



MINUTES

October 12, 2022
8:30 am – 1:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:	
John Wagner, Chair	
Hootie Langseth	Steve Laflin
Mark Peters	Jess Byrne
Brady Hall	Ty Blackford
Phillip Reppert	Chris Nomura
Hootie Langseth	Rick Aman
Nancy Glenn	Rebecca Casper
Brady Hall	
Wendy Horman	
Scott Snyder	Staff:
Ty Blackford	Elli Brown
Rich Stover	Nate Fisher Jr

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 8:30 am

Laflin moved to approve the February 10th meeting meetings. Seconded by Kealey. Meeting minutes approved.

Senator Mike Crapo provided an update to the commission about updates in Washington DC and activities taking place in support of nuclear and beyond.

Wagner – There is a lot of concern in the world with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Can you speak specifically on the nuclear front and what it means for uranium supply? Any perspective on Congress action in this area?

A: We are very aware of the issue and working to get addressed, including providing adequate funding. The uranium provisions were left out of last congress bill. Involved in negotiations currently. We must reduce our reliance on China and Russia for uranium and other aspects of nuclear fuel. We must develop a uranium reserve in the US for our national security. Funding will be working through authorizations and appropriations process.

Horman – Do you have an update on the SMR funding for the Carbon Free Power Project? Its my understanding the Senate report language is not clear.

A: The language is not ideal, and we are trying to get improvements in the language as we move forward. This is something that can be considered as a year-end issue because it is funding issue.

Wagner – Can we get your perspective regarding the permitting reform conversations that are taking place – state v federal roles?

A: Permitting reform has become a highly partisan issue. It has been tied to the Build Back Better Plan and because of that there are serious hurdles to overcome. I believe it is unlikely to be addressed in this Congress, next Congress will be a new opportunity to address both parties concerns on this issue. As you know, the time delays are killing us across industries and making us less competitive and it must be addressed.

Update provided by Nuclear Energy Institute, John Kotek, Kristy Hartman and Matt Crozat- specifically related to the legislative action in congress last year, Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act and touched on specific state actions. See PowerPoint.

Bryson Wong, INL, also provided an update on how those actions impact INL. See PowerPoint.

Laflin – On the slide with the US map with nuclear activity you show 4 dots in Idaho. Can you clarify which reactors those represent?

A: Those dots include: Carbon Free Power Project, Oklo, Pele, Radiant. They could include a variety of additional dots: MARVEL, Molten Chloride Reactor Experiment, and beyond. VTR is a needed but lacking the congressional budget support.

Peters – Two broad questions: First, I agree on IRA leveling the playing field with nuclear, what are you hearing about the uptake on PTC and ITC? Second question, how do we sustain HALEU funding in the future?

A: It is too early to say how ITC and PTC will be utilized. Currently on an education road show to anyone interested in learning more.

A: I detect there is an unease with the level of detail associated with the plans that have been put forth this far related to HALEU. More detail would be necessary and appreciated. Getting HALEU for advanced reactor demonstrations can use INL fuel, which is limited. Only near-term option is to have DOE blend down fuel. There is more work to be done to build the level of confidence necessary to make the investments.

Paul Kjellander moderated the “Perspectives from Power Companies” panel. Participants included:

- Greg Strang, Idaho Power
- Bear Prairie, Idaho Falls Power
- Dick Garlish, Rocky Mountain Power
- Jason Thackston, Avista

Each company provided their companies goals, approach to advanced nuclear and potential opportunities, risk and/or barriers to include them into their portfolios in the future.

Rich Stover provided an update on the working from the State Nuclear Policy Working Group. Four recommendations will be provided to Governor Little for consideration an potential implementation.

1. *Amending Idaho code, Idaho Energy Resources Authority:* Changing verbiage in code from “renewable” to “clean”, adding nuclear and hydrogen
2. *Adding Energy Development FTE:* Adding an Economic Development focused person in OEMR.
3. *Creation of a Multi-State Collaborative:* Office of Energy and Mineral Resources establish itself as the convener of a regional collaborative including other western states interested in advanced nuclear energy development
4. *Establishment of a Workforce/Scholarship Program:* would target high school students and skilled labor in the areas of STEM and advanced energy field

Idaho Cleanup Project update was provided by Connie Flohr, Idaho Cleanup Manager.

Public Comment Period:

No public comments.

Closing Comments and Adjournment:

Chair Wagner acknowledged this election cycle will result in a few changes in the makeup of the LINE Commission: Expressed thanks to Lt Gov McGeachin, Speaker Bedke, Senator Woodward, Attorney General Wasden for their membership on the commission and interest in activity taking place at INL

Next Meeting: January 25th, Idaho State Capitol (Lincoln Auditorium)

12:24 pm the meeting was adjourned.