Public Hearing Transcript Attachment 1
Comment Number H-3
Oak Ridge - Evening Session

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NUMBER 2-14-99

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the U.S. needs a neutron source to provide the scientific and industrial research communities with a much more intense source than is currently available, and to assure the availability of a state-of-the-art facility in the decades ahead; and

WHEREAS, this next-generation neutron source would create new scientific and engineering opportunities, and would help replace the capacity that will be lost by the eventual shutdown of existing sources as they reach the end of their useful operating lives; and

WHEREAS, the U.S Department of Energy (DOE) has worked with the scientific community since the early 1970s to provide a new neutron source; and

WHEREAS, the DOE has proposed to construct and operate a state-of-the-art, short-pulsed spallation neutron source (SNS) facility comprised of an ion source, a linear accelerator, a proton accumulator ring, and an experiment building containing a liquid mercury target and a suite of neutron scattering instrumentation; and

WHEREAS, the DOE has used a systematic process to select suitable alternative sites for the proposed facility that included criteria such as availability of land, adequacy of electric power source, presence of existing neutron science expertise and experience to meet mission goals, and existence of major facilities and programs using neutron scattering techniques; and

WHEREAS, the DOE has identified four siting alternatives for the proposed SNS: Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, and Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York; and

WHEREAS, the DOE has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to examine the potential impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed SNS at the four sites, and which names the ORNL location as the DOE preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, the EIS describes the beneficial economic impacts of the proposed project on the Region of Impact (ROI), which includes Anderson, Knox, Loudon, and Roane Counties and the City of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the EIS states that economic benefits to the ROI in the form of jobs, wages, business taxes, and income would begin to accrue during the first year of the project in FY 1999, and would increase as construction and other associated project activities increase; and

WHEREAS, the DOE estimates that design and construction employment would be highest in FY 2002, and there would be an estimated 1,499 total (direct, indirect, and induced) new jobs created at ORNL; and

WHEREAS, the DOE further estimates that facility operation would continue to support up to 1,704 direct, indirect, and induced jobs for the first year of full operation (FY 2006), and for each of the following years of operation; and

WHEREAS, the DOE further estimates the economic benefits of annual operation, which would accrue to the ROI, to be: $ 68.7 million in local wages, $ 7.5 million in business taxes, $ 75.9 million in personal income; and $ 176.3 million in total output; and

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WHEREAS, the preferred alternative for the SNS is located at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is within the corporate limits of the City of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Ridge strongly supports the Department of Energy's objectives to ensure the vitality of the national scientific community by providing a neutron source that would satisfy current and future demand for research neutrons, lead to new scientific and technological discoveries and meet international technological and economic challenges in an environmentally sound and safe facility; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Ridge commends the DOE Oak Ridge Operations office and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for organizing a collaborative effort to achieve these objectives with Argonne, Brookhaven, Berkeley, and Los Alamos National Labs, and other U.S. industrial firms and universities that will be involved as the project matures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Ridge commends the State of Tennessee for committing $ 8 million for ORNL and the University of Tennessee to construct a Joint Institute for Neutron Science (JINS), which will enhance the utility of the SNS by providing support facilities to scientists and engineers from universities, industries, and the international community; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of Oak Ridge citizens responding to a recent community survey stated strong support for the construction and operation of the proposed SNS at the preferred site at ORNL; and

WHEREAS, construction and operation of the SNS at the preferred site at ORNL will greatly assist the City of Oak Ridge as it continues to address the negative social and economic impacts associated with DOE downsizing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEN OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That the City of Oak Ridge supports and endorses the Department of Energy's preferred alternative to construct and operate the Spallation Neutron Source at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of Energy, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, the City's representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Municipal League, and the Mayors of the cities throughout Tennessee urging their continued support for the SNS and JINS projects.

This the 1st day of February 1999.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Attorney

Mayor

City Clerk

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