#### **Archives Reference Sheet**

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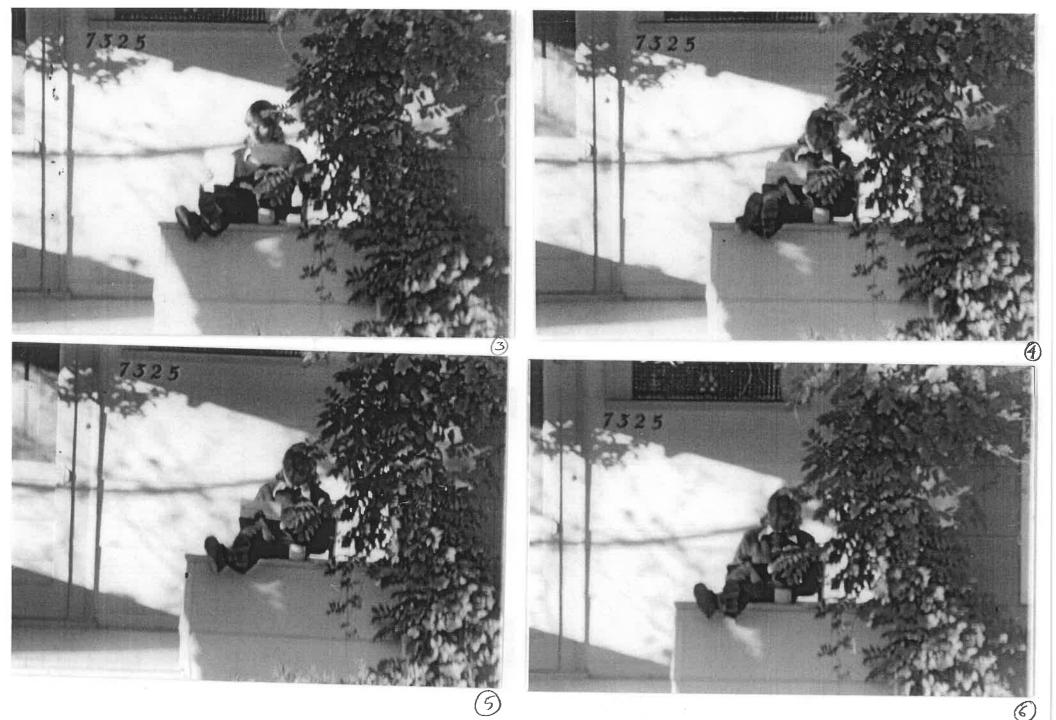
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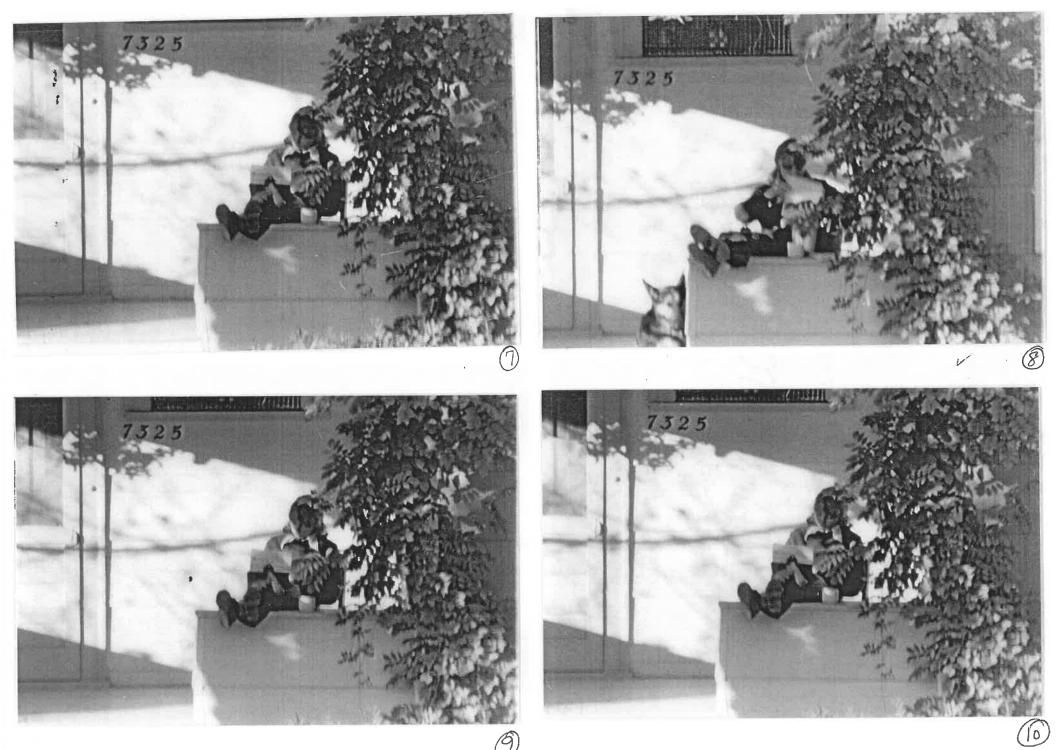
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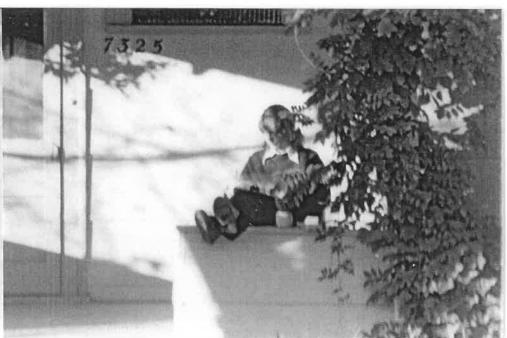
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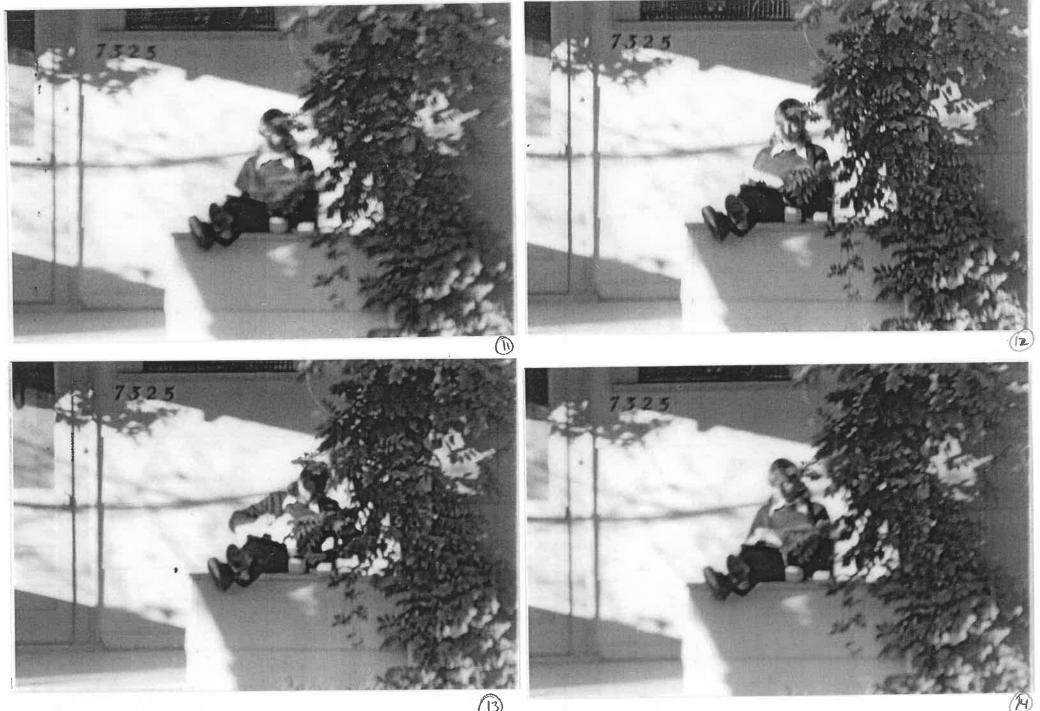








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#### For Immediate Release As News Item

Shut down N Reactor and PUREX Plant will be the demands brought to the Hanford Site by regional peace and environmental organizations during their Hanford Action Week Aug. 2-9.

The organizations will also use the week of forums, vigils, demonstrations and a peace camp to call for independent scrutiny of all Hanford nuclear operations and for elimination of funding for the proposed Laser Isotope Separation (LIS) Facility.

Hanford's N Reactor produces fuel which is refined by PUREX Plant, an acronym for Plutonium-Uranium Extraction Plant, into fuel for nuclear weapons. The LIS Facility would be capable of refining spent commercial reator fuel into an even higher grade bomb material.

Representatives from the organizations met in Yakima May 10 to plan the week of activities protesting Hanford's nuclear weapons - related operations. They made their demands for the shutdowns at the meeting, citing Hanford's role in the threat of nuclear war and the possible health and environmental hazards posed by its related operations.

Another meeting to finalize plans for the action week has been scheduled for June 7 in Richland, Wash.

For more information media may contact Rich Wood, 5526 17 Ave. NE, Seattle, WA, 526-0968, or Barbara Clark, 717 N. Main, Walla Walla, WA, 522-0399.

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# HANFORD

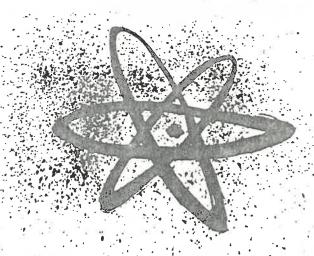
THE NATION'S LARGEST 'RADIOACTIVE GRAVEYARD

# What Can We Do About It?

Guest Speaker:

### Bob Alvarez,

Director of Radiation and Health Project for Environmental Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.



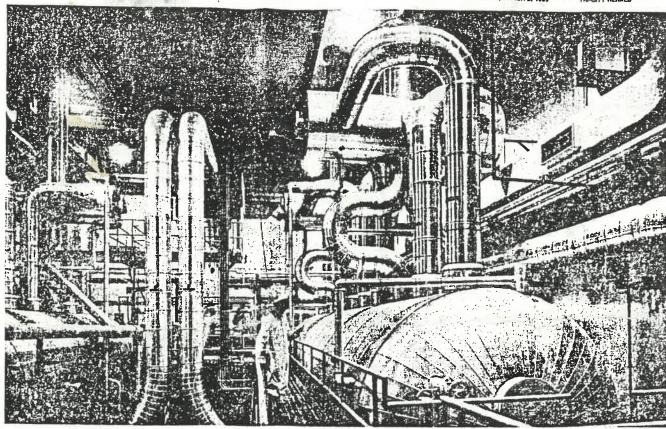
## April 9th, 7 pm Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th

Donation \$2 (to cover travel expenses)

This event is brought to Portland with the assistance of Commissioner Margaret Strachan.

For further information, contact the Oregon Hanford Oversight Committee c/o Joanne Oleksiak, 295-2101.

# HANFORD'S NI-REACTOR



This is one of 12 generators that uses steam from the N Reactor to provide power at the adjacent Washington Public Power Supply System's electric plant. N Reactor is the only facility in the U.S. producing both electricity and nuclear v

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 12 Salem noon Hanford Advisory Committee Room D of the new Dept. of Energy office, 625 Marion St. NE (between Church and Cottage St.) Questions- 1-800-221-8035. MAY 13 Portland Briefing on the N-reactor to prepare individuals to write testimony on the 16th (see below), with Eugene Rosolie of Coalition for Safe Power. At the First Congregational Church, in the Chapel. Park Blocks and Madison. 7:00pm. MAY 14 Portland Sierra Club program on Hanford with a report by Linda Josephson and Norm Buske of the Hanford Reach project, and a talk with slides by Joanne Oleksiak. Potluck dinner first, then program. 7:00 pm PGE Auditorium, 3700 SE 17th. MAY 16 Portland Congressional hearing on the N-reactor, Rep. Jim Weaver. Invited public interest groups, and submisson of written testimony. 9:00 am City Hall 2nd floor. MAY 16 Portland- Oregon Hanford Oversight Committee (because of Weaver's hearing, this will be postponed until May 23- but the group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month) Old Wives Tales Restaurant, 1300 N Burnside. Noon. Call 295-2101. MAY 22 Salem Oregon State Legislative Interim Committee on Hazardous Materials Rep. Mike McCracken and Sen. Bill Bradbury, co-chairs. That day's agenda includes testimony on Hanford by invited public interest groups. JUNE 16-20 HANFORD AWARENESS WEEK Many events are planned! Watch for

details! Call the Hanford Clearinghouse for information on how to join-295-2101.

#### HANFORD'S N-REACTOR

- Began operations Dec. 1963 at Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington.
- Designed as a dual purpose reactor for the production of plutonium and byproduct steam for the generation of electricity.
- N-reactor was used mainly to produce fuel-grade plutonium for civil reactor research and development and byproduct steam. The steam is sold to the Washington Public Power System to generate electricity for the Bonneville Power Administration.
- N-reactor is one of four operating production reactors in the U.S.. The other three are at the Savannh River facility in South Carolina.
- The N-reactor has its nuclear fuel encased in a large block of graphite. In the case of the Chernobyl plant it is this graphite which is burning. This damages the nuclear fuel and releases enormous amounts of radioactivity.
- By the 1990's, the N-reactor will need to be shut-down due to physical deterioration (swelling) of the graphite moderator which is not correctable.
- Instead of a containment building, the Hanford N-reactor has a system of filters to remove radioactivity from released steam, and filtered ventilation to prevent confinement structure failure if pressures build. The confinement is designed to withstand 5 psi pressure, compared to a commercial power plant like Trojan, that must withstand 60 psi, which under certain circumstances would not be adequate.
- The retrofitting needed to squeeze another 20 years of life out of the vintage N-reactor would cost about \$1 billion, said a Congressional aide who spoke on the condition that he not be identified.
- In 1980, the reactor went from mainly producing electricity, to producing plutonium for the weapons program. Demands made by the stepped up military program created a burden on the aging reactor. A valve failure in 1985 resulted in several parts coming loose in the reactor's primary cooling system, which is the first line of defense against a nuclear "meltdown" accident.
- With the change to military production, the budget for the N-reactor increased. In 1979, the last year of operation before the conversion to the weapons program, N-reactor's budget was \$56.1 million. With the new mission, funding increased dramatically. For the most recent fiscal year (1984) the budget was \$197.7 million. Given current budget constraints, there are far better uses for this money.
- When the Chernobyl nuclear accident occurred, the Soviet Union made information public after only a few days. At Hanford, the U.S Department of Energy does not make its accident reports available to the public.
- Hanford officials waited 40 years to tell Washington and Oregon residents that radioactive releases from Hanford during the 1940's and 50's had been high. In December 1949, citizens were <u>deliberately</u> exposed in an experiment, to more than 5,000 curies of iodine 131. That radioactive cloud stretched 200 miles- from Hanford to Mt. Hood. This information was gained only through Freedom of Information Act requests.
  - Today, Hanford routinely releases radioactive wastes into the air, soil and river.

RALLY 18TH PIONEER TONE

# Hanford Events.

PUBLIC MEETINGS JUNE 16-18:

- on the REPOSITORY, Monday, June 16,
- cleanup of existing wastes, Tuesday, June 17, the N-REACTOR and PUREX plant,
- health effects and safety, Wednesday, June 18
  First Congregational Church, 1126 S.W Park
  7:30 PM. Free to the public.

RALLY at Pioneer Courthouse Square. NOON Wednesday.

Speakers, music and information!

DEMONSTRATION Sunday, June 22 1 PM Waterfront Park, by Saturday Market. Speakers and music!

SAY NO TO THE REPOSITORY!
SHUT DOWN THE N-REACTOR AND THE PUREX PLANT!
CLEAN UP EXISTING RADIOACTIVE WASTE!





#### REGIONAL CONTACTS WORKING ON HANFORD ISSUES:

American Friends Service Committee 2249 E. Burnside Portland, OR 97214 Paulette Wittwer 230–9427

Fellowship of Reconcilliation 1838 SW Jefferson Portland, Oregon '97201 Chuck Bell 222–7293

Forelaws on Board 19142 Bakers Ferry Rd. Boring, OR 97009 Lloyd Marbet 637–3549

Greenpeace Northwest 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N

Seattle, WA 98103 Tom Buchanan 206-632-4236

Hanford Clearinghouse 408 SW 2nd - Room 408 Portland, OR 97204 Joanne Oleksiak 295-2101

Hood River Fellowship for Peace 5565 Miller Road Mt. Hood, OR 97041 Tim Schectel

Lincoln County People for Peace PO 756 South Beach, OR 97366 Roger Brooks 563–4168 Ted Merrill RT I Box 330 Mt. Vernon, OR 97865 932-4777 or 575-1241

North Coast CALS PO Box 59 Cannon Beach, OR 97110. Barbara/Chuck McLaughlin 436–1644

Hanford Oversight Committee Washington-Eileen Buller 206-747-7495 Oregon-Hanford Clearing House-295-2101

Larry Caldwell Wash. H.O.C. 1449 Thayer Drive Richland, WA 99352 509–946–9039

WASHpirg 4224 University Way NE Suite F Seattle, WA 98105 206-547-3155

Snake River Alliance Office of the YWCA 8th and Washington Box 1731 Boise, ID 83701 208-344-9161

Hanford Education Action League PO Box 4634 Spokane, WA 99202 Joan Mootry 509-448-8564

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Bureau of Police
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**Date:** 9-26-79

To: Lt. Dimick

From: Officer Falk

Subject: Hanford Conversion Project

On 9-28-79 at 10 AM, there is to be a rally in the Portland General Electric complex at 121 SW Salmon. This rally in sponsored by the Hanford Conversion Project. The focus of this rally will be to welcome two mock radioactive waste transport caravans travelling from Eugene, OR and Bremerton, WA to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Richland, WA.

The Hanford Conversion Project has cross-membership with the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance. It gains it's guidance and direction from the American Friends Service Committee at 4312 SE Stark.

We do not expect any problems at this rally. The crowd estimate is approx  $100\ \text{people}$ .

WF/ev

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City of Portland, Oregon

Bureau of Police

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Dato: 05-21-80

To: Lt. Dimick

From: Officer Falk

Subject: Hanford Conversion Project, 1817 NE 17th

Greenpeace, 638 NW 6th

Sir:

On May 23, 1980, there will arrive at the lightship off the mouth of the Columbia River a barge, which has as it's contents equipment which has been radioactively contaminated. This shipment is from the East Coast and went through the Panama Canal, and it is in route to the Hanford Reservation in the state of Washington. This barge should be nearing the Longview, Washington area of the Columbia River at approximately 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. At approximately 9:00 p.m., the barge should be in the area of Sauvies Island. At approximately midnight, it should be passing through the Bonneville Dam Locks. All the listed times are merely an estimate, as it does not take into account tides, currents, and the problems with river silting in the Longview and Kelso, Washington area.

The Hanford Conversion Project is talking about an attempted roadblock after the equipment is unloaded off of the barge at Hanford, Washington.

The Greenpeace Organization will try to attempt some sort of action, but at this time we have no idea as to what it will be.

Both organizations are confused over the dates and times of the arrival of the barge. Also, they are unaware of the procedures to be used in the Hanford area at the unloading site. So both organizations, at this time, are attempting to find out arrival dates and times regarding the trip. So far, they have not had any success.

WF/jlb.

# Hanford: A region resists

#### By Patrick Mazza

With nuclear bomb plants at the Hanford Reservation running full blast and the probability increasing that the nation's permanent dump for the most radiactive waste will soon be located there, efforts are underway to bring together a united Northwest regional resistance to Hanford.

Representatives of peace, environmental, church and Native American groups will meet in Olympia Feb. 9 to coordinate strategy. The goal is to pull together people in Oregon, Washington and Idaho in a united effort to stop the federal government from making Hanford the permament waste dump and to shut down bomb production there.

It is likely the developing coalition will unite in opposition to permanently burying radioactive waste anywhere. Instead, they will probably press for temporarily storing the waste above ground for up to a century while scientists develop safer methods of disposal. This lessens the danger the radiactive materials will leak and pollute water.

#### PUREX danger revealed

To put its message across, the coalition may engage in a range of actions that includes lobbying, lawsuits, ballot intitiatives, public education, and direct action.

One of the major focal points for action now is to publicize new information on Hanford's PUREX plant which reveals that radiation releases from the plutonium production factory are much more deadly than previously thought. According to studies by Spokane Falls Community College chemistry professor Dr. Allen Benson, the weapons plant will emit 60,000 to 90,000 potentially lethal doses a year under "normal" operations.

That does not include any releases due to "unusual occurrences." In the year plus since Purex has reopened, a record of worker injuries, excessive radiation emissions, faulty detection equipment, and broken alarm systems provides little assurance "unusual occurrences" have not or will not occur.

Dr. Benson based his findings on information he obtained from the Department of Energy under the Freedom of Information Act.

"The potential for harm is unequivocal," Dr. Benson commented, "because if you only contaminate an area with plutonium once at the federal safety threshold, you have essentially contaminated it in perpetuity."

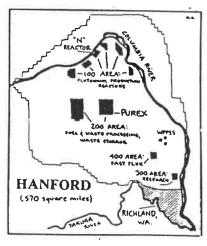
#### Building regional resistance

The re-start of the Rockwell International-operated PUREX plant in combination with a recent federal announcement that Hanford is one of the three sites still in the running for the permanent waste dump has put new energy into longstanding regional opposition to Hanford. In Portland, the large city most affected by Hanford, moves are underway to re-activate the Hanford Oversight Committee, an existing coalition group that has been somewhat dormant. The Committee has been more active in Seattle. The goal of activists in Oregon is to create a strong oversight committee here so the movement will develop a strong base throughout the

We're trying to make people see that Hanford is a regional matter rather than just a Washington State issue," commented Chuck Bell of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), one of the key workers in the oversight committee.

The point of the Feb. 9 Olympia meeting will be to coordinate actions throughout the region. For example, anti-Hanford workers are considering a Washington ballot initiative against the waste dump, and Oregon activists may help in the campaign.

In Oregon, the group will focus on lobbying the legislature to take a stand against the waste repository. Activists will



**Drawing: Mark Anderson** 

work to make sure state opposition has teeth. They want the legislature to require that state lawyers intervene in federal dump licensing hearings.

#### Broad coalition possible

Perhaps more than any other regional issue, Hanford brings together peace, ecological and social justice concerns. Peace groups are concerned about weapons production. Environmental and Native American groups worry about radioactive pollution of the Columbia River and the airshed. Many groups combine these concerns with opposition to the massive misuse of resources represented in nuclear power and weapons production. So the coalition that can be built around Hanford is potentially broad.

Among Oregon groups already involved are FOR, Greenpeace, Forelaws on Board, Northwest Action for Disarmament, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Columbia Intertribal Fish Commission, and the Warm Springs Tribal Confederation.

Bell said he hopes to see more involvement here from mainstream

environmental groups.

In Washington, involved organizations include FOR, AFSC, the Yakima Tribe, Sierra Club and Spokane's Hanford Education and Action League (HEAL).

Washington groups several weeks ago filed a lawsuit against the state government to void a waste dump study agreement it has with the Department of Energy. The cooperation agreement gives Washington money to help in the study of the dump. Since none of the other states where a dump might be located has agreed to cooperate with the federal government, activists believe the agreement "greases the skids" for location of a dump at Hanford.

Opposition to the dump is spreading beyond activist circles. For example, the generally conservative Spokane City Council recently passed a resolution against it. The council based its actions on the dump's potential health threat.

#### Making Oregon heard

For Oregon, the major issue is getting "affected state" status. The federal government has promised that any state in which the dump may be located will have veto power over the choice. Since none of the "affected states," Washington, Texas and Nevada, has expressed much enthusiasm for the dump, it is questionable whether the federal government will live up to its promise.

But, nonetheless, "affected state" status provides a voice in the process that Oregon does not have. This reveals how state lines do not reflect ecological realities. Any waste going to Hanford by Columbia River transport will move past Portland most of its trip. And if there is a break in the waste dump, the Columbia could carry deadly doses of radiation right back to Portland.

Making people in Portland more aware of the Hanford danger will be one of the major efforts. Bell and Joanne Oleksiak are working to create a Hanford Information Clearinghouse, to gather and publicize information.

#### — Hanford Oversight Committee —

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HANFORD AS A NATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR

#### WASTE REPOSITORY

WHEREAS, government agencies, research institutes and independent scientists have criticized the existing Department of Energy report on the proposed Hanford repository site, because of its lack of scientific data and its indefensible assumptions about the safety of the site; AND

WHEREAS, government agencies, research institutes and independent scientists are concerned that, even granted heroic freedom with taxpayers' money, future studies will not improve confidence

in the safety of the site, because:

- Columbia River basalt, host rock for the repository, is fractured;
- (2) Seismic and geothermal hazards exist in the area;
- (3) There is significant vertical as well as horizontal groundwater flow;
- (4) Deep geologic disposal of commercial waste in conjunction with production and disposal of military waste at Hanford would have a cumulative effect on the environment;
- (5) For these and other reasons, radioactive waste could threaten the Columbia River within a time frame unacceptable under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act;
- (6) The consideration of Hanford is thus based on the sociopolitical fact that it is on public land dedicated to nuclear activities with local community support;

AND FURTHER joins the Hanford Oversight Committee in calling for broad public participation in the federal and state administrative processes pursuant to the Nuclear Policy Act, in order to end consideration of Hanford as a High-Level Nuclear Waste Repository site.

Dated:	
Signature:	
Residence:	Zip:
Telephone Number:	
€	
Please forward all signed Resolutions to the following addresse	s:
Hanford Oversight Committee ) 814 N.E. 40th Street ) Western Washington Seattle, Washington 98105 )	
Hanford Oversight Committee ) 1449 Thayer Drive ) Eastern Washington Richland, Washington 99352 )	
Hanford Oversight Committee ) P. O. Box 4212 ) Oregon State Portland, Oregon 97208 )	



The Oregonian/BRENT WOJAHN

Demonstrators make their views known Thursday outside the Bonneville Power Administration Building in Portland. The demonstration

occurred during a U.S. Department of Energy hearing on the role of south-central Washington's Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

### Ire vented at Energy Department hearing

Story on Page One also

By SPENCER HEINZ of The Oregonian staff

A Portland crowd's woodshed whipping of the U.S. Department of Energy had continued for about two hours Thursday when a Northeast Portland resident walked to the podium, adjusted the microphone and started talking about an old movie.

He said it was a war movie, and once he had seen it played backward.

That was nice, said James R. Canon, because he had been able to watch the flames and the smoke from the bombs get sucked back into those bombs.

The bombs flew back into the bottoms of the planes; the planes flew backward and landed; and devastation was erased.

"I'm sure this is the hope of all of us in this room," he said.

The statement reflected some of the feelings of frustration spoken Thursday during a hearing that caught the Energy Department by surprise.

Intended to focus purely on disposal options for Hanford's radioactive military wastes, the hearing instead was used by an overflow crowd in the Bonneville Power Administration auditori-

um to vent anger over everything from continued production of plutonium to consideration of Hanford as a national repository for the rest of the nation's nuclear wastes.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., said that "a cheap, shabby political trick has been pulled" in the Energy Department's selection of Hanford as one of three finalist sites in the search for a place to bury the highly radioactive spent fuel rods from the nation's commercial nuclear power plants.

"It was put there to satisfy political obligations in the eastern part of the United States," Packwood said, and he made a public promise to the Energy Department:

"This Congress, and the next Congress, and the next Congress after that, is going to stop you. And as long as I am in there, you are going to have to pass over any committee that I chair or any committee that I am on or any time of the day or night that I am awake or sleeping."

In April, the Energy Department issued a draft envirnomental impact statement that outlined options for disposing of the waste. Options ranged from stabilizing the wastes in place and covering them with rock and soil

to solidifying and transporting them to a commercial nuclear repository proposed for construction at either Hanford or sites in Texas or Nevada.

Hanford is located in south-central Washington, near Richland, 30 miles north of Oregon and upstream of Washington and Oregon population centers on the Columbia River. An Energy Department hearing in Richland Tuesday drew about 180 persons.

In contrast, Thursday's meeting in Portland drew an estimated 900 to 1,000 people to a two-part, seven-hour hearing.

Karen J. Wheeless, an Energy Department public information representative, said the turnout was the biggest ever for the Energy Department in the Northwest.

"We've never seen anything like this," she said.

Jack Bogdanski, a Portland lawyer and a director of a newly formed group called People Against Nuclear Dumping at Hanford, claimed the reputation and economy of the Northwest could be ruined by Hanford activities.

"The hardest thing to swallow about all this is the double standard," Bogdanski said. "If you were a commercial energy outfit instead of the federal government, I'd call the police right now and you'd all go to jail."

Thomas R. Miller, a Northwest Portland photographer, characterized nuclear waste as the product of a failed foreign policy.

"One option for a permanent deep repository might be between the ears of our leaders and legislators who claim Hanford is a desirable storage site," Miller said. "For between those ears, and only there, must be a substance which is harder and infinitely less permeable than mere granite."

During the first three hours of the hearing, only one person offered undiluted praise for the Energy Department.

"In contradiction to what others have said or implied here today, I believe that the Department of Energy and its predecessors have done an acceptable, if not actually commendable and credible, job in handling and storing radioactive wastes at Hanford and other defense sites," said Orville F. Hill, a nuclear fuel cycle consultant from Vancouver, Wash.

The others were not so kind.

Ken Hodge of Vancouver said, "You half-life half-wits can take this dump and shove it."

0 7-11-86

# Broadening of Hanford hearing demanded

By SPENCER HEINZ of The Oregonian staff

The U.S. Department of Energy will not be serving the public interest if it tries to limit testimony at a hearing Thursday to the issue of military waste-disposal options at Hanford Nuclear Reservation, members of three regional groups said Wednesday in a Portland news conference.

"We are throwing open this public hearing to discuss any and all issues concerning Hanford," said Joanne Oleksiak, a representative of a Portland-based citizen group called the Oregon Hanford Oversight Committee.

The news conference was held to call attention to the ground rules for a U.S. Department of Energy public hearing on the agency's proposed options for disposal of radioactive military waste. The hearing is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday in Portland's Bonneville Power Administration Building, 1002

Others who spoke at the news conference were Faith Mayhew, executive director of the Affiliated Tribes of Atiyeh wins support on Hanford study fund

signed a letter urging the U.S. Department of Energy to honor Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh's request for \$2.5 million to study Hanford Nuclear Reservation activities over the next five years.

"Federal funding of state efforts on this matter is an important issue in Oregon," wrote Oregon's five U.S. House representatives, Republicans Denny Smith and Robert F. Smith, and Democrats Ron Wyden, Jim Weaver and Les AuCoin.

"Oregonians, already distrustful of a federal process that selected Hanford as a candidate for a repository despite its poor objective showing, have become keenly sensitive to how the federal government treats the states," the letter continued. "If the site selection process

Five Oregon congressional representatives have is to retain any credibility in the Northwest, you must involve the states as fully as possible."

> The congressmen sent the letter July 3 to Ben Rusche. director of the Energy Department's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, which is conducting the search for a place to build a repository to hold spent radioactive fuel rods from the nation's commercial nuclear power plants.

> Atiyeh recently met with Rusche to ask for \$2.5 million in direct funding to independently study the possible impact of a Hanford repository on Oregon.

> Hanford is located near the Tri-Cities in southeast Washington and upstream of population centers on the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

Northwest Indians, and Lloyd Marbet, co-director of Forelaws on Board, which focuses on nuclear issues.

They said the Energy Department's N.E. Holladay St., near the Lloyd Cen- draft environmental impact statement on options for disposal of military waste at Hanford was deficient because it did not clearly show the connections among a variety of Han-

ford-related activities that could affect those disposal options.

In other words, Oleksiak contended, citizens could not make well-reasoned decisions about what to do with Hanford's existing high-level radioactive wastes without also discussing the expanding plutonium-production work that continues to add to those wastes - or without considering whether Hanford was destined also to be named the national dump for commercial nuclear waste from other states.

"They can't be separated," she said of the issues.

News conference speakers said one reason to discuss publicly the connections among issues was the Energy

Department's recent decision to postpone indefinitely the search for a place. to build a second commercial wasterepository. This could mean the agency would not have enough space in a sin-. gle repository for Hanford's existing military wastes.

That would amount to a backhanded decision to choose the option of simply leaving those wastes forever in Hanford's temporary tanks, some of .. which have already leaked into ground water, the speakers said.

Marbet said he also was worried that the Energy Department, which already had contaminated parts of . Hanford with military wastes, might decide to place the commercial nuclear repository also at Hanford simply because the agency may improperly believe that it could not hurt to further contaminate that site.

Mayhew said the tribes believed the Energy Department's draft environmental impact statement for military waste disposal options was not taking the public health threat seriously when. it stated that the agency was seeking "an appropriate level of protection."

\*UP/N PAGE 001 OF 002

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\*GARRETT, SUSAN MEAD

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