Western Interstate Energy Board: High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee Meeting
October 15 (Tuesday) 2013, in San Diego, CA……Ken’s notes

Wed. 8:00-8:15 AM
Welcome everyone. I’m Ken Niles, Chair of the WIEB HLRW Committee
We’ll go around the room in a minute, but I first want to welcome to several special guests:

- **Mike McBride**, from VanNess Feldman in D.C.
- **John Geesman**, former commissioner of the California Energy Commission, now partner of the Dickson-Geesman law firm in Oakland, where he is preparing briefs for the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility regarding the San Onofre situation.
- Accompanying Mr. Geesman are **Rochelle Becker**, Executive Director of ANR, and **David Wiseman**, the ANR Director of External Affairs. David is set up to video the San Onofre part of our agenda; He says he will do this so as not to intrude on our discussion.
- We welcome two new members, for whom this is their WIEB HLRW meeting: **Eletha Trujillo** (NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept.) and **Cheryl Whalen** (WA Dept. of Ecology).
- Also here is **Anne deLain Clark**, who served on this committee for about two decades. She wants to check in to make sure some of us are still alive. We appreciate her concern.
- Also here are **Cash Jaszczak** from Nye County (NV), **Rick Moore** from Eureka County, and **Richard Arnold**, from Pahrump, NV. (Richard was the tribal representative on our July visits to shutdown western reactor sites.)
- Welcome all.

Regarding our agenda……………..

- We plan to use the entire morning for two special discussions:
  - The first involves the current status of and prospects for the nation’s nuclear waste program. Mike McBride will lead and Bob Halstead will follow.
  - The second special discussion involves the rather incredible series of events at San Onofre, only about 55 miles north of here on I-5. John Geesman will discuss the events leading to the retirement of two large reactors last June, and the fallout from that decision.
- After lunch, we will focus on regular HLRW business, with shorter sessions on:
  - The July visits to western shutdown reactor sites;
  - Section 180(c), including a proposed initiative for the upcoming year, and
  - The NRC Waste Confidence GEIS and proposed rule.

We hope those items leave ample time for:

- State Roundtable reports, and
- Discussion of next steps.

Let’s now introduce ourselves: name, organization & a few words about your day job.
8:30-10:30: The National Program in Reformulation
Our first special session is the national program for high-level waste management. Since we met in April, we have had:
- New legislation introduced by the Senate Energy Committee,
- A remarkable attack on DOE from the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee, and
- A D.C. Circuit Court decision on Yucca licensing--plus of course,
- Plus, of course, the federal government shutdown, and questions about a CR for FY’14.

If anyone can sort all this out, it’s our friend Mike McBride, from VanNess Feldman. After Mike, Bob Halstead will discuss Nevada’s response. And after Bob, Jim will remind us that this could have implications for this Committee. Feel free to ask clarifying questions along the way. We want this to be a discussion, but we also want to maintain the “flow”. Mike??

Around 9:30, or when Mike’s stuff peters out……..
Bob, can you now discuss the Nevada response to all this?

Around 10:15, or when Bob’s stuff peters out……..
Jim, we were wondering how all this might affect the WIEB HLRW program.

10:30-10:45: Break
Let’s take a break for 15 minutes, after which we’ll discuss San Onofre.

10:45-12:00: The San Onofre Saga
Over the past 2 years, there has been a remarkable series of events at San Onofre, just 55 miles up I-5 from where we sit. Now, instead of license renewals for power generation into the 2040s, the San Onofre plants are retired, and decommissioning will involve shipment of reactor vessels, and SNF, and much else.

We are very lucky to have John Geesman here to explain all this to representatives from other western states. John is a former Commissioner of the CA Energy Commission, and is now partner of the Dickson-Geesman law firm in Oakland.

Thanks for coming, John. Do you prefer to entertain questions along the way, or at the end?

12:00-1:00: Lunch (provided)
Before we break for lunch, a brief word about travel expense claims……
Some of us are attending this meeting only. Others are attending both this meeting and the WIPP-TAG meeting tomorrow. The WIEB staff have some guidelines for how to handle this.
Please speak with Alaine, Richard or Jim during a break.

**1:00-1:30 Shutdown site visits**
At our April meeting, we anticipated a set of visits to shutdown reactor sites in the West, including Trojan in Oregon, and Rancho Seco and Humboldt Bay in California.

These visits were organized by DOE and their contractor, PNNL. We had advocated that state reps should be included, and DOE agreed.
So, I participated in Oregon, Joan participated in California.
Richard Arnold (as tribal rep) and Jim Wms participated at all three sites.

*You & Joan take it from there.*

**1:30-2:30 NWPA Section 180(c)**
The DOE Section 180(c) working group has been active throughout the past year. Our representatives on the Working Group have been Tammy and Carla.
We’ve allocated an hour to discuss FY’13 results and FY’14 possibilities.
Carla is going to lead this session, calling on Alaine or Jim as necessary. Carla?

*Alaine & I will make notes for Carla.*

**2:30-3:00 NRC Waste Confidence GEIS & Proposed Rule**
In June 2012, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled against NRC in NY et. al.
In response, NRC suspended all of its license extension decisions, mounted a concerted effort to prepare a “Waste Confidence Generic EIS”.
Now the GEIS and Proposed Rule are issued; comments are due Nov. 26.
Jim & Richard attended the Oct. 3 meeting in Denver.
But, due to the shutdown, two meetings in CA have been cancelled.
Jim, can you take it from there?

**3:00-3:15 Break**

**3:15-4:15 State Roundtable Reports**
The several states, then Nye County, Eureka County, Richard Arnold.

**4:15-5:00 Wrap-up**
In this last session, we need to provide thoughts regarding priorities and next steps. These may be Committee or staff responsibilities, or both.
Staff has provided a list of candidate items….and the floor is now open.

**5:00 Adjourn**
Ideas re next meeting?