would always be a concern. Allison asked if the cleanup takes 10 years and the standards change, does the compliance levels change. Hastings stated compliance levels could be modified.

Blankenship stated the Geosiphon system used at Savannah River was in a shallow formation. Gantos stated that when the studies were done they looked at all the available technologies. It is based on systematic methods and broken down to four or five potential processes. The five factors they look at are cost, implementability, short-term effectiveness, and reduction of toxicity or volume of wastes and long term reliability and effectiveness. It was decided to use groundwater extraction with liquid-phase carbon absorption and chemical precipitation.

Allison asked if they had calculated the amount of water in the perched aquifer. Gantos stated 1.5 billion gallons are contaminated. 50 million gallons have been cleaned up on the site. Allison asked if other models had been tried. Gantos noted the same model could be calibrated. EPA said it was the best model they had seen. Allison asked the name of the model. Gantos stated it was MODFLOW. Boothe noted the Savannah River process used ground up iron as a catalyst and was a shallow process. He then asked when contaminates in the perched aquifer originated. Gantos stated the contaminants (HE, Cr, etc.) were probably originally released to the environment during the World War II effort.

Osborne asked how the water had been filtered before. Johnson stated the permanent outfalls went to open discharge and are routed through the wastewater treatment plant. Osborne asked if they were still going to unlined ditches. Johnson noted they were not, but it is still going through a treatment process then sent to the wastewater treatment facility. Monthly reports are submitted to TNRCC. Blankenship asked if there is any way for the source to be contained or a different way to treat it. Gantos noted that landfill 3 will be capped and will eliminate further percolation. Over the past 3-4 years they have excavated other sources and then shipped contaminated soils off site. They have eliminated over 90% of the sources that exist on-site.

Allison asked what year contamination was first detected in the perched aquifer and who detected it. Guelker stated the first detection was in 1989 and Los Alamos did the initial drilling. Allison noted that if contamination was on the ground in the 1940's and was not detected for 50 years, would it be another 50 for it to percolate further down. Gantos stated that 50 years is about right. Allison asked if they would have to wait 50 years to flush it. Gantos noted it depends upon the original concentration. Belisle asked if there has actually been an analysis of the soil column to see where contaminates may be bunched. Gantos stated they track levels down to acceptable levels. Belisle asked if there is a difference in transport time between ground and source. Gantos noted there was and would provide the information to her. Allison asked if a work plan was available. Gantos stated they are still working on that.

Cockrell noted he had received information from DOE about the Corp of Engineers. Brady stated that fine grain has been found 20-30 ft. deep. In 1992 they encountered over 80 ft. of fine grain. Cockrell noted that on his land the most he has is 5-6 ft. of fine grain. When he dug his private well it was only 2-½ ft. He asked what would happen if there is no fine grain zone. Brady replied that the perched water would go straight down. Blankenship asked if Cockrell had received his test results. Cockrell noted he had never disclosed them to the media. He did give Moniak permission to get his results, but he has had five calls wanting to know his water test results. He noted that homestead wells are drilled exactly same way as in the past. His well was 350 feet. From April 12 to July 28 1996, there were 12 tests conducted and minute contaminates were found in each testing. He is confident this is the first time in 3 years he has not broken out, but he is drinking bottle water. Cockrell passed out copies of groundwater protection project. The neighbors on either side of him do not want to drill wells unless they are paid for their water. His neighbor informed him he is withdrawing from any negotiations with anyone from the government. He feels monitoring wells are a waste of money and time. Cockrell will grant extraction wells for fair market value. J. Kelley noted that at one time Cockrell showed them pictures of his hives, she asked if they have concluded what caused them. Cockrell noted it is in the list of contaminates.

J. Kelley asked why the contract was rejected. Cockrell stated the lawyers in Albuquerque said it was too expensive. Allison asked when samples were taken from his wells for Pantex or TNRCC. Cockrell noted that two samples of CR4 were taken and the results are not back. They were taken February 22. Pantex wells 1030 and 1031 were testing 840 parts per billion. These are only 750 feet from Pantex. Juba

asked if there was anything this Board can do for this contract. Campbell stated there was never a signed contract, but there was an agreement that was rejected by Albuquerque. There is no appeal process because no contract was signed.

Allison noted that according to the diagram they have a cross section of the playa without well data across Zones 12 and 11. Gantos stated they have not done one that far south because there are no wells. Allison asked if there were any plans to evaluate the Ogallala. Gantos stated they have received data from TNRCC. It is not DOE's responsibility but the Corps. They have closed Playa 4 at Risk Reduction 2. The Corp did test around playa 5. If they do not see surface contamination they see no reason to investigate further. Hastings agreed with Gantos that TNRCC does the same, if they do not see contamination on the ground or within the first few feet then they see no point of digging further down. Gantos added that they concentrate their efforts on where they know there is a problem.

UPDATE OF PANTEX PIT PACKAGING PROGRAM

Steve Hallett made the presentation. A complete copy of the presentation is available in the PPCAB office.

Discussion Following Presentation

Martillotti asked if the estimated 5.5 years included new pits going into storage. Hallett stated they would continue to operate a packaging line that can handle 20-50 pits per month. That will give them the opportunity to deal with pits coming in. Allison asked if the sealed insert would qualify as a transportation container and why the shipping containers are in short supply. Hallett noted they have always managed so that they are not limited to a number of shipping containers. One of things DOE is looking at is purchasing additional containers, and putting them inside a shipping container. They will continue to use current shipping containers for the next several years. Allison noted it was said the industrial application of seals would last for several years; will radiation affect the seal? Hallett stated this was one of the reasons Mason & Hanger chose this seal because the seals have been used in nuclear power plants for years. They are most versatile and long lasting. If they had gone with a rubber seal they may have had to deal with RAD. Donelson asked if the ALR-8 was designed as a shipping container. Hallett noted it was originally designed for shipping but lost certification in 1990. The ALR-8A was not designed for shipping. DOE did an analysis and came up with two decisions, to over pack and ship as contents, and pack into a second pack. One option is that this container may pass as a shipping container.

Donelson noted the Board had already made a recommendation, but he still has questions that he will send to Hallett. Blankenship stated the Board did make a recommendation last April, but questions should be asked at each stage of this process. He asked if the pits are leaking into the helium, would there be a problem for the packaging. Hallett stated if a pit were to leak, it would be no better or worse once the container is opened because they still have to deal with particulate. White asked if they

were going to reuse gaskets. Hallett stated they were. Containers are for one time use, but they will need to replace the gasket. Boothe noted that Pantex does certify the purity of the gas. If there were a leaking pit, it would be of a smaller volume and it would be an improved process. Hallett noted that one of the processes that will be implemented is just to open the value and swab it. All that has to be done is replace the valve, and this decreases the problems.

Allison asked if once the containers are used and opened if they are reusable. Hallett stated they are, they only replace the copper seals and bolts. Allison asked if the safety analysis reports are based on the AT-400 being the container housing the pits. She also asked if these reports and analysis have to be redone because of changes. Hallett noted that most of the reports state long-term storage. Dennis Kelley noted that all the reports are based on ALR-8 Sitewide EIS and the evaluated potential of going to AT-400A. There was a supplement analysis of the sealed analysis for on-site storage and it showed no impact by going to interim storage. Allison asked if this was available to the Board. D. Kelley noted the report is in the reading room and DOE's home page.

Juba asked if they were going to use an inferior container. D. Kelley noted that there are bases other than cost for representation of the sealed inserts being inferior. Allison asked if they were able to successfully qualify for shipping. If not, would there be an increase in worker exposure? Hallett noted that if the AT-400 were used there would be more exposure due to the time the operator is exposed to the pit. Juba noted that worker exposed at Pantex should be considered in the creation of a new container to minimize exposure to workers. Hallett stated that one of the things they look at is minimizing exposure to workers. Johnson stated that in the Sitewide EIS, the AT-400 was referenced as being looked at for use. He does not believe that transportation was used in any of the analysis of sealed inserts because it is a separate issue. Boothe added the SI with an over pack would be similar. Donelson noted that worker exposure is a great concern. He asked if there would be more worker exposure if transportation were needed. Hallett stated the AT-400A is using an automatic line instead of manual. Hallett noted they deal with onsite worker and storage issues. They did look at sealed inserts when they have to repack with regards to onsite exposure. The department's original vision was an automated line, but that is in the future. They will still have higher exposure at the beginning.

Ex-OFFICIOS REPORTS

Governor's Office

Mulder stated the WIPP site is scheduled to open and take shipments. The State of Texas has an emergency program along the Texas route. They were notified two weeks ago that WIPP funding had been cut. He added that someone from the state would be attending the transportation seminar.

Allison asked what the WIPP was to be used for. Mulder stated the money was for emergency training. Allison asked if this is something that the Board may have a

recommendation about. Kunz suggested passing it to Program and Training. Juba stated he did not think the issue was within the Board's jurisdiction. Mulder noted this is the second time in 10 years Texas has lost funding. Texas signed off on letting I-20 be a shipping route, 680 miles through 22 counties. If they cut funding for this program, Texas is no longer committed to I-20 as a shipping route; therefore I-40 could become the route. Allison feels the Board should do something for their neighbors. Juba noted he did not have problem with it. Hallmark felt Health & Safety would be good to review this information. Blankenship agreed this would be appropriate.

TNRCC

Hess stated TNRCC had sampled the public water systems at Pantex on March 8. They also completed sampling production wells on March 9. They have not received the results yet. TNRCC completed sampling Cockrell's wells on the 10th of March and have not received those analysis results yet either. He has contacted the lab and it will be about ten more days before they receive that information. Kevin Rutledge and Kevin Starbuck from W. Kelley's office conducted the City of Amarillo Emergency Planning Exercises in response to a mock Pantex incident, the TNRCC Pantex team observed the exercises they seemed to go smoothly and appeared to be a success.

DOE

Johnson noted that for the third year in a row Pantex has received awards for waste prevention and for pollution prevention in community outreach. 25% of the awards given out were presented to Pantex.

Blankenship noted that in the 1997 and 1998 Albuquerque Office annual reports the regulators had approved only 21 sites. He questioned the disparity of voluntary preventative action. Johnson noted they are moving based on criteria and making certain interpretations. They have exchanged letters with TNRCC and done further investigation. There is a significant difference in the number they say are completed and TNRCC has signed off on. Hastings agreed there is a disparity on the numbers completed and what TNRCC has approved. This is because they are basically self-implementing. They can complete and implement those with our approval. Some are just awaiting review and approval from TNRCC. It is a corrective measure study. Allison asked if Hastings could provide a list of documents that they have yet to review. Hastings stated he would check but believes he can provide the information.

OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Scott Dolezal stated that of the eleven new notifications six of those have no adequate management system. Breeding asked about occurrence #11. Dolezal noted the source was a small flat disk that was sealed with cardboard. This source had come apart before and was in a zip lock bag. Breeding asked what the radiation type was for Beryllium 133. Dolezal noted he was not positive but would check. (Dolezal informed the office it was a gamma emitter.) J. Kelley stated there were three near miss events,

she asked if there were occurrence reports that deal with that. Dolezal stated the three events were a cell fire, water tower maintenance, and trailer ramps. Reportables were entered for all three events. J. Kelley noted there was an alcohol abuse incident again, she asked what the punishment was. Dolezal stated employees typically have a second or third "strike". On the third offense they are fired although Dolezal is not sure of the procedure. J. Kelley asked if the same rule applies to those with drug use. Dolezal stated it did. Allison asked what the contamination was on #14. Dolezal noted this report had been cancelled, he does not know the exact levels, but he stated it would not impact future plans. The contamination was tritium. Allison asked if these were Pantex workers, or subcontractors. Dolezal stated they were subcontractors. Allison asked if they were wearing dosimeters. Dolezal noted they were.

SUBCOMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Nominations

J. Kelley brought forth Billie Poteet's name for a second reading. Consensus was achieved. Poteet was invited to sit at the table.

Training & Program

Training and Program will meet April 1, at 2:00 p.m. at the office.

Policy & Personnel

Blankenship noted they are reviewing the bylaws dealing with membership issues. The committee does not have any proposals today, but they may have some at the next meeting. J. Kelley asked if the letter from Crosland gave guidelines regarding membership appointments. Johnson stated it does. DOE can assign up to five members to a Board. This is supposed to speed up the process of getting new members. J. Kelley asked how it is determined how many years members can participate when filling an unexpired term. Johnson noted this is mid-way through the first paragraph of the bylaws. He still thinks it is important for the Board to deal with membership, make-up and try to avoid what occurred last fall. J. Kelley asked if someone comes in halfway through a term how long he or she would be eligible for. Blankenship noted that was yet to be determined and it was also suggested that caucuses each pick their own members. Kunz stated that according to the letter if a member resigns, then it could be filled. Hallmark noted a meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2 p.m. Mulder thought this was done according to the state of Texas system where everyone served 2, 4 or 6 year terms. He thought that was what they were doing when it was set up. Blankenship noted this would be the case if they did not have resignations. Mulder noted that regardless of resignations, dates of terms should remain constant.

Community Outreach

Kelley went over the purpose of the committee according to the bylaws. The committee is making plans for the Tri-State fair. The committee suggested having a membership list as an insert in the brochure, so when membership changes the insert is the only thing changed. They would also like to include biographical information on the web page. Business cards for all members were also suggested.

A speaker's bureau was also discussed; members would discuss the Board as a neutral speaker. The committee will be participating at the Business connection by paying for the booth. The Board is getting complimentary tickets. If anyone is interested in attending, contact the office.

Donelson asked when the Board joined the Chamber of Commerce and when it was decided. Kelley noted it was last September. She added the purpose of the committee was to put forth the agenda of the Board. Allison noted there was not an actual decision by the Board to become a member. Johnson noted he would get an opinion from counsel regarding Board participation in the chamber.

Health & Safety

Blankenship noted the task force is setting up parameters. They will address worker health hazards, transportation workshop and health and safety aspects.

Juba noted he would hate to base anything on the USA Today article. Blankenship noted that aside from privacy issues, he would like people on the task force to decide what is true and what is bogus. If it can provide more evidence than emotion, then he would like to investigate it further. Hess noted that some additional information or research should be done on basic water quality. Not based on contaminates, but quality.

Environmental Restoration

Environmental Restoration will meet within the next few weeks.

Closing Remarks

Allison stated the AT-400A was an admirable project. DOE has tried to find a safe way to store pits in an inherently bad situation. She is not in disfavor of it. Juba agreed. They need to get them in a better package, if they can do it cheaper or faster he is in favor of it.

Kunz invited the public to make comments.

Kunz adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

PANTEX PLANT CITZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

806/373-3311 (phone) 806/372-3999 (fax)

Meeting Summary
Draft
FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 1999
2:30 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.
Amarillo College, Exhibits Hall
Amarillo, Texas

INTRODUCTION

The fifty-fourth meeting of the Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board (PPCAB) was held on Tuesday, April 27, 1999 at the Amarillo College Exhibit Hall, Amarillo, Texas. The meeting began at 2:30 p.m. and adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The agenda included the following:

- Subcommittee Reports
- Ex-Officio Reports
- Occurrence Reports

PPCAB Members in Attendance: John Blakley, Sidney Blankenship, Paula Breeding, Nathaniel Cantly, Rusty Donelson, Bob Juba, Janette Kelley, Walt Kelley, Denise Price, K. R. Ramakrishnan, Frank White and Ron Zerm.

PPCAB Members not in Attendance: Pam Allison, Galen Boothe, and Billie Poteet.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: David Hastings, TNRCC; Shawn Hess, TNRCC; Jerry S. Johnson, DOE; Joseph Martillotti, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control; and Roger Mulder, Office of the Governor.

Ex-Officio Members not in Attendance: John Bernier, DOE; Thomas Edwards, Attorney General's Office; and Rafael Casanova, EPA.

Resource People in Attendance: Becky Lopez, Office Administrator and R. Bruce Campbell, Mason and Hanger Corporation.

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Jenifer Kunz, WTAMU.

Observers: Mavis Belisle, Tony Biggs, Tom Castleman, Jay Childress, Janice Clark, Lee Cockrell, Cheryle Cooper, Timothy Dwyer, Richard Edmondson, Mike Gardener, Deborah Griswold, Tom Jones, Richard Lee, Joe Lockwood, Dick Moos, Vaughn Nelson, Jeri Osborne, and Harish Sharma.

WELCOME/MINUTES

Kunz welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Review of minutes was delayed until a quorum was reached. Kunz reminded everyone that changes to March minutes must be turned into the office by May 6. November minutes were approved by consensus with one change by Breeding. Juba suggested just taking action minutes. Breeding stated she would be against it if the Board does not have actual extensive minutes. Juba withdrew the recommendation. Blankenship was under the impression that FACA requires a deposit of the minutes in the reading room within 30 days. He would be satisfied with more concise minutes, but because the Board does not have that many recommendations this is the only way to document what is occurring. The February minutes were approved by consensus with no changes. Cockrell provided changes to the March minutes, which will be included in May's packets.

CO-CHAIR COMMENTS

Blankenship stated he had recently received a copy of the DOE Commercial Disposal Policy Analysis for Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Wastes that relates to the Board's recommendation of not sending waste to unlicensed disposal sites. The Department has decided to retain its ability to dispose at DOE sites and the current policy for limited commercial disposal. If anyone would like to review the document, let him know.

Prior to the EM-SSAB Chairs meeting in February, Blankenship had previously contacted Fred Butterfield and Martha Crosland about the possibility of the PPCAB hosting the SSAB Chairs meeting here in Amarillo. He would like to extend an invitation for the year 2000 if the Board would be interested. J. Kelley noted that Crosland had never been to Pantex and would like to visit. Ramakrishnan asked if Blankenship wanted the Board to make a decision. Blankenship stated there was no immediate urgency if the Board wished time to consider it. J. Kelley noted that quite a bit of preparation would be involved. Kunz asked if members would like to send comments to the Co-Chairs. W. Kelley asked for a vote now since it would not cost anything or take any time. Kunz asked for a vote and consensus was given to extend an invitation for the SSAB Chairs meeting to be held in Amarillo in the fall of 2000.

EX-OFFICIOS REPORTS

EPA

Casanova was unable to attend but sent in a report, which Kunz read. Informational meetings will be held on May 20, 1999, at the Radisson (near the airport). There will be

two sessions, one from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the other from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public (and answer questions) about EPA's deferral criteria, the NPL deletion process, TNRCC's RCRA permit/compliance plan, and DOE's petition to delete the site based on deferral.

Governor's Office

Mulder stated they did get WIPP funding for a 60-90 day extension. He added that Denise Brooks from his office would be attending the Transportation Seminar in Cincinnati.

TNRCC

Hastings stated that the TNRCC along with EPA would be sponsoring an informational open house concerning the DOE's petition to the EPA for deletion of the site from the National Priorities List (NPL). They will be present to provide information and to answer any questions about the process.

Hess stated TNRCC has started the second quarter ground water monitoring. Today was the first day of sampling due to the rain. Hess has received all the ground water monitoring results for the first quarter and is compiling the quarterly report. He has some adjustments to make, but he should have the results at the next PPCAB meeting.

Department of Health

Martillotti stated that emergency exercises occurred in the last two weeks in Texas. The exercise went fairly well and had good representation. There were some interface problems between State and DOE people, the information flow was reasonably good, and the DOE contamination control procedures meshed with the State's. He noted that this was the first time the exercise was held with the State Radiological office. Both teams learned good lessons with the help of the critics. DOE-Albuquerque plans to provide a video to the State, if they do he will try to provide a copy to the Board.

DOE

Johnson stated they have obtained landowner signatures for property access. This access procedure will include borings. He added that DOE conducted a presentation for the Environmental Restoration task force.

Campbell stated the access agreement contacts would not have been signed without Lee Cockrell's assistance. There will be eight test borings done on Richard Crawford's property, three test borings will be done on Cockrell's land and three on Buddy Vance's land. The reason for the borings is to see what is already there. They will be starting as soon as the ground dries. Blankenship asked if the contracts are annual. Campbell stated the contracts start now and run through August 26. Once monitoring is

completed it will go quarterly, and then it will depend on what is found. Subsequent agreements could go up to five years.

Cockrell stated he signed his contract December 7, 1998. It expires May 31, 1999. On December 9 he signed a second contract with revisions, this was a six-month contract. The contract negotiated with Buddy Vance was done over a four-month period with Bruce Campbell. That contract expires August 26, 1999, and Richard Crawford's contract expires in July. Robert Musick from TNRCC arrived on Thursday, after which one person withdrew from the contract. Cockrell noted that borings take over a third of the cropland. Landowners get $2,500 for oil wells, but he settled with Campbell on $900. All he has asked for is reimbursement for damages to the land. The contracts are to drill test wells in May, June, and July. Richard Lee and Campbell wanted to negotiate contracts on the monitoring wells. The public was invited for comments.

OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Dolezal stated that eight of the occurrences involved procedure not being followed. There were four unusuals out of the ten new occurrence reports. Ramakrishnan asked if the unusuals are more than average. Dolezal noted they were pretty high. Ramakrishnan asked if there was a reason for that. Dolezal stated it was probably more bad luck than anything was, but it does need to be looked into. J. Kelley asked who decides what is unusual. Dolezal noted that when an occurrence happens there is a critic of the event. Martillotti added it is the criteria of the DOE and facility representative.

Blankenship asked about the vacuum cleaner and the tritium (occurrence #20), he is concerned with the subcontractors, and if they are fully apprised of what is going on there. Dolezal stated that subcontractors need a radiation permit for that job. They have job specific training for the job. Zerm added he attended the critique on that. He stated it was a brand new vacuum cleaner that broke down, the subcontractor out of frustration threw it in the back of his truck in order to take it back to Sears to get a new one. Breeding asked if more or longer training would help. Dolezal noted it is probably not the big culprit. During the review of the integrated plant safety management, a task group is looking into procedure enhancement, but it may be awhile before they get feedback from them. There are so many procedures that not everyone knows all of them.

Juba asked about occurrence #26. He had talked with some people at the plant, and asked if Dolezal could elaborate on the incident. Dolezal stated the PTs tried to do a test at the wrong time. They got faulty readings because the test was not done at the right time. Tests cannot be done without the manager being there. Juba noted it sounded like this was one of those too many rules and safety procedures. He asked if there is a way to improve safety by clustering steps of work or doing something for the workers who are getting conflicting messages, perhaps another prescribed method where the rules do not conflict. Dolezal stated the procedures the PTs work from could not be any simpler. It is on the top of the list of priorities, the procedure was

inexcusable. J. Kelley suggested the possibility of a checklist they could check off. Dolezal noted that another piece of weaponry already has this and they have tried to take this into account. W. Kelley asked just how unsafe this procedure was, because it bothered enough people that there was a problem. Why were people so concerned? Dolezal stated there was not any great risk, but part of the way the program is structured is to avoid inadvertent acts. When the tester is hooked up it stops this.

Blankenship noted that two of the reports had to do with the movement of high explosives #0017. He asked what does this signify, what does the level 1.4S mean, and also was there a current tracking center for the movement of explosives. Dolezal stated that a 1.1 is mass detonating, 1.3 is mass fire, and does not detonate. 1.4 is self-contained, and S is the least hazardous. 1.4 is like a small firecracker, if detonated it would not be noticed from outside the pack. When they started becoming more concerned with the tracking movement they were not tracking 1.4, but they were finding that 1.4 explosives were ending up in buildings they were not suppose to be in. This event was unique. The person who initiated the paperwork was not on site, and the person who moved it was not aware of the regulations in process. A better segregation of boxes is now in place.

Martillotti stated that #001 was a near miss involving a radioactive source. It said it was sufficient, but the word "not" was missing which changes the meaning of the sentence.

Zerm said in relation to the W87 occurrence report that he investigated this occurrence in detail and there was absolutely no way any action could be initiated. The best allegory Zerm could put forth was to having one's car being monitored through a "sun machine". This machine monitors one's automobile's circuits to check on their integrity.

UPDATES

Johnson stated that during a background survey Zone 12 south and Zone 4 had not been flown. He sent a letter to the Board about having it re-flown. There was discussion of having an over flight done before the next cycle, but they decided to wait.

Johnson noted there was discussion of attending a Hanford board meeting and if members are still interested please contact the office. He visited with attorneys about the Chamber of Commerce membership and it was decided it was not appropriate for the PPCAB to be a member. J. Kelley noted that because of the feelings of some of the members the Board would not participate in their May program.

Johnson stated that Steve Goodrum was to attend this meeting, but was unable due to his knee. Campbell added that Hanford would be sponsoring the Co-Chair meeting in the fall. Blankenship stated that Al Young gave a presentation on risk profiles in February. He received a letter stating Johnson had Pantex's risk profile. Debra Griswold, the Environment Restoration Program team leader stated she had been working with Young, and the profile drafts are out. The report will include coordinating with stakeholders, and will be a representation of information. It will become a national

document, or work in progress. Comments will still be welcomed, this is not a decision-making document, and is on a very summary level.

Addendum to March 1998 minutes

Kunz noted the addendum was due to a few words being left off the line. Blankenship stated that when this statement was made for the recommendation it was sent in. The addendum does not represent what was in the minutes, which were subsequently approved by consensus of the Board. He does not think the Board can add this to the minutes because it does not reflect the wording sent in the recommendation to Secretary Pena dated April 7, 1998. Zerm stated he understood they were talking about all the pits at the site. At the time of the presentation there was talk about storing 2400 pits a year. Belisle stated she did not know what letter was sent to headquarters, but she blocked consensus in reference to all the pits, and stood aside on the statement if it referred to pits in disposition. She talked to Hallmark and he remembered writing the exception on the overhead, if it was sent to DOE, it was not what the Board approved by consensus. Price asked where the addendum came from. Lopez stated it came from Belisle. Price noted the minutes are reviewed consistently and would be opposed to changing the minutes. W. Kelley stated that if they have a set of approved minutes that say one thing and are wrong the Board should address the issue again, not change the minutes.

Blankenship stated the Board couldn't change the letter sent to DOE, he is willing to open up the Nuclear Materials task force to review this if the Board feels they wish to do so. Zerm reiterated that from his point of view the Board was talking about all the pits. If the Board were just talking about certain selected pits then the workforce would end up having a higher exposure rate. The recommendation sent was correct because it did not discriminate between what is stored and what is not stored. Juba stated his understanding was they were talking about pits in general. In his mind they should all be in the safest storage. It's more important to have enhanced capabilities for storage. Martillotti noted he was watching this issue very closely and he understood they were talking about all the pits. He asked what the significance of this was now. Belisle stated that at the time this was being presented, pits were slated for disposition. These pits will not exist in 25 years. The document for strategic reserve pits assumes a life of 50 years. They were talking about a 20-year certification time limit, at the last meeting they heard it was 30 years. Pits are put in certified packaging for 50 years in a container that lasts 20 years, they will have to be repackaged, that is why this distinction was made. Martillotti noted that the only one that had a 20-year life was the knife edge seal. At the time this was the limitation on the copper gasket. That was his understanding of this process. The lid could be removed and the gasket replaced possibly by remote control. Zerm added that to keep exposure rates down, bore scopes could be used to view the pit through an accessible port. W. Kelley stated the issue is whether to amend the minutes. If the Board wants to discuss this it should be an assigned issue for a task force. Blankenship stated he would like to hold a task force meeting, and it would be worth consideration to review pits and the kinds of exposure warranted for

transportation and compliance with long-term storage, but the minutes would not be amended.

TASK FORCE/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Personnel

Blankenship stated Policy and Personnel had met twice to review the various approaches to membership continuity and new members. Kunz asked for consensus on all recommendations. Juba suggested adding "other" to III.B.3. Blankenship stated it was already in the bylaws under stakeholder vacancies that consensus may not be broken by a member under review. Price stated she believed it should be "member under consideration should not be able to block consensus". Juba suggested the statement "the board member under review is ineligible to block a consensus vote on his or her membership renewal." He also did not agree with III.B.2. He would not want to bring them back. W. Kelley stated the bylaws do not state you cannot serve after three terms. Juba noted that with the consensus arrangement he does not believe that after six years on the Board, someone should be eligible. The Board should just thank him or her and move on with a new member. W. Kelley stated if a person wants to get back on the Board, it only takes one person to block his membership at a later date. J. Kelley noted if anyone wants to come back after six years and staying out one they still have to go through process. Juba withdrew his block. Kunz called for a consensus with the addition to III.B.3. The Board approved the changes by consensus.

Health & Safety

Blankenship stated the task force met last week. The discussion was an extension of what was done previously. The task force would like to bring presenters that reflect concerns of health and safety. They would like to approach Program and Training for a presenter. The presenter could be someone from Pantex that could present an overview of the site. He would like to know more about exposure to beryllium. Martillotti stated that DOE worker health preparers have suggested they could make a presentation to the Board. Mortality report preparers have also noted they could make a presentation to the Board. Blankenship would also like to bring someone in to the task force, such as Dolezal, to coordinate the occurrence reports.

W. Kelley stated that concerning Donelson's questions there would be an emergency management session in June.

Donelson asked if Nominations would be having a meeting. Juba stated Zerm is working on getting minority applicants, and they have talked about having a Nominations meeting soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cockrell stated the advisory board mandate wants accurate minutes. He asked Mulder if the Board received $300,000 in allocated funds. Mulder stated he believed $350,000 was allocated, but local funds are significantly less. Cockrell stated the Board should at least act to hear the grievance of the area citizens and landowners. He noted that out of the 14 people east of Pantex only three people had been contacted. He would like the Board to address why there is no one from Carson County on the Board. There are many people from Panhandle who can serve on the Board. J. Kelley stated they have two Board members who live in Panhandle, Billie Poteet and Galen Boothe.

CLOSING REMARKS

W. Kelley asked that meetings be kept on the Friday fax until the week of the meeting. Kunz summarized the meeting and congratulated the Board on the passage of the bylaw changes. She reminded everyone to submit March minute changes to the office by May 6.

Kunz adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

PANTEX PLANT CITZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

806/373-3311 (phone) 806/372-3999 (fax)

Meeting Summary
Draft
FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 1999
10:15 a.m. – 2:39 p.m.
Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association
Amarillo, Texas

INTRODUCTION

The fifty-fifth meeting of the Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board (PPCAB) was held on Tuesday, May 25, 1999 at the Amarillo Senior Citizens' Association, Amarillo, Texas. The meeting began at 10:15 a.m. and adjourned at 2:39 p.m. Due to the lack of a quorum the meeting was informational only. The agenda included the following:

- Subcommittee Reports
- Ex-Officio Reports
- Occurrence Reports
- Emergency Management Presentation

PPCAB Members in Attendance: Pam Allison, John Blakley, Sidney Blankenship, Galen Boothe, Paula Breeding, Rusty Donelson, Walt Kelley, Billie Poteet, Frank White and Ron Zerm.

PPCAB Members not in Attendance: Nathaniel Cantly, Bob Juba, Janette Kelley, Denise Price, and K. R. Ramakrishnan.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Liz Bills for Thomas Edwards, Attorney General's Office; David Hastings, TNRCC; Jerry S. Johnson, DOE; and Roger Mulder, Office of the Governor.

Ex-Officio Members not in Attendance: John Bernier, DOE; Rafael Casanova, EPA; Shawn Hess, TNRCC and Joseph Martillotti, Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control.

Resource People in Attendance: Becky Lopez, Office Administrator and R. Bruce Campbell, Mason and Hanger Corporation.

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. James Hallmark, WTAMU.

Observers: Mavis Belisle, Tom Castleman, Richard Edmondson, and Don Moniak.

WELCOME/MINUTES

Hallmark welcomed everyone, and reviewed the agenda. March minutes were reviewed and changes by Allison were made. March minutes were not approved. Hallmark reminded everyone that changes to March and April minutes must be turned into the office by June 9.

CO-CHAIR COMMENTS

Blankenship praised the openness of the Clinton administration. He then referred to the supplement to the draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS on page nine where pit repackaging exposure rates are mentioned in view of the sealed-inserts. He suggested the Board might want to review this. In last month's minutes he made the statement that Board minutes had to be in the reading room within 30 days. This statement was incorrect. FACA asks for comprehensive minutes, but there is no time limit.

Blankenship noted the balance of the Board is in need of corrections, it was suggested that the Nominations committee could meet during lunch. Several people have asked that Nominations come forward with a nominee.

Blankenship stated it is now May and the Board has not come up with any recommendations. Martillotti sent the ATSDR report to him and comments are due by the end of June. He suggested the Board review this report.

Zerm stated that in relation to openness in the O'Leary administration, his concern is in dealing with weapons system and the people who do not have the same concerns as the United States. He agrees the public needs ample information on environmental issues, but not the weapons system. He added that the executive order that any classified document over 25 years old would be open was suspended. Zerm suggested the Board discuss this for a possible recommendation.

Zerm added a commitment had been made to get more minorities and women on the Board. The Nominations committee has been working on this with brochures and applications sent out to LULAC, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and NAACP.

Booth stated the Board had not authorized the taping of meetings, and noted an audience member was taping the proceedings. Hallmark noted that it is the right of a member of the public to record the meeting without obtrusive lighting. Zerm noted that when Belisle was on the Board that they had requested meetings not be recorded. Allison stated it is a public meeting, and other persons have taped and recorded the meetings so there is precedence. She noted that the Bylaws address the Board's activities, but not the public's. Blakley stated he saw this as circumventing the bylaws,

and until the Board could get clarification he did not see how the meeting could proceed. He asked if Board members could be held liable if the meetings were taped. Walton stated the accepted standards of public meetings are they have no control over what the public does. The bylaws affect official recordings of the meetings, as far as the public taping it would be stepping beyond the bounds of the Board, as long as it is not disruptive to the flow of meetings. Blankenship stated that Bylaw 9B5 restricts the public from using cell phones, etc. He is not aware of any other tapings in the past, but suggested continuing the meeting and tending to business, if the taping proves disruptive then appropriate action may be taken.

Zerm objected to the taping and left the proceedings. Hallmark noted the Board no longer had a quorum, therefore the meeting would proceed as an informational process. Blankenship stated the ex-officios would not be required to stay for the meeting, but it has been requested that W. Kelley continue with the afternoon presentation. Mulder agreed it was a public meeting, and the public has the right to participate, but asked what happens if another individual in the public does not wish to be recorded. Blankenship noted it would be outside the Board's jurisdiction unless it became disruptive. He added that if the Board meetings are taped and then taken out of context the Board may want to consider recording their own meetings as a way to protect themselves.

Hallmark stated the Board has no jurisdiction over the public, therefore members must decide if they want to speak or even be at the table. Walton noted that case law states if in a public forum there is no recourse for taping by a public member unless it is used for commercial purposes or to defame a person. Blakley recommended adjusting the agenda to hear W. Kelley's presentation and adjourn the meeting since there is no quorum.

W. Kelley stated he had no problems with taping the meetings. He is used to being taped, and is familiar with what can happen if taken out of context. Since this is a public meeting the Board needs to go ahead and tape them. He noted the Board members need some answers from the State and DOE, he thinks the Board needs to be educated on liabilities for Board members. Everyone fears being sued but members may be protected. If members can be sued, then perhaps they may want to leave the Board, or get insurance for Board members. The Board may want to have a defender for members since they do not know what the liabilities truly are. Johnson stated they do not need input from the State of Texas since they are represented as an ex-officio member. The best thing is for this board to provide input with respect to activities ongoing at Pantex. He believes as long as the Board's remarks are tailored to ongoing activities and making recommendations, then he does not see how anyone can be held liable. Johnson added that liabilities occur when personal attacks or remarks are made. He recognizes that everyone has opinions and feels certain ways about what is occurring at Pantex, as long as it takes a consensus and business is being conducted members should be all right.

Hallmark asked if it would be appropriate for the June presentation to be on Board liabilities. Walton stated they could have someone from the legal department that could come out and make a presentation. W. Kelley stated the problem is not necessarily the concerns and fears of making recommendations, but what is occurring internally on the Board. Blankenship noted the bylaws put the Board under federal jurisdiction, but as a Board it is really functional. He did not know what would make members liable as a Board. He recommended this be presented to the Board for informational sake, and members may want to be educated as to the ramifications. Boothe stated he would like taping of the meetings to be put on the June agenda. If the Board is going to allow videotaping by the public, then he suggested having the Board record the meetings to limit liability. Allison noted she agreed with what the others were saying but she would also like a presentation on something substantive at the June meeting.

Johnson suggested that prior to proposing nominees to the full Board, the chairs meet with individuals, that way if there are concerns they can be worked out before the names are presented formally to the full Board. If their opinion changes between the meetings members can state they have a concern with a person on the slate, then nominations could go into session immediately. The Board needs to be mindful of sensitive issues.

Blakley reiterated he had made a recommendation to do the presentation then adjourn. Hallmark asked for comments on the recommendation. Moniak asked that the Board continue the meeting. Hallmark noted the recommendation was to skip to the presentation. Blankenship disagreed. He would like to continue the agenda for informational purposes only. It was decided to continue with the agenda.

TRANSPORATION SEMINAR UPDATE

Blankenship stated the transportation seminar took place over May 20-23. Himself, John Blakley, Dr. Ramakrishnan, Nathaniel Cantly, Denise Brooks, Laura Pendlebury and Becky Lopez attended it. Participants took a tour of Fernald on Friday morning, then spent the rest of the time developing transportation recommendations. He noted that Fernald is set for closure and has a dedicated train for transport to Utah. They have a very shallow water table, and use the pump and treat method for remediation of uranium contamination. They also have onsite disposal and lots of waste shipments. Participants focused on issues relating to all the sites. He participated on the routing, mode and cost group. He did not discover any significant routing through here by DOE at present. Blankenship noted that individuals signed the statements not as representatives of their Boards. Therefore they are not endorsed by the PPCAB. They are of a programmatic point of view. There was reluctance to give consideration of packaging and shipping of plutonium pits, so they were generally left out as transportation issues.

Blakley stated he found the workshop interesting. There was a presentation on the long shipping process from one point to another. It showed how cumbersome the process was. He could see that the crowd thought it was cumbersome, but they added

recommendations to it. It seems people also complained about the cost, but continue to make it more laborious. Transportation needs to be dealt with as quickly as possible. Disposition is safer then letting barrels sit outside waiting for shipment. He thinks DOE could do a better job of explaining the risks of transportation to the public.

Mulder stated that Denise Brooks attended from his office. As of today some shipments will be going through I-20 and I-10. He does believe some shipments are currently going on I-40 through Amarillo to the Nevada Test Site. The State does have a program for training local responders. He added there is a problem in educating the public with these issues. In the history of the U.S. there has never been one incident of a person dying from exposure due to an accident involving radioactive materials.

White stated he had a letter to the editor from a publication he circulated for those interested. Boothe stated that based on Mulder's comment on the response and education of low level waste by the DOE, it seems the states are doing well training people to respond to accidents. W. Kelley added that radiological training is big in Texas. He stated that at one time I-40 was going to be a route, and radiological concerns would be on the lower end of a response. The threats are there but the advantage is all the training received because of DOE and their radiological concerns. It takes training to respond to incidents and they do not want to do away with the training.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

TNRCC

Hastings stated that the TNRCC and EPA held a joint public meeting on May 20 to provide information concerning DOE's petition for deletion from the National Priorities List. The EPA is responsible for making a determination on the petition. The TNRCC will concur or will not concur with that decision. The TNRCC's role will remain the same regardless of the decision. DOE is required by their RCRA permit to cleanup the site. The TNRCC is currently reviewing documents related to the site cleanup and ground water issues.

Governor's Office

Mulder stated the PEIS database handout was on the table. Vanessa Gonzales from his office will be attending the PEIS meeting. He noted that Pantex and the PPCAB might be interested in seeing if any of that money is going to Pantex. Blankenship stated he was under the impression that the money would not go to the sites, but to the members who were involved in the suit. Moniak noted the Boards do not receive money, but they can solicit input on what is on the database. The database is a major part of the settlement. Mulder stated he did not mean the Board would get money, but that the Pantex program might get some. Blankenship asked if there was any sort of draft or any way of knowing what is going to be in the database. Mulder suggested coordinating with those entities that might have concerns with what is in it.

DOE

Walton stated that in the past members had asked about a tour of the site. He has received a list of members wanting to take the tour, it is a more complete tour then what the public gets. If any other members would like to participate, they should let him know. He will work with the office to firm up a date.

Johnson reported they had begun borings on Cockrell's land. They have three investigative borings on five feet of saturated zone, a quick detect test was used and it detected high explosives, the other two were dry. All three will be plugged. They will brief TNRCC on that. Moniak asked if "plugged," means a temporary covering so they can go back and put in monitoring wells. Johnson stated they were capped after they collected data and designed a remediation plan off-site. Moniak asked if it is contaminated if the people east and northeast are affected. Johnson stated they will contact affected landowners with the data. White asked about the wells being capped. Johnson noted they are capped according to the Texas administrative code.

SUBCOMMITTE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Health & Safety

Blankenship stated that Martillotti had forwarded the Public Health Activities Site Plan for Pantex to him. The Health and Safety task force will try to deal with this and they may try to make recommendations at the next meeting. At the last meeting they dealt with the transportation workshop and health studies. The report reflects some suggestions that there are gaps in knowledge. It has come up with suggestions for future studies. He asked what kind of follow-up the Board wanted. The current studies are being conducted at the 12 sites. If the Board requested DOE to follow up on this they would be willing to do so.

Budget & Finance

Blakley stated the Budget and Finance committee met last week as tasked, to evaluate the office manger's performance and make a recommendation on a wage increase. The committee met, discussed and passed their recommendation on to WT. The committee had a limited amount of time to do this because the university's budget deadline was May 15. WT will make the ultimate decision on the administrator's salary.

Environmental Restoration

Allison stated the task force had met twice, once last month and then again this month. At the first meeting there were several people from the public present, and there was only one at the last. She asked if anyone had any suggestions to increase public participation. Hallmark suggested the community calendar in the newspaper advising of public meetings. Blankenship stated it would be better if the public knew what was going to be discussed at the meeting, but did not know if this would help. Allison

suggested sending out post cards to the office's mailing list. Johnson suggested they not limit it to just the mailing list, but have a public notice. Allison noted it might be useful to do both. Johnson added he would follow up to see if it needed to be included on the federal notice. W. Kelley suggested having the office administrator research the information, the Board may be want to put a quarter frame ad in the newspaper. Hallmark suggested this could be something Community Outreach may want to do.

Community Outreach

White wanted to let everyone know that they have volunteered Board members to speak at public meetings. The Tri-State fair is coming up and they will need volunteers to man the booth.

Policy & Personnel

Blankenship wanted to remind everyone of the need for a second reading of the new bylaw changes. He noted the committee might have to look at Nominations for changes.

OCCURRENCE REPORTS

Dolezal stated there were twelve occurrences this month. Mason & Hanger is in the process of answering a defense board issue as to why some of these things are occurring.

On #27 Breeding asked if the W76 was incorrectly processed because it looked like something else. Dolezal stated there was no difference in the part. They just need to look at the part. The procedure step that identified what they needed to do was in a note, not written as a procedural step.

It was noted that #28 had happened before. It was asked if this was an outside contractor. Dolezal stated it was a labeling discrepancy. They have the breakers labeled in the breaker panel.

Moniak asked about the Tritium vacuum cleaner, and if this was approved equipment. Dolezal noted it was a brand new cleaner and it died right away. It was approved for what they were going to do.

Moniak asked about the tornado doors on Bldg. 12-66, and how long they have needed to be repaired. Dolezal stated it was 6-8 inches thick, buttons operate the doors and the operating button and rope cannot be used at the same time. They have repair problems with these doors. The stage secondaries on 12-66 in Stage B are approved containers. The tornado doors are not required to stay stationary. Moniak asked how long items had been staged there and at what point does staging become storing. Johnson noted this was a policy question and Dolezal could not reply. Walton added that stored on an

interim basis means a formal decision has been made on where these will be stored, until then it is interim storing or staging. Dolezal noted staging started in May of 96.

Moniak asked why the occurrence report on #37 is sparse. Dolezal stated it involved sensitive materials, the concern at Oak Ridge is not of concern here. Dolezal noted that what is done at Pantex does not create a concern at Oak Ridge. Moniak asked if they had resolved the issue on tork. He asked if there is strategic reserve or are they surplus. Dolezal believed it was both and involves 56-70s.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Walt Kelley made the presentation. A complete copy of the presentation is available in the PPCAB office.

Discussion following presentation

Donelson noted that those in the ten-mile emergency zone need to go to the fairgrounds, he asked if the Clements Unit is included in that. W. Kelley stated they would go into lock up and monitors would be sent out there. Donelson stated that the Clements Unit has about 4,000 including employees. The employees can leave and go to the emergency zone. He asked if the prisoners had been told that in case of a situation, they cannot leave. W. Kelley stated the Clements managers have been told, but what their procedure is he does not know. W. Kelley stated they have done their job by informing management at the prison. They have to leave a lot of what they do to the guards' discretion. Mulder noted they have gone through the procedures, and they will be handled just the same as in a tornado. Donelson asked if each and every inmate had been instructed that they are in the emergency zone, and have they been informed of the risk and that they cannot leave. He asked if they know the risk of being in that specific prison. Mulder stated he did not believe each individual had been given a list of potential risks they would come up against. Donelson noted this particular risk is unique to these two prisons. Booth agreed there is not another Pantex near the other prisons, but there are chemical plants close by to other prisons. If prisoners are going to be informed as to the risk of the surrounding areas, then they need to be informed about all risks at all prisons.

Blankenship asked if funds for emergency planning at Pantex were tied to the expiration of the AIP in August 2000. W. Kelley stated the AIP expires at the end of fiscal year 2000. Blankenship asked about the 100-year flood plain. Johnson noted that with respect to the Texas administrative code, the waste treatment plant must be placed above the 100-year plain.

Donelson asked what the plan with Highland School Park was. W. Kelley noted they have a warning bell inside the school, and sirens outside the school and the football field. He added that a specific exercise with Highland Park has not been conducted recently, but they are coordinating one with them. Donelson asked if they keep buses at hand to evacuate the children and teachers and bring them into the fairgrounds. W.

Kelley stated they are to use the buses on hand and teachers' vehicles to bring everyone to the center. They will also dispatch city buses to go pick them up.

Donelson asked how orderly the evacuation would be at the meat packing plant. W. Kelley stated it would be disorderly. Everything to do in case of an emergency has been posted in five different languages. They can just hope the public will take the steps they are supposed to. Donelson noted they might have a situation with city buses deployed to pick up children, mothers picking up children and IBP trying to come in to town. W. Kelley stated it would be a problem that will have to be dealt with after the fact.

Donelson asked what kind of training had been set up with IBP employees. W. Kelley stated there was none. Donelson asked if they were aware of the reception area, escape routes etc. and had been tested. W. Kelly stated they probably were not. It is up to the government to inform the management about the situations, they cannot go in and test them. Donelson asked if Kelley would like to see them trained. W. Kelley stated he would and that five years ago they spent $9,000 to train citizens of what to do in case of an emergency. They had one person attend the first program, two at the second and one at the third. Donelson noted that people tend not to take advantage of protection for themselves. It would be a nonstop job to make sure that everyone knows what to do and how. W. Kelley stated they have done everything possible, but if workers are not informed there may be regulatory programs that can be addressed. Allison asked what would happen if employees go home instead of the reception center. Kelley stated that if contamination is a problem then they will attempt to have management do a lock down, but the contamination will be on cars also. They may not go home, or to the reception center but probably to area hospitals. Once word is out, they cannot wait to put everything in place then warn the public, they need to warn the public first.

Blankenship stated W. Kelley had mentioned funding a study of the emergency preparedness zone. He asked what would be studied, what did they hope to find, and where would the funding come from. Kelley noted the survey would answer Donelson's questions, things like; do they know what to do, where to go, are they getting the information needed, monitors, etc. If PPCAB, as an unbiased organization, funded a study by college graduate students it may provide more information. They have distributed 500 videos, but he does not know if anyone has seen them. Moniak asked where Randall county fit in this. Kelley noted it falls under his jurisdiction. Moniak asked what would happen if the winds came hard from the northwest. Kelley noted he had been led to believe that there was no danger outside the 10-mile EPZ.

Moniak asked for Kelley's general impression of the highest credible IBP accident. W. Kelley noted it was an ammonium release. Moniak asked how high that was. W. Kelley stated it was so significant that the school has a warning system from IBP. He added that on June 21 IBP would provide documentation for this information.

Moniak asked if the area plants have informed him of Y2K compliance. W. Kelley noted that at this point telephone calls say all will be compliant by July 1. Moniak asked what was the highest concern of a possible accident at Pantex. W. Kelley noted it would be a plane crash into one of the igloos, but it would have to be a very large plane. Moniak asked if this triggers a higher level of alert. W. Kelley stated they would hear about it from the FAA tower.

Moniak asked what happens in the case of an accidental detonation. Walton noted it would be a general emergency trigger. Moniak asked how the tritium release in 1989 would be handled now. Walton stated that at this point they do not know because no explosive mechanism was involved. Moniak asked about fires on site. W. Kelley stated there is an agreement that his units will respond to their warnings and they will respond to his. The concern at the time was smoke, a fire getting into the plant is an extreme chance, but they were able to get EOC's open.

Belisle stated she was interested in peoples' refusal to take responsibility and having a credible person providing information. Justly or unjustly the perception of DOE is not credible, she is not sure a government person would be credible. W. Kelley noted that Mayor Seliger is considered a very solid spokesperson for Amarillo. They have talked about newscasters and their credibility; they are looking for a calming and credible effect. As far as those not wanting warning systems in their home, he does not know what to do with them. They had 10-15 refuse monitors. Of those, 1-2 had concerns of about government spying on them.

Blankenship asked what would happen if on I-40 a DOE shipment turned over. W. Kelley noted the law stipulates that if there is a potential of releases the trucker must call 911. Once 911 is notified that begins a response to hazardous waste release. Blankenship asked how they would know what is dumped. W. Kelley stated that unless the driver is killed he must bring the cargo papers with him. The papers provide information as to how to deal with that incident. The response is to contain it. They will control access then call the plant for a RAT team. Whether it is DOE or a medical shipment they will call the plant and ask for a RAT team.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Moniak noted there had been discussion on a recommendation on plutonium pits. He has a letter from Mason & Hanger and Sandia on the AT-400. He stated the Board had been misled and that the issue needs to be addressed. As a general statement DOE is obligated to give this Board the best information. Blakley stated he appreciated Moniak's request for presentations, but he asked that in the future his requests be sent in writing. Moniak reiterated that at the next meeting DOE address the document, plan, where it is at and an explanation. He added the EM presentation was good today, but that there are very few presentations on what Mason & Hanger are up to. Blankenship stated he had forwarded this request to Program & Training.

Hallmark adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Wattier, Debbie S. (DSI)

From: Martha Crosland [Martha.Crosland@EM.DOE.GOV]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 1999 12:09 PM
To: Angela Harvey (E-mail); Barb Wise (E-mail); Bobbie McClure (E-mail); Carmen Rodriquez (E-mail); Dennis Hurtt (E-mail); Frank Gines (E-mail); Gail McClure (E-mail); George Mishra (E-mail); Gerri Flemming (E-mail); John Carter (E-mail); Kathy Whitaker (E-mail); Ken Morgan (E-mail); Kevin Rohrer (E-mail); Mariane Anderson (E-mail); Mary Jo Acke Ramicone (E-mail); Mike Antiporda (E-mail); Mike Jacobs (E-mail); Ron Duvall (E-mail); Tami Toops (E-mail); Tracy Loughead (E-mail); Walter Perry (E-mail); Abbey Wells (E-mail); Ann DuBois (E-mail); Becky Lopez (E-mail); Carolyn Gardner (E-mail); Dawn Haygood (E-mail); Debbie Wattier (E-mail); Donna Sterba (E-mail); Gwen Doddy (E-mail); Ken Korkia (E-mail); Michelle Smith (E-mail); Sheree Black (E-mail); Wendy Green Lowe (E-mail); Charles M. Rice (E-mail); Dale Slade (E-mail); George Chandler (E-mail); H. Ray Johnson (E-mail); James Bierer (E-mail); Jim Kinsinger (E-mail); Mark Donham (E-mail); Robert W. Peelle (E-mail); Ron Zerm (E-mail); Thomas W. Marshall (E-mail); Thomas Wagner (E-mail); Vicki Jones (E-mail); Audrey Berry (E-mail); Gary Stegner (E-mail); Jerry Johnson (E-mail); John Sheppard (E-mail); M. J. Byme (E-mail); Marianne Heiskell (E-mail); Patty Natoni (E-mail); Woody Russell (E-mail)
Cc: Michael Purkey; THOMPSON, LOIS; Catherine Volk
Subject: FW: Draft Cultural Resource Management Policy

The attached memo from our Office of Environment, Safety and Health has been distributed to our State and Tribal Government Working Group and to historic preservation officers. I thought it might also be of interest to you also.

Martha Crosland

-----Original Message-----
From: THOMPSON, LOIS
Sent: Monday, June 28, 1999 12:52 PM
To: Denise.Griffin@ncsl.org@hq
Cc: Volk, Catherine; Crosland, Martha
Subject: Draft Cultural Resource Management Policy

Andy Wallo and I have prepared a memo for distribution to STGWG and historic preservation contacts discussing EH's decision not to revise the draft document at this time.

Policymemo.doc

(See attached file: Policymemo.doc)

DOE F 1325.8
(8-89)
EFG (07-90)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

memorandum

DATE: June 28, 1999

REPLY TO ATTN OF: Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance:Thompson:69581

SUBJECT: Draft Cultural Resources Management Policy

TO: State and Tribal Government Working Group
Historic Preservation Contacts

The Office of Environment (EH) is concluding the comment period for the initial draft cultural resource management policy. EH would like to thank everyone who participated in the review of this draft policy. The comments provided are broad and highlight an array of issues that reflect common concerns. All major concerns will be considered as the development of this policy moves forward.

In addition to the policy, several initiatives are currently being developed at headquarters that will impact the Department of Energy (DOE) cultural resources management program. These initiatives include: 1) revisions to the DOE Indian Policy; and 2) the historic preservation plan requested by the Secretary and recommended by the Corporate Board on Historic Preservation. These two initiatives combined with the policy statement should enhance the DOE cultural resource management program. Planning and coordination among the responsible offices will be done to ensure that there is no duplication of effort and that each document compliments one another. Consequently, at this time we will not be issuing a revised draft policy. We will keep you informed as this process continues and will provide updates in a timely manner.

If there are any questions or concerns please contact me at (202) 586-9581 or e-mail: lois.thompson@eh.doe.gov.

Lois Thompson
Federal Preservation Officer

JUN 2 1 1999

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

JUN 16 1999

Dr. Thomas Wagner
Transportation Workshop Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
P.O. Box 544
Ross, Ohio 45061

Dear Dr. Wagner:

Many thanks to you and the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board for hosting the 1999 DOE Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Transportation Workshop in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 20-23, 1999. From all reports, this was an extremely successful workshop.

As Chair of the Department's Senior Executive Transportation Forum, I have been requested to respond to your letter of May 24, 1999, that forwarded the eight joint stakeholder statements of concern regarding the Department of Energy's transportation of radioactive materials and waste. The Department appreciates the effort and thoughtfulness required of workshop participants to develop these joint statements. Let me assure you that Departmental officials responsible for transportation planning and implementation will give them serious consideration.

The joint stakeholder statements have been distributed to all members of the Senior Executive Transportation Forum and will be discussed initially at the Forum's June 16, 1999, meeting. As you are probably aware, the Forum is comprised of senior-level officials from all Departmental programs involved in the transportation of radioactive materials and waste. The programs represented on the Forum include: Environmental Management; Commercial Radioactive Waste Management; Materials Disposition; Defense Programs; Nuclear Energy; Nuclear NonProliferation; and Naval Reactors. The agenda for the July meeting of the Forum will include an action item to define the appropriate process or processes to address the substance of each of the joint stakeholder statements. At the conclusion of these processes, all SSABs will be provided a detailed response on how the Department will address the substance of the stakeholder statements.

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Again thank you for an outstanding workshop. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Martha Crosland, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability, 202-586-5944.

Sincerely,

Eugene Schmitt

Eugene Schmitt
Chair, Senior Executive
Transportation Forum

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DOE NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:
Bill Wicker, DOE HQ 202/586-5806
Jimmie Hodges, DOE Paducah 502/441-6806

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 1999

Department of Energy Awards $6 Million Grant To Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson today announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a $6 million grant to the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO) to fund projects to help offset job losses at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Energy Plant. Today's announcement fulfills a commitment made by Secretary Richardson when he visited Paducah in October 1998.

"These grants will help the Paducah community diversify its economy and help offset the economic impacts of reduced uranium operations," said Secretary Richardson. "I want to thank Senators McConnell and Bunning as well as Congressman Whitfield for their hard work on behalf of their community, and for their strong support of the department's worker and community transition program which makes this partnership possible."

Among the community needs PACRO has identified are:

- support for entrepreneurs' efforts to create new jobs;
- training displaced workers for new careers;
- developing new industrial parks and facilities; and
- reuse of the plant's facilities and resources, such as buildings and land.

PACRO was launched in 1997 to develop ways to create jobs to replace those being cut at the enrichment plant and to consider the economic effects should the production of enriched uranium at the site end. Congress provided DOE money to fund efforts similar to PACRO as a way to provide for workers whose jobs were eliminated as a result of defense downsizing following the end of the Cold War.

- MORE

R-99-159

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL # of pages ▶ 2

To Jimmie Hodges	From Press Office
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax # (502) 441-6801	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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DOE awarded PACRO $400,000 in planning funds in early 1998, and early this year the organization sought additional monies to fund the projects pinpointed by its planning efforts. Specific projects to be funded by the new grant are an Entrepreneur Clearing House and Revolving Loan Fund, Business/Industry Retention and Expansion of Marketing/Technical Assistance, Skills Services Assessment, Industrial Park Development, Marketing, Recruitment and Facility Reuse Programs.

"We're going to focus on developing ways to reindustrialize the site in the future using the facilities, resources and workforce here," said Jimmie Hodges, site manager for DOE in Paducah and a member of PACRO's executive committee. "But this grant goes beyond that, it allows PACRO to look at total regional economic development."

PACRO members come from the five-county area that is most affected by job cuts at the enrichment plant —McCracken, Ballard, Graves, Marshall and Massac (Ill.). Kristin Reese, CEO of the Greater Paducah Economic Development Council, chairs the 60-member organization with administrative support from the Purchase Area Development District.

-DOE-

R-99-159