

## **Spokane Transcripts (TSP)**

Public Hearing May 7, 2003 – Spokane, Washington

DOE meetings/hearings to acquire comments on the Revised Draft Hanford Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Management Program Environmental Impact Statement were conducted in a combination of forums to allow full participation of the audience and commenters. The overall forum consisted of periods for introductions, presentations, informal question and answer sections, panel discussions, and formal comment periods. The identification of comments from the transcripts of these meetings required close reading and interpretation. The results are shown in the identification of formal comment speakers, numbering of comments related to the revised HSW EIS, and bar-coding of copies of the transcripts contained in Volume IV of the HSW EIS. Information in the transcripts related to those informal portions of the meetings are not numbered or bar-coded and do not constitute formal comments. Formal responses to this information were not prepared.

ORIGINAL

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2  
3 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
4

5  
6 REVISED DRAFT HANFORD SITE SOLID  
7 (RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS)  
8 WASTE PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
9 (HSW EIS)  
10

11  
12 PUBLIC MEETING  
13

14 MAY 7, 2003  
15

16 7:00 P.M.  
17

18 WEST COAST RIVER INN  
19

20 700 N. DIVISION  
21

22 SPOKANE, OREGON  
23

24 BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES  
25 Certified Shorthand Reporters  
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Introductions

1                           MR. DEE WILLIS:    Good evening.  
2   Thank you all for coming.  What a nice turnout.

3                           My name is Dee Willis.  I will be  
4   your facilitator tonight.  My job is to make  
5   sure you ever an opportunity to speak.

6                           This is the second of six public  
7   meetings held by the Department of Energy about  
8   the revised draft of the Hanford Solid Waste  
9   Environmental Impact Statement.

10                          DOE last summer did a round a public  
11   meetings on the initial Draft Environmental  
12   Impact Statement, and because of comments from  
13   people like you, DOE decided to do that draft  
14   over again.  So this is the revised draft.  
15   Public participation does work.

16                          The purpose of this meeting tonight  
17   is to get your formal comments about this  
18   draft.  The comments we get from you tonight,  
19   along with other responses from other public  
20   meetings, will be addressed as part of the  
21   Final Environmental Impact Statement.

22                          There are several ways to offer  
23   comments.

24                          One is verbal, by speaking up here  
25   tonight into the mike.

## Introductions (contd)

1                   If you are more introverted, you can  
2 give us written comments. There is a written  
3 comment form on the side table over here. You  
4 can either give that to us tonight or mail it  
5 to us. There are some addresses on this fact  
6 sheet, E-mail and street addresses. The fact  
7 sheet is back there on the side table.

8                   We are going to take your comments  
9 tonight verbatim, using a court reporter. We  
10 are also going to take your comments by audio.  
11 So when you give comments, we are going to ask  
12 you to speak into a mike like this or this mike  
13 here.

14                   There is a lot of related  
15 information on the side table. There is one  
16 complete copy of the Environmental Impact  
17 Statement, that one about ten inches high  
18 there. And there are a number, well, there are  
19 just a few left, a few summaries of the EIS  
20 beside it.

21                   Agenda. We are going to keep the  
22 agenda simple. We are in the introduction now.  
23 We are going to have a short DOE presentation.  
24 After that we are going to have a presentation  
25 by an advocacy group. We will hear from EPA,

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Introductions (contd)

1 get their comments on the EIS. We will have a  
2 brief question period. And then we will go to  
3 your comments. It should be about 7:40 when we  
4 start taking your comments.

5 There are restrooms, mens rooms out  
6 here, you go to the right, the ladies room is  
7 out and to the left.

8 Hanford issues arouse strong  
9 emotions. Any nuclear issues arouse strong  
10 emotions. And I ask you to focus your  
11 attention on the issues tonight.

12 Hold your questions, please. With a  
13 group this size, I am going to ask you to hold  
14 your questions until the presentations are  
15 over. The DOE presentation, the Heart of  
16 America presentation, and the EPA comments.  
17 After that we will take your questions.

18 I want to introduce Mike Collins.  
19 He is an engineer. Mike Collins, an engineer  
20 with the Department of Energy. He's going to  
21 do the DOE presentation.

22 Dennis Faulk is going to give us the  
23 EPA presentation.

24 And Gerry Pollet is going to do the  
25 Heart of America presentation.

Presentations

1                   Any questions before we get started  
2 here? Again, thanks for coming.

3                   Mike Collins.

4                   (Mr. Collins made presentation).

5                   MR. DEE WILLIS: Thanks, Mike.

6                   How's the temperature in here? Is  
7 it too warm now? Getting warm now. Okay.

8                   Speaking of getting hotter, Gerry  
9 Pollet, Heart of America. You are next, Gerry.

10                  MR. GERRY POLLET: EPA should  
11 go first.

12                  MR. DEE WILLIS: Dennis Faulk,  
13 EPA.

14                  (Mr. Faulk made presentation).

15                  MR. DEE WILLIS: Gerry Pollet,  
16 Heart of America.

17                  MR. GERRY POLLET: I would  
18 like to use the overhead. I will start with  
19 this. Give you a little view.

20                  Okay. The types of wastes we are  
21 talking about. The action that this EIS will  
22 lead to being authorized is using Hanford as a  
23 national radioactive waste dump for three out  
24 of the four categories up here.

25                  For transuranic waste, which is the

Presentations (contd)

1 waste they want to bring and are bringing to  
2 Hanford, except for a federal lawsuit brought  
3 by citizen groups and the state of Washington,  
4 is called remote handled transuranic waste. It  
5 is so radioactive that it cannot be analyzed in  
6 any facility at Hanford. It is not licensed to  
7 be disposed of in the salt mine in New Mexico.  
8 It is mixed with chemical waste that is not  
9 permitted to go to that facility in New Mexico.  
10 And if you're stuck in traffic next to it, get  
11 away. It emits 200 millirems of radiation at  
12 least at the surface of the cask, which is the  
13 equivalent of 20 full body x-rays an hour.

14 The transportation program for  
15 transuranic waste was predicted, if it was just  
16 going to New Mexico, was one trip to cause two  
17 to four fatal cancers in adults. This EIS, as  
18 with the one that looked at the national  
19 program, fails to consider what are the impacts  
20 on children. And it fails to ask what are the  
21 impacts on trucking it through Spokane for  
22 mixed waste, low-level waste, and transuranic  
23 waste.

24 We are talking about over 70,000  
25 truck loads of radioactive waste to Hanford

## Presentations (contd)

1 under this decision. And these truck loads are  
2 not all going to go through Oregon, because  
3 Oregon bridges are weight restricted and  
4 failing, and given the budget scenario, they  
5 are not likely to be repaired any time soon,  
6 and detours will be taken and trucks will come  
7 through Spokane on I-90, as sure as we are here  
8 today. And that has not been considered.

9 High-level waste. We have 178 --  
10 177 massive high-level nuclear waste tanks  
11 filled with liquid high-level nuclear waste at  
12 Hanford, 53 million gallons that need to be  
13 vitrified, glassified.

14 The Hanford cleanup agreement says  
15 all of it will be glassified by the year 2028.  
16 The Bush Administration adopted a new strategy  
17 and national goal that said eliminate  
18 vitrification for 75 percent of the high-level  
19 wastes. That's a quote. And therefore they  
20 are looking at, in this EIS, at disposing of 75  
21 to 80 percent of the waste from the high-level  
22 waste tanks in shallow land burial ditches and  
23 trenches.

24 What happens? The reason it is  
25 supposed to go to an underground deep geologic

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Presentations (contd)

1 repository was to keep it permanently isolated  
2 from the environment, because even this EIS  
3 model, with a lot of flaws in it, massive  
4 flaws, shows that the groundwater will be  
5 permanently restricted in a vast swath to the  
6 Columbia River for thousands of years, if this  
7 is disposed of in the soil.

8 This EIS is not legally adequate on  
9 that basis alone because DOE is trying to avoid  
10 vitrification.

11 As I said, they have already adopted  
12 the goal. They are already spending millions  
13 of dollars trying to develop the alternatives  
14 to not vitrifying the waste. And they fail to  
15 even look in this EIS at the impacts of not  
16 glassifying the waste.

17 Now, 70,000 truck loads. I was  
18 looking for a slide I presented to the Hanford  
19 Advisory Board committee this afternoon. I  
20 have lost it.

21 The last time the State Patrol  
22 gathered data on the commercial radioactive  
23 waste trucks bringing wastes to the commercial  
24 dump site at Hanford, it found that the same  
25 company that USDOE uses had 55 out of 310 of

Presentations (contd)

1 their trucks arrested at the state border for  
2 safety violations and pulled out of service.  
3 That's the same company that is now being used  
4 to ship remote handled transuranic waste.

5 The EIS doesn't consider that type  
6 of statistic and its impact on your children.  
7 And all you have to do is go look at I-90 to  
8 think about the impact here.

9 We are talking about more than  
10 doubling the total amount of waste already  
11 buried at Hanford, and the priority is to make  
12 Hanford a national radioactive waste dump.

13 Your kitchen garbage can't be dumped  
14 in unlined burial grounds. You can't dig a  
15 ditch in your backyard and dump your garbage.  
16 The city of Spokane, as you all know, can't  
17 have a landfill above the sole-source aquifer  
18 even. But it can't have an unlined landfill.

19 It is against the law anywhere in  
20 this country, except for these people at the  
21 Department of Energy Hanford Site, think that  
22 they can have unlined landfills.

23 This is an example of radioactive  
24 waste disposal at Hanford. This is an old  
25 photograph. This is how they disposed of

Presentations (contd)

1 things through the 1970s and into the 1980s.  
2 In unlined ditches.

3 I'm sure I'm not going to shock you  
4 when I show you a modern picture.

5 In 2000 the Department of Energy  
6 imported and buried at Hanford 230,000 cubic  
7 feet of radioactive waste and dumped it in  
8 unlined ditches. That's enough to cover a  
9 football field 13 feet deep. Under this EIS  
10 they would increase that rate as much as five  
11 fold.

12 Now, I want you to think about this,  
13 and for the record, we need to think about this  
14 and ask the Department of Energy some hard  
15 questions.

16 Hanford is supposed to have all its  
17 soil sites cleaned up by the year 2018. All of  
18 Hanford is supposed to be cleaned up by 2028.  
19 Under existing federal cleanup agreements,  
20 there isn't another site in the United States  
21 run by the Department of Energy that is not  
22 supposed to be cleaned up significantly before  
23 the year 2018.

24 So, why, why indeed does this EIS  
25 call for Hanford taking waste from all over the

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