

Testimony by

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**Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future
U.S. Department of Energy**

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Good afternoon! My name is Carl Adrian, President and CEO of the Tri-City Development Council – known as TRIDEC.

TRIDEC is the lead economic development organization for Benton and Franklin Counties. This organization was formed in 1963, and is designated by the U.S. Department of Energy as the Community Reuse Organization for the Bi-County area.

TRIDEC has approximately 375 member companies and contractual relationships with most of the units of local government in the area.

As part of our broader economic development programs, TRIDEC has had a long history of interaction with Hanford.

During the 60's, 70's and 80's TRIDEC advocated for additional missions, and supported construction of new power reactors, including the Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station which you visited this morning.

More recently, TRIDEC has been a leader in working with the Department of Energy and Congress to ensure adequate funding is available to clean-up defense legacy wastes at all of the Weapons Complex Sites – including Hanford.

Disposal of defense waste from the various DOE sites represents a national ecosystem where individual sites such as WHIP, Idaho, Hanford and Yucca Mountain, were designated for storage of specific

types of wastes. This Nuclear Waste Policy Act ecosystem has been underway for more than 20 years!! To NOW take Yucca Mountain off the table was not part of the deal. AND, it upsets the entire nuclear waste ecosystem!

IF high level waste doesn't go to Yucca Mountain, then why should New Mexico take the low-level and TRU waste, Idaho the nuclear Navy waste, and Hanford the mixed waste? These are just three examples of this political house-of-cards!

NOW TO THE DETAILS --

1) Hanford:

- a. For 67 years our community, along with the other Weapons Complex Communities, has supported National Missions; first with World War II, then the Cold War, and now the Weapons Complex Cleanup Mission.
- b. Hanford is getting cleaned up. By 2015 the 586 square mile site will be focused on the Central Plateau; an area of approximately 75 square miles.
- c. In this community we plan to turn some of the excess land – up to 60 square miles of the 586 square miles – into an Energy Park – good for the region, good for the nation, and certainly good for DOE!
- d. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 established the need to identify the nations' waste repositories (high-level, mixed-waste, and low-level and TRU waste). Congressional amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in 1987 designated Yucca Mountain as the nation's deep-geologic, high-level nuclear waste repository. It was supposed to be operational by 1998.
- e. The 23-year history of the Yucca Mountain Project has been characterized by frequent disputes.

- f. Hanford is one of the few sites that have both Weapons Complex high-level waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel. This Site has something close to 70% of the nation's high level weapons complex waste. In addition, at Energy Northwest we have more than 560 tons of spent commercial fuel!
- g. Although you will hear from others that Yucca Mountain does not have the capacity to hold all of the nuclear waste, it can easily – and safely – handle all of the nation's weapons complex waste – and it SHOULD!

2) Confidence in the Process is imperative!

- a. I ask -- How can the Blue Ribbon Commission assure Tri-Cities residents that any solution you develop, even if adopted and implemented, will not be susceptible to the same political consequences and shenanigans as Yucca Mountain?

3) Sound Science is Critical

- a. As one reporter recently wrote, the only science currently working relative to Yucca Mountain -- is Political Science.
- b. Science, and NRC licensing, are critical to moving ahead with a solution to the nuclear waste issue. We have a situation where politics continue to get in the way of good science. Other nations such as France and Japan – have reprocessing and glassification programs in place, and they are working!

4) National Considerations

- a. Any alternative site proposed by the Blue Ribbon Commission, -- other than Yucca Mountain – will require extensive study, and will cost, at minimum, an amount equal to the \$10 billion already spent on Yucca Mountain.

- b. Any alternative to Yucca Mountain will also set the final site selection back by at least another decade, even if that decision is to keep everything where it is.

This Blue Ribbon Commission – all of you – have a tremendous challenge, and an opportunity – to move this nations' cleanup program, and our nuclear program ahead.

Your task becomes a little easier if you separate two decisions: 1) what to do with the Nation's weapons complex waste; and 2) how to close the nuclear fuel cycle of the Nation's commercial nuclear reactor program.

FINALLY -- TRIDEC recommends that we follow the law! And the law currently states that the high-level waste be buried in the deep geologic repository at Yucca Mountain!

TRIDEC also feels that the nation needs to reprocess the commercial spent nuclear fuel, closing the fuel cycle. Some of that reprocessing could be done here at Hanford – but such new nuclear programs become nearly impossible if there is no solution to the high-level waste situation. And, by-the-way, if there were nuclear fuel recycling, Yucca Mountain should be large enough to handle all the weapons complex waste, and the waste remaining after reprocessing the commercial spent nuclear fuel.

Even an Energy Park located on Hanford land that will become available by 2015, becomes questionable if the waste issue is not solved, or at least a clear path forward is identified. These last two items – reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, and an energy park – are tremendous economic development opportunities that await the outcome of your deliberations.

We cannot afford to wait another 10 – 20 – or 30 years to solve this predicament!

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