

## MINUTES

# HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, March 04, 2015
- TIME:** 1:30 PM or Upon Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Thompson, Vice Chairman Anderst, Representatives Raybould, Hartgen, Vander Woude, Nielsen, Anderson, Mendive, Trujillo, Beyeler, Chaney, Nate, Scott, Smith, Rusche, Jordan, Rubel
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Hartgen, Vander Woude, Nielsen, Rusche
- GUESTS:** Kelsey Nunez, Ken Miller, Leigh Ford, Snake River Alliance; Lou Landry, citizen; Don Hancock, SW Research and Information Center; Tom Clements, Savannah River Site Watch; Richard Morgan, citizen; Kate O'Neill, citizen; Scott Erskine, citizen
- Chairman Thompson** called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Trujillo** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Beyeler** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Beatrice Brailsford**, Nuclear Program Director, Snake River Alliance (SRA) presented to the committee the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) waste contributors and other DOE cleanup sites across America. The SRA works together with other foundations and are funded by the Community Involvement Fund of the New Mexico Community Foundation. Ms. Brailsford introduced **Don Hancock** from the Southwest Research and Information Center.
- Don Hancock**, Director, Nuclear Waste Safety Program and Administration, Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) presented WIPP's mission to dispose of defense Transuranic (TRU) waste safely through more than twenty states and safely close, decontaminate, and decommission the WIPP site beginning in about 2033 or earlier. There have been two fires, resulting in underground workers needing treatment for smoke inhalation and one worker out on disability. DOE determined 22 workers were contaminated, no medical treatment is being provided. DOE Recovery Plan schedule includes on going permit violations for several years and it is too early to estimate the total cost of reopening WIPP to once again receive shipments of TRU. Mr. Hancock introduced **Tom Clements** from Savannah River Site Watch.
- Tom Clements**, Director, Savannah River Site Watch (SRS) presented SRS legacy TRU waste problem has mostly been shipped to WIPP and newly generated TRU waste at SRS will strain WIPP capacity and impact other DOE sites. Community engagement, including a demand for no new waste, is essential and can be very effective in setting priorities at the DOE sites like INL and SRS.
- Ms. Brailsford** closed the presentation explaining the WIPP permit process and the TRU waste at STS to go to WIPP and the possible volume discrepancies.

In response to questions, **Ms. Brailsford** explained the underground pit 9 has been cleaned.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM

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Representative Thompson  
Chair

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Heidi McKay  
Secretary