



Minutes

October 14th, 2020
Virtual Meeting

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Commission Members in Attendance: | Fred Hughes |
| Bobbi Jo Mueleman, Co-Chair | Lawrence Wasden |
| Mark Peters, Co-Chair | Steve Laflin |
| Brian Wonderlich | Joe Weismann |
| Tom Kealey | |
| Jim Woodward | |
| Paul Arrington | Staff: |
| Jess Byrne | John Revier |
| John Chatburn | Elli Brown |
| Harold Blackman | Nate Fisher Jr |
| Terry Brog | |
| Wendy Horman | |
| Rebecca Casper | |
| Scott Snyder | |
| Mark Nye | |

8:05 am Co-Chair Meuleman called the meeting to order. Welcomed new members and thanked Dr. Peters for his service to the commission.

Wasden made a unanimous consent request to approve the meeting minutes from February 6th, approved without objection.

Dr. Peters introduced Department of Energy Assistant Secretary, Rita Baranwal. She spoke to the intent of demonstrating new reactor technologies in the next 5 to 7 years. Also addressed her positive outlook on the progress at IWTU. Finally, touched on the importance of working relationships within the state, including the tribal working group.

Peters welcomed Congressman Simpson. Simpson spoke about the appropriations process, the need to find a spot for spent fuel, establish a permanent repository, the progress and growth he has seen at INL over the last 20 years: from cleaning up and closing it down to the tremendous work that is being done today.

Q: Mueleman – Do you have words of advice or ideas for commission members?

A: LINE Commission could have a role to play nationally with DOE because it shows great interest by the state. It's important for DOE is to see the support out in the real world. Its also important to educate Idahoans statewide about the lab. LINE Commission is vitally important to the people of Idaho to help them understand what the lab is doing.

Peters welcomed Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki to the commission. See document for formal remarks.

Q: Peters – can you speak to the international picture?

A: Talking about the broad and diverse support of nuclear includes the support from international partners. Fukushima was a good learning tool.

Q: Casper –You mentioned activating nontraditional allies – that resonates with me. Do you have suggestions on things we can do to cultivate these folks and communities? What kind of work is taking place?

A: Commend you for your leadership to your community, Mayor. NRC plays an important role, it sits as an appellate body. It reviews public challenges and rules – matters pending before NRC now. The dialogue by communities and states that have interim storage facilities is really about their concern for being a permanent storage site with no progress on a national storage solution. There is a better story to tell and inspire people.

Q: Peters – Can you describe the NRC’s journey related to risk

A: There are multiple ways to reach the results you are looking to achieve. Canada has decided on 5 phases for approval. NRC has not provided a standard system – early phases are not providing enough regulatory feedback on your design. Pre-licensing engagement is encouraged with each company in a public meeting. NRC does not advise but has an informal conversation to reach the outcome they are looking to achieve. Pre-engagement has been useful for industry.

Peters introduced Kemal Pasamehmetoglu to give an overview of Versatile Test Reactor (VTR). See PowerPoint.

Q: Peters – speak to the partnership with lab, university and industry.

A: Universities are helping with science/experiments, industry is helping build reactors, subcontractors (GE, Betchel), and national laboratories are providing the technical expertise, looking at the core of the reactor, etc.

Q: Casper – Do you have a timeline from construction to operation?

A: Currently starting design with CD1, pending congressional appropriations, construction is in the 2023 timeframe.

Q: Laflin – Is there a firm date for the 1st public meeting for the EIS.

A: Not yet. Will send to commission members when its available.

Mueleman – Would like John Chatburn, Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources, to highlight the state’s role with the EIS process.

Chatburn - as soon as draft EIS is released, OEMR will forward to all relevant state agencies. They will all review the EIS, OEMR will collect all comments and will combine into one document on behalf of the state.

BREAK

Mueleman introduced Doug Hunter, CEO and General Manager of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems. See PowerPoint.

Q: Peters – You mentioned opposition and off ramp period, can you speak to that criticism and provide your perspective?

A: The major concern is the cost. Construction drives that number up and we are being very conservative. We have been able to fight back on that argument by comparing it to different technologies (ex: coal). Another concern is cost over-runs. UAMPS keeps a month-by-month budget and have been very conservative – this concern stems from Plant Vogtle. Water hasn’t been an as big of an issue with our dry cooling decisions.

Q: Casper – This a challenging project to put together with all the members you must satisfy and careful nature of your members. The Idaho Falls community has a great deal for support this project. Idaho Falls Power will be taking a vote later this month. If the support is waning it has to do with cost instead of support of nuclear.

A: The commitment of money is only if the project fails. The project is well below the \$55 per mw target. UAMPS controls the failure - there is no rate recovery.

Q: Wasden - What are your plans to deal with spent nuclear fuel?

A: We signed an agreement with DOE that requires UAMPS to pay into a fund. Approximately 2 to 4 acres will be used for a NRC certified dry storage facility (concrete pad). It will be the responsibility of DOE to remove the fuel when a permanent repository is available.

Mueleman introduced Mark Brown for DOE-ID update, acting deputy director. See PowerPoint.

Public Comment Period:

Commission took public comments from Leigh Ford, Snake River Alliance, regarding the UAMPS project; Ross Deuber, also about the UAMPS project; Talia Martin, Shoshone Bannock Tribes, expression appreciation for the commission's work; Johnathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conversation League, regarding startup of IWTU; John Snyder related to VTR.

Next Meeting:

January 27th, 2021

Wasden moved to adjourn, second by Chatburn.