

**MINUTES OF THE
HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATION AND TAX POLICY TASK FORCE**

Friday, September 19, 2003 – 12:30 p.m. – Public Meeting in Blanding

Members Present:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble, Senate Chair
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart, House Chair
Sen. Beverly Ann Evans
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Joseph G. Murray

Members Absent:

Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Patrice Arent
Sen. Greg S. Bell
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary at 538-1032.

1. Task Force Business

Chair Urquhart called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m.

2. Task Force Responsibilities and Hearing Format

The Chairs explained the responsibilities of the Task Force and reviewed the format that would be used for this public hearing.

3. Public Comment

Mr. Kelly Laws, Blanding City Council, said that in the 1970s, uranium was a viable industry. But when the price of uranium fell, nearly all of these jobs were eliminated. The IUC (International Uranium Corporation) mill is an important industry in San Juan County and it is supported by the people of Blanding and San Juan County. He said that he also supports the proposed slurry pipeline from the Atlas tailings in Moab to the IUC mill.

Mr. David Lacey, Blanding City Council, said that he supports the proposed slurry line. It would support all areas of San Juan County. The IUC mill is also a major private sector employer.

Mr. Brian Bayles, Blanding City Council, said that the IUC mill is an important part of the Blanding community. It supports various educational and community activities. He also supports the proposed slurry pipeline.

Ms. Sarah Field, citizen, Moab, commented on the presentation made earlier in the day at the IUC mill. Under the Horizon project, the mill would receive feed material that contains both transuranic and fission

products, some of which are highly mobile radioactive materials. She also said that the bond maintained by IUC for closure and post-closure would not be sufficient, due to the NRC's failure to adequately monitor this process.

Mr. Bill Love, citizen, Moab, compared the amount of hazardous waste being received in Utah to the amount of tax revenue. He said that while the amount of waste is increasing, tax revenue is declining.

Mr. Jason Groenewold, FAIR/HEAL Utah, said that in order for IUC to accept the alternate feed materials, it must be treated before it is processed. He asked whether if in the process of treatment, are additional hazardous materials being created that would not be created if the tailings were simply disposed of and if so does this create a potential environmental hazard.

Mr. Doug Allen, Monticello City Council, said that most people in the area are not environmental extremists. He said that to be energy independent, the United States will need to increase its reliance on nuclear energy.

Ms. Anna Frazier, Dine Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, said that she works with many areas in the Navajo nation with environmental concerns for the last 15 years. The way of life and the health of all Native Americans is a concern for her. She indicated that many of the Native Americans are opposed to the White Mesa Mill.

Mr. Rick Meyer, Southeastern Utah Health Department, Blanding, said that his department needs additional nurse employees. There are very few jobs for men in San Juan County.

Mr. Brett Hosler, City of Blanding, said that public safety should be the Task Force's primary concern.

Mr. Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Quality, said that with regards to document management, most of the documents received by his department are received as paper copies. He indicated that his department does not have equipment or staff to place many documents on the internet. Under GRAMA, citizens can receive copies of documents.

4. Adjourn

Chair Uquhart adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.