



Minutes

August 20, 2021

Commission Members in Attendance:	
John Wagner, Co-Chair	Tom Kealey
John Chatburn, Co-Chair	Steve Laflin
Mark Peters	Jess Byrne
Brady Hall	Fred Hughes
Rebecca Casper	Scott Snyder
Hootie Langseth	Jim Woodward
Harold Blackman	Nathan Small
Nathan Small	Mark Nye
Terry Brog	Chris Nomura
Doug Sayer	
Brian Wonderlich	
Wendy Horman	Staff:
Rick Aman	John Revier
Scott Snyder	Elli Brown
Thom Carter	Nate Fisher Jr
Rick Aman	

8:02 am Co-Chair John Chatburn called the meeting to order.

Terry Brog moved to approve May 12th 2021 minutes, Fred Hughes second. Motion approved.

Bob Boston, DOE-ID Manager, gave a DOE-ID site office update. See PowerPoint.

Q: Langseth – do you know when the environmental assessment will be released for the MARVEL reactor?

A: The timing will be fairly soon, working with headquarters now on final details.

Q: Wagner – you mentioned the Pele reactor going into the EBR-II dome. Can you give us a little more detail?

A: It's a Department of Defense Strategic Capabilities Office project (under 5 mw reactor) to provide electrical power to remote military sites. It will be a DOE authorized reactor. Start and operate it to prove concept.

Q: Laflin –After you demonstrate the start-up of MARVEL, is there a longer-term mission, programs or demonstration goals for the reactor?

A: There is a high probability for continued research and development work, but we have not looked that far out yet.

Katy Huff, Acting Assistant Secretary of Office of Nuclear Energy, gave an overview of the mission and programs at the Office of Nuclear Energy. See PowerPoint.

Q: Laflin – with the proposed reduction in funding for VTR budget, how does that impact the timeline of getting the reactor online?

A: Reduction in funding does delay the start of the project to a 2029 timeframe.

Q: Peters – Can you give us a sense how the bi-partisan infrastructure package in Congress would impact programs at NE?

A: Currently the bill includes full funding for two demonstrations outside of the NE office (within the proposed Office of Demonstration). If it becomes a reality, it would allow room in our budget to implement other priorities – sustaining existing reactors, building advanced reactors and managing spent nuclear fuel.

Q: Kealey – can you highlight the timeline for site selection for VTR?

A: Record of decision will be presented next week to Office of Nuclear Energy. Idaho National Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory are the two potential sites.

Q: Woodward – how do you define interim (interim storage of spent nuclear fuel)?

A: From a technical perspective, sometime between now and an opening of a permanent repository.

Q: Woodward - What about the efforts going into the final repository?

A: Yucca Mountain is the defined permanent repository, according to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and doesn't allow anything else to happen until the act is adjusted.

Q: Casper – Can you give us a better sense of environmental justice and energy justice? Where can we find the vision and definition?

A: DOE front office will be leading the narrative on all thing's environmental justice and energy justice.

John Wagner, INL Laboratory Director and LINE Co-Chair, gave a presentation on INL Net-Zero Initiative. See PowerPoint.

Todd Combs, Energy Environment Science and Technology Overview Associate Laboratory Director gave a program overview. See PowerPoint.

Combs moderator an Energy, Environment, Science, and Technology program panel with Shannon Bragg-Sitton, Richard Boardman and John Smart. They addressed INL programs on integrated energy systems, hydrogen and electric vehicles.

Kristy Hartman, Nuclear Energy Institute, gave an overview of state policies around the country on nuclear energy. See PowerPoint.

John Kotek, Nuclear Energy Institute, moderated a panel on state and regional opportunities for Advanced Reactors. Panelists included:

- Corey McDaniel, Idaho National Laboratory
- Matt Crozat, Nuclear Energy Institute
- Thom Carter, Utah Office of Energy Development
- Jon Cox, PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power

Topics covered addressed in the panel included opportunities and challenges to supply chain, future of energy in the region, state and federal policies.

Q: Laflin – Is there a study on the increase in baseload electricity needed as we convert fully to electric vehicles?

A: EPRI has predicted a 24% increase in load growth due to electrification.

Q: Wagner – You mentioned VA has a strategic energy plan, it might be worth exploring implementing that in Idaho. If we proceed in that direction, what would be most beneficial?

A: The plan could set some goals without being heavy handed - could there be incentives? Common sense direction? One issue that must be addressed is the difficulty to permit and build new transmission. Could consider thinking from a regional perspective.

The commission discussed exploring the possibility to develop an Idaho menu of policy updates and changes to support nuclear energy.

Connie Flohr, Idaho Cleanup Project Manager, provided a Idaho Cleanup Project update. See PowerPoint.

Q: Laflin – What happens after IWTU starts operating? What's next?

A: Estimating a broad time range of 3 to 5 years of operation to treat the materials. We don't have outage schedule developed - that will impact timing. We are evaluating the record of decision for the best plan forward after the material is treated.

Tom Kealey gave an update on the Idaho Cybersecurity Task Force, newly formed at the direction of Governor Little. Cyber Task Force information here: <https://commerce.idaho.gov/cybersecurity/>

Public Comments:

Tammy Thatcher, Idaho Falls, reminded the commission the presenters and conversations are all pro-nuclear. The commission should consider meaningful discussion beyond advanced reactor developers.

Other Items:

Next Meeting: TBD – In Boise, late January or Early February

Adjournment of meeting 1:45pm.