



**LINE Commission 2.0**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 11, 2014**  
**Lincoln Auditorium, Idaho State Capitol, Boise**

**Commission Members in Attendance**

Chairman Jeff Sayer, Idaho Department of Commerce  
Dr. Steve Aumeier, Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES)  
Mayor Rebecca Casper, City of Idaho Falls  
Senator Larry Craig  
Senator Bart Davis, Idaho State Senate  
Mr. Jeff Feeler, US Ecology  
Dr. Howard Grimes, Idaho State University  
Mr. John Grossenbacher, Idaho National Laboratory  
Mr. John Kotek, Gallatin Public Affairs  
Steve Laflin, International Isotopes  
Dr. Mark Rudin, Boise State University  
Hon. Mitzi Sabino, Council Woman, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Dr. Bob Smith, University of Idaho  
Rep. Jeff Thompson, Idaho House of Representatives

*Ad Hoc Members*

Hon. Brad Little, Lt. Governor of Idaho  
Tom Perry, Esq., Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor  
Mr. John Revier, Office of Congressman Mike Simpson  
Rep. John Rusche, Idaho State House of Representatives  
Mr. Brian Whitlock, Idaho National Laboratory

*Guest Speaker*

Mr. John P. ("Jack") Zimmerman, U.S. Department of Energy

*Staff*

Ms. Megan Ronk, Idaho Department of Commerce  
Mr. Hank Ebert, Idaho Department of Commerce

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Sayer convened the meeting at 9:00 AM and welcomed the members of the Commission, its subcommittees, guests, and the public. He asked visitors to sign in if they wanted to speak, and said the meeting would be streaming live courtesy of Idaho Public TV. Chairman Sayer introduced John P. ("Jack") Zimmerman, Deputy Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), who will be addressing the three primary topics.

## **Status Update: Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (John P. Zimmerman)**

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) is a 53,000 square foot, first-of-its-kind facility constructed to treat 900,000 gallons of sodium-bearing waste stored in three underground tanks at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center at the Idaho National Laboratory. The waste was generated during the later stages of the Idaho Site's spent nuclear fuel reprocessing campaign from the 1950s until 1992. The facility uses a steam-reforming technology to heat up the liquid waste, essentially drying it; then the granular material will be packaged into stainless steel canisters for storage in concrete vaults at the Site. The treatment supports the 1995 Settlement Agreement milestone between the DOE and the State of Idaho in a manner that the waste would be ready for shipment out of Idaho by 2035. Mr. Zimmerman added that the facility is hardened and protected, and designed with future uses in mind.

The presentation included several images of the facility, Building CPP-1696, the equipment, as well as a graphical representation of the IWTU Process. Continuing with a discussion of the process, Mr. Zimmerman said the plant has gone through several heat-up and cool-down cycles due to equipment issues in preparation for the introduction of a substance meant to simulate the liquid waste that will be processed. The plant resumed heating up on November 11, 2014, to normal operating temperature and pressure in preparation for the reintroduction of steam and simulant processing. Simulant processing began on December 2, 2014. It stopped briefly when a solenoid failed but did not shut down and resumed processing within 48 hours.

Mr. Zimmerman described a methodical approach to start-up. The start-up process has been supplemented by: 1) The Operations Support Team using the support from the U.S. Department of Energy's Headquarters and the National Energy Technology Laboratory with expertise in coal fluidization and steam reforming; 2) Independent review of test process to identify opportunities to minimize risk; 3) Independent process review by a fluidized process expert. He said that the process is being taken methodically in order to get to the end point more quickly.

Following simulant testing, the facility will conduct a confirmatory outage to inspect specific equipment to verify performance, and to complete other planned maintenance. Following satisfactory completion of simulant testing, the confirmatory outage and the Integrated Operations Review, IWTU will be in a position to transition to radioactive waste operations once the regulatory approvals are received. The path forward to being waste processing will include regulatory approvals of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for radioactive waste processing. The next step will be to commence radioactive waste processing. (The actual processing rate will be based upon simulant processing results.)

Mr. Zimmerman spent several hours at the plant noted it was impressive. He reiterated the independent reviews. Data will be collected and evaluated to determine what improvements may be needed. The plant will be opened, methodically inspected, and equipment replaced as necessary. The entire process may take several simulant runs before radioactive materials are introduced. That may take two runs or six runs. They will not move forward until it is safe. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality will provide regulatory review.

### **IWTU Status Question and Answer Period**

Idaho National Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher asked Mr. Zimmerman to characterize the waste and explain the differences between the waste at Hanford and at the INL. Mr. Zimmerman said he is not sufficiently familiar with the wastes at Hanford to characterize them. He described residual wastes from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel at the INL contain sodium and other hazardous constituents.

Adm. Grossenbacher asked about the condition of the tanks in Idaho and the relative risk of continuing to store waste while the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit is being started-up. Mr. Zimmerman said stainless steel tanks are designed for hundreds of years and are monitored for leakage, providing sufficient time to safely start-up the plant and process waste. Adm. Grossenbacher also asked about the quantity of simulant intended to run through the facility and the potential level of risk. In responding, Mr. Zimmerman indicated the biggest concern is the bauxite material that is corrosive. If the test results are acceptable, the process will continue with a carbonate product that is less corrosive and more benign. He anticipates 50,000 gallons of simulant will run through the plants in the December 20th to December 22<sup>nd</sup> timeframe after which the plant will be shut down and evaluated.

Dr. Bob Smith asked about the general schedule. Mr. Zimmerman noted the original timeframe is way off and hesitated to commit to dates. He said there will be a period of evaluation of between 45 to 60 days after the plant is shut down to determine if the plant is ready to process radioactive waste. The decision may be to conduct another simulant run or move forward with processing radioactive waste if it is determined to be safe.

In response to Dr. Rudin's question about the post-treatment assessment of the waste, Mr. Zimmerman said after the liquid has been eliminated and converted to a solid form it will be put in stainless steel tanks. It will still contain all of its radioactive constituents but it will be in a safer form that will not present a risk to the aquifer. Dr. Rudin said it is a big step to convert liquid to a solid. He asked about the longer-term risk of storing the material. Mr. Zimmerman said he is not familiar with the longer-term risks, but it is safe in the short-term. There is no designated repository (for long-term storage).

Dr. Aumeier asked about contingencies to repair equipment once facility has gone hot. Mr. Zimmerman responded that the facility has a short design life. He said getting to everything outside of the cells is pretty straightforward, but getting to the inside of the cells is more problematic. Training has been conducted on maintenance using reach tools to change components from a distance in addition to putting up temporary shielding and enclosures.

In response to a question from Mr. Steve Laflin about the design of the facility, Mr. Zimmerman said the facility has been designed for a 10-month operational run and an additional 14-month run if necessary. After that run the equipment will be cleaned and go through a D&D process. The building would not be torn down, but could be converted to other uses.

Mr. Whitlock asked about the State of Idaho's involvement and the degree to which the state and other stakeholders have been consulted given the first-of-its-kind technology that has not been proven. Mr. Zimmerman responded that that State of Idaho has come out from time to time and has seen what is going on. An approval point for the State of Idaho has been built into the process.

Mayor Casper requested an overview of overall costs during the various phases and post-project work. Mr. Zimmerman said construction has been in the range of \$700 million; startup costs are varying between \$3 million/month to 5 million/month, diving slightly to the range of \$3 million/month to \$4 million/month when the plant reaches its steady state operation.

Mr. Feeler asked about the plans for ultimate disposal. Mr. Zimmerman said that inasmuch as wastes are characterized as high level wastes there are no plans for its ultimate disposition in the foreseeable future. He said it will take time to get to that point. Mr. Kotek asked if the casks are suitable for disposal or if additional treatment will be required for disposal. Mr. Zimmerman said the canisters could be suitable or the waste may require additional treatment. He said the last few weeks have been the most encouraging since he came to Idaho several months ago and he expressed optimism.

**Update: Pending Revision and Release of New INL Site Cleanup Contract (John P. Zimmerman)**

Mr. Zimmerman reviewed the status of the Idaho Cleanup Project contracts. The major contract with CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC ("CWI") expires September 2015. The second contract for the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project with the Idaho Treatment Group will expire on September 30, 2015. Competitive acquisition actions are being pursued now to address the scope of the remaining cleanup beyond 2015. This is being done by pursuing four, separate contract mechanisms, including two small business set-asides.

The scope of the four contracts was discussed in detail. The Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) will be the core contract with a five-year term from 2016 to 2020, to be awarded in the First Quarter FY2016. The Calcine Disposition and Spent Fuel Repackaging Contract will have a five-year term from 2016 to 2020 to be awarded in the Fourth Quarter FY2015. The NRC Licensed Facilities Contract has been designed to manage and operate the Spent Nuclear Fuel storage facilities under Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations for a period of four years with an option of extending for one year, from 2016 to 2020. It will be a small business set-aside contract, to be awarded in the Fourth Quarter FY2015.

The fourth contract Mr. Zimmerman described is titled "D&D and Construction" will also be a small business set-aside for a five-year ordering period from 2017 to 2021, to be awarded in the Fourth Quarter FY2016.

Mr. Zimmerman provided current solicitation information and status. With respect to the ICP Core, the Draft Performance Work Statement (PWS) was posted (Section C) on August 8, 2014. A pre-solicitation Conference, Site Tour and Industry One-on-One Session were held October 6 to 9, 2014. Draft Requests for Proposals (RFP) will be posted in December 2014. The Document Library/Exhibits are being posted. With respect to NRC Licensed Facilities, the Draft PWS was posted (Section C) on October 24, 2014. The Draft RFP Sections were posted (Sections B, C, L and M) on October 24, 2014. The Pre-solicitation Conference, Site Tour and Industry One-on-One Sessions were held October 28 to 29, 2014. The Document Library/Exhibits are being posted.

**Next Steps (ICP Core and NRC):**

- The Draft Performance Work Statement (PWS) has been posted
- The Anticipated Draft Solicitation has been issued
- Pre-Solicitation Conference/Industry meetings have been held
- Final Solicitation
- Receipt of Proposal
- Evaluations Complete
- Contract Award

Mr. Zimmerman added that DOE is addressing industry comments, such as those pertaining to cost cap issues, so that industry has broader and greater interest in these contracts.

**Contract Update Question and Answer Period**

Mr. Laflin asked how the federal government is going to deal with calcine waste at the Idaho National Laboratory without a final repository. He said there is no place to send the calcine waste. "We are marching toward a wall," he said. Mr. Zimmerman responded that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is moving forward because of the

commitments of the Settlement Agreement, but some requirements of the agreement that were predicated on the availability of a repository are not possible now. He added that we will be safe for the time being.

Senator Craig asked about the representation of potential bidders and comments on the cost cap issue. Mr. Zimmerman said there was a broad and highly negative response with respect to the cost cap. It was recognized that there was high risk and not a lot of reward. Senator Craig ask if the cost cap is a show stopper and, if so, is it being addressed. Mr. Zimmerman said that he believes DOE is on the right path to address that issue now. Cost caps are a result of a top-down approach. He said that the right balance needs to be found. There needs to be a hybrid approach that provides for shared risk. DOE plans to go through another round of comments to the RFP and deal with those comments. He said the anticipated timeline reflects this extended approach, but the schedules are challenging in order to get the final approval to release the RFP in December.

Mayor Casper said she shares Senator Craig's concerns about the possible absence of industry participation. She noted Idaho Falls depends heavily on the availability of high quality contractors. She also shares Mr. Laflin's concern about the removal of calcine waste from Idaho. Mr. Zimmerman responded that DOE is just beginning the process to put the waste in a "road ready" form. He discussed the importance of engaging with the state and the community to develop a consent-based process, adding the Settlement Agreement is approaching 20 years in age. He believes it is the right time to look at a realignment of priorities and risks because a lot has changed in terms of assumptions (such as the availability of a permanent repository).

Mr. Kotek described his prior involvement in preparing an RFP that provided for a 10-year rather than a five-year contract that worked out well for all concerned. He asked why DOE is pursuing five-year contracts. Mr. Zimmerman said he would prefer to align the contract period with the intended scope of work and that he made a run at changing timeframes, but he is encountering a well-entrenched DOE policy that precludes contracts over five years because there are too many uncertainties. He noted there will be another opportunity to make comments when the draft RFP is released in December. Mr. Kotek asked if an evaluation of five-year contracts has been conducted. Mr. Zimmerman responded that he is not aware of an analysis that supports that basis. Mr. Kotek inquired about multiple contracts creating potential interface issues. "What is DOE-Idaho doing to prepare for potential conflicts," he asked. Mr. Zimmerman said the ICP contractor will be the primary focal point to provide support to small businesses because they may not have the resources. DOE is commencing planning for the transition process.

Adm. Grossenbacher asked Mr. Zimmerman to explain various terms and concepts in his presentation. For example, he asked about the requirement in the draft RFP for the

first contract that contractors engage communities by submitting a community support plan. He also asked Mr. Zimmerman to describe the spent fuel and other materials from Fort St. Vrain and Three Mile Island (TMI) at the Idaho National Laboratory. Mr. Zimmerman explained that TMI rubble is in dry storage at the INL and while most of the material from Fort St. Vrain is in Colorado, a portion of the material at the INL is managed in static form. Adm. Grossenbacher also asked Mr. Zimmerman to clarify the intent and some of the terms in the fourth contract. Mr. Zimmerman described the intent to cap the material contained in various facilities and explained the scope is only for an interim cap. Adm. Grossenbacher asked Mr. Zimmerman about the disposition of the wastes that are being generated by the Lab now. Mr. Zimmerman said there is significant liability at the site that DOE's Office of Environmental Management ("EM") is best-suited to address. The schedule will depend on funding availability. There is a need to attacking materials that are being safely stored now but will need to be repackaged for disposition.

Senator Craig asked Mr. Zimmerman about the timetable for moving out transuranic ("TRU") waste. His response was that current plans are to resume limited shipping in 2016, in which case some of the Settlement Agreement milestones will be at risk. Chairman Sayer thanked Mr. Zimmerman for addressing the cost cap and other contract provisions and invited him to give his third presentation.

**Discussion of the U.S. Department of Energy Report "Assessment of Disposal Options for DOE-Managed High Level Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel" (John P. Zimmerman)**

Mr. Zimmerman discussed the DOE report issued in October 2014.

In his introductory comments he said there was an assumption that that a disposal facility would be available in 1998. Nothing is available now and it is not projected that a facility will be available for at least 30 years in the future. The following material is extracted directly from his presentation.

A number of circumstances have changed since 1985 following the decision to "commingle" defense and commercial waste, including the following –

- The Cold War is over and the United States is no longer producing nuclear weapons materials. Thus, the inventory of defense high level waste is finite and known.
- Defense high level waste streams are heterogeneous, existing in many different waste forms, which creates opportunities for different disposal pathways.
- The 1985 decision assumed a repository would be available in 1998 and did not envision the legal binding agreements with the States in place today to remove DOE High Level Waste (HLW) by dates certain.

## Evaluations of Technical Options for Disposal of DOE-Managed High Level Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel

Over the last year, DOE did a technical assessment, led by the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, of options for the disposal of its inventory of DOE-managed high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel (SNF). This assessment considered whether DOE-managed HLW and SNF should be disposed of with commercial SNF and HLW in one geologic repository, or whether there are advantages to developing separate geologic disposal pathways for some DOE-managed HLW and SNF. DOE analyzed several options:

- Dispose of all HLW and SNF waste, regardless of origin, in a common repository;
- Disposal of some DOE-managed HLW and SNF in a separate minded repository;
- Disposal of small waste forms in deep boreholes

## Inventory of DOE-Managed High-Level Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel

The assessment estimated that DOE-managed HLW and SNF will account for about 15 percent of the total volume of material that would be disposed of in a repository. About 80 percent of that material will be defense high-level waste.

## Recommendation to Pursue Separate Disposal Options for Some DOE-Managed High-Level Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel

The report recommends:

- DOE pursue disposal options for some DOE-managed HLW and SNF separately from commercial HLW and SNF.
- DOE pursue options that allow for flexibility in disposing of HLW and cooler DOE-managed SNF in one repository, while disposing of other DOE-managed wastes, including HLW and SNF of commercial origin and Naval SNF with higher heat output, in another repository.

The report concludes that a separate repository for DOE-managed HLW and cooler DOE-managed SNF could present fewer challenges and allow for a simpler repository design and licensing process.

## Some Small Waste Forms Could be Disposed of Using Deep Borehole Concept

The deep borehole disposal concept could potentially accommodate small waste packages, such as cesium and strontium capsules stored at Hanford. Theoretically, untreated calcine waste could also be placed in smaller waste packages and disposed of in boreholes. Under this concept, a deep borehole would be drilled at a depth of approximately five kilometers (3.1 miles), with at least three kilometers (1.9 miles) into crystalline rock formations. Waste packages would be disposed of in the lower two kilometers of the hole. Low permeability of rock and the long pathway up to the surface make this disposal concept potentially desirable.



## Key Conclusions and Recommendations

The report concludes:

- There are multiple options for disposal of DOE-managed HLW and SNF that are technically feasible and have the potential provide long-term isolation of the waste.
- There are potential programmatic advantages to a phased strategy that allows for flexibility in disposal pathways for some DOE-managed HLW and SNF.

The report recommends:

- DOE begin implementation of a phased, adaptive and consent-based strategy with development of a separate repository for some DOE-managed HLW and SNF.
- DOE retain the flexibility to consider options for disposal of smaller DOE-managed waste forms in deep boreholes rather than in a mined geologic repository.

The presentation concluded with next steps are to be determined.

## DOE Report Question and Answer Period

Senator Craig indicated there has been a lot of wheel spinning since the issuance of the report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, adding that it is difficult enough to balance consent based processes involving two major waste streams. He asked about the disposal options for Defense-related materials. The response was the exact path forward has not been determined. DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy just released a Request for Information (RFI) about the deep borehole strategy but the path forward remains to be seen.

Dr. Smith noted the continual push to find permanent solutions that so far have been unsuccessful and now it appears DOE will be pursuing two separate strategies. "Why don't we move toward stable, long-term storage," he asked. The response indicated that DOE is moving toward long-term storage. A follow-up question asked if the requirement of the Settlement Agreement would be met if a 75-year storage facility were available. The response was in the affirmative if the facility was outside of Idaho. He noted DOE has not taken any action on that possibility at this point.

Mr. Zimmerman indicated that it was outside of his scope of expertise to respond to a question from Dr. Grimes about heterogeneous waste streams at other locations but in Idaho in general they will move from a liquid state to a solid state. Mr. Kotek discussed a range of materials and their geographic disbursement, such as Navy fuel; DOE-managed fuels originating from universities and foreign sources; TMI rubble; and so forth at Hanford, Fort St. Vrain, West Valley, New York, and other locations. Mr. Zimmerman said DOE is trying to build some options and flexibility into the system. Adm. Grossenbacher asked whether commercial waste includes commercial spent nuclear fuel and Mr. Zimmerman responded that it also includes some high level waste

owned by the State of New York. There was additional discussion about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and whether it might serve as a disposal option for some of the materials under discussion. The response was that it could but that has not been locked into. Mr. Whitlock asked for clarity on the terms “theoretically” and “untreated.” Mr. Zimmerman said that the wastes would be treated, but that technically they could be suitable for direct disposal. That would need to be evaluated, adding that would appear to be a technically feasible option. He was asked how long it would take to determine. Mr. Zimmerman responded that he did not know because it would be based on other decisions that have not been determined yet.

Chairman Sayer thanked Mr. Zimmerman for his third presentation and invited him to remain for the rest of the meeting and lunch if he desired.

### **Chairman’s Recommendations and Subcommittee Discussion (Chairman Sayer/All)**

Following a brief break, Chairman Sayer reconvened the Commission meeting and invited the panel to provide feedback on the presentations. Additionally Chairman Sayer invited the subcommittee chairs to report on their activities.

#### **Research, Education and Workforce Subcommittee Discussion**

Dr. Aumeier stated that the Research, Education and Workforce Subcommittee experienced quite a bit of enthusiasm on the topics of research and economic development. Current membership has a good mix of entrepreneurs, educators and public officials, but it might grow in terms of participation. They look forward to taking actions in the next two years that will help the State of Idaho. He said he is drafting a charge to his subcommittee that include starting where LINE 1.0 left off. Some of the recommendations have been acted on already at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) with some impact. The subcommittee will expand on LINE 1.0 as it applies to CAES. One of its most visible and impactful efforts as a regional entity will be to connect with its workforce development and research missions. Inasmuch as CAES has added a representative of the University of Wyoming as a board member, his subcommittee has also included Dr. Bill Gern. He said CAES is already seeing positive impact from the modification of the consortium agreement. Dr. Aumeier added they will look on how the subcommittee can act on infrastructure recommendations such as looking at the establishment of a technology park at CAES.

Chairman Sayer congratulated Dr. Aumeier on the inclusion of a the University of Wyoming at CAES and on the subcommittee, indicating that Governor Otter has noted that in so doing CAES is becoming a regional powerhouse.

#### **Settlement Agreement Discussion**

Mr. Kotek mentioned that there is a good mix of team members on the State Policy, Outreach and Outreach Subcommittee that he and Mr. Perry co-chair. He said Mr. Zimmerman's presentation raised some questions and concerns. Mr. Kotek asked if it made sense for the LINE Commission to conduct a mid-point review of the Settlement Agreement 20 years after it was created. He said there were things that were not discussed in 1995, such as the Advanced Test Reactor. Mr. Kotek asked if adjustments are necessary. Senator Craig noted that often we fail to review to see how far we have come. He said it has been a successful agreement that was created at a moment in time. Senator Craig said it is important that we review where we are and where we need to be. Rep. Rusche said we need to be thoughtful because many Idahoans view the Settlement Agreement as a shield. He said Idahoans need to become engaged otherwise attempts to modify the Settlement Agreement may result in Idahoans being polarized. Discussion about modifications to the Settlement Agreement need to be undertaken carefully and with the collaboration of those who feel there is no need to change the agreement. Adm. Grossenbacher said there is a perspective that is not being addressed, and that is that we may need to make the shield better. He said it is about the prioritization of Rep. Rusche's comments are spot on, he said, adding there is no harm at looking at the agreement to make it stronger and intensify protection. Mayor Casper supported doing a reassessment, noting that we may be shielding ourselves from opportunity.

#### Federal Policy and Programs Subcommittee Report

Senator Craig said he is pleased to have active participants on the Federal Policy and Programs Subcommittee he chairs: Leslie Huddleston; John Revier; and David Leroy, the former U.S. Nuclear Waste Negotiator. (Note: At the meeting Dr. Howard Grimes of Idaho State University offered to serve on the subcommittee and subsequently was invited to do so.) Senator Craig said there are some interesting challenges and with the new Congress there may be new opportunities. The role of the subcommittee he chairs will be to advise the Commission and work with the Idaho congressional delegation.

#### Chairman Sayer's Report

Chairman Sayer encouraged all subcommittee chairs to bring in additional experts that will strengthen the role of each subcommittee. He said the role of the State Policy, Awareness and Outreach Subcommittee, co-chaired by Mr. Kotek and Mr. Perry, will be to bring in as many perspectives as possible. The Safety and Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee is being co-chaired by Dr. Rudin of Boise State University and Mr. Jeff Feeler, the Chief Executive Officer of US Ecology. Chairman Sayer noted that the Infrastructure Subcommittee will be merged with the Research, Education and Workforce Subcommittee, which Rep. Jeff Thompson will co-chair. Chairman Sayer extended his appreciation to the chairs. He said he is impressed by the talent that is being recruited. He asked anyone who may be interested in serving on one of the subcommittees to let him know because he is looking for different perspectives.

With respect to Mr. Kotek's suggestion to reassess the Settlement Agreement, Chairman Sayer that is important. However, he would like to move forward with the work of the subcommittees first. Chairman Sayer asked each of the subcommittees to look at the two-year calendar that was included in their briefing packets to identify the most important topics and the appropriate sequencing of those topics for the remaining eight quarterly meetings of the LINE Commission over the next two years. Chairman Sayer said we need to go back to environmental and safety issues on each occasion. Chairman Sayer referred to a recently broadcast program on PBS about Adm. Hyman Rickover during which he said to one of his colleagues that "we will not sacrifice safety for any reason." Chairman Sayer said that we have a responsibility to support the Idaho National Laboratory and its future, but we also have to make sure that we do not sacrifice environmental and human safety. For that reason, Chairman Sayer asked each chair and each subcommittee think about the top priorities to be included in the two-year calendars. More importantly, Chairman Sayer asked the chairs to think about the topics that need to be discussed and the conversations that need to occur in an open, public forum over the next two years. He asked the chairs to look at each of their subcommittee's objectives and give him feedback.

At this point Chairman Sayer invited the public to address the Commission.

### **Public Comments**

#### Paul Blacker

Dr. Paul Blacker of Meridian, Idaho indicated his tremendous respect for the work of the LINE Commission but he indicated that it is an unknown institution and for that reason outside perspectives are not getting heard (because of the lack of public awareness). He said there are tons of radioactive materials scattered throughout the nation and in Idaho. Dr. Blacker said the shield works both ways. He said there is an opportunity for Idaho to make a huge contribution to the nation. He believes it is essential to have a review (of the Settlement Agreement) as proposed by Mr. Kotek. He also said he would like to have the governor become more involved in nuclear energy by pushing these issues, as was the case with former Utah Governor Scott Matheson who dealt with uranium tailings in that state. Dr. Blacker said a lot of money has been set aside to deal with commercial spent nuclear fuel and he would like that money to come to Idaho. Those funds could be used, for example, to provide free college tuition for Idahoans. However, he added, there are legitimate environmental reasons to be mindful of. He said it is necessary for the governor to drive this process, possibly by meeting with the governors of other states where commercial spent nuclear fuel is being stored in order to seek their support for approaching Congress to locate commercial spent nuclear fuel in Idaho. Dr. Blacker said it is important to get this issue in front of the public to create awareness of the great work that is being done, including environmental protection efforts. He said he would somehow like to contribute to this effort.

Lee Barron

Mr. Lee Barron of Corral, Idaho discussed thorium reactors that use molten salt as an alternative of light water reactors favored by the commercial nuclear power industry. He said that more attention should be paid to thorium reactors because all residues will be burned up in those types of reactors. He believes more focus on this thorium reactor technology could save nuclear energy. Mr. Barron referred to a paper on this topic by Kirk Sorensen, an engineer and nuclear technologist.

After inviting additional public input, and there being no further comments, Chairman Sayer adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.