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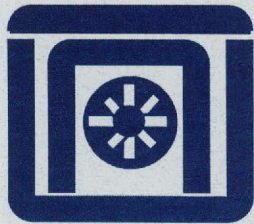
Newsletter of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority

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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

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HEARING PARTIES DESIGNATED: Discovery to Follow

A procedural order issued by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) on October 31, 1996 lists parties named to the upcoming hearings on the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority's (the Authority) license application.

Following the initial public comment hearings in Sierra Blanca on August 6 and 7, 1996, the SOAH's administrative law judges asked that persons and groups desiring party status make their requests in writing. Specification of the particular interests that could be affected by the low-level radioactive waste disposal facility was a requirement of each request. The following are automatically parties under the law: the Authority; the Executive Director of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission; and the Public Interest Counsel. The following additional parties were later designated without objection: Gloria Addington, Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund; David French; Texas Pacific Land Trust; and the Sierra Blanca Community Development Corporation.

In response to the judges' request, additional persons, governmental entities and groups asked to be assigned party status. Because some designated parties objected to these written requests, the judges scheduled hearings in both Austin and Sierra Blanca during the week of October 20, 1996 to consider individual requests. All but three of the persons requesting party status appeared at the hearings at their scheduled times.

Following three days of testimony and questions by the witnesses, the judges took the party issue under advisement. On October 31 the judges issued Order No. 10 designating the following additional parties:

- ACES (Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety)
- Border Environmental Network
- Culberson County
- Susan Curry (Alpine resident)
- City of El Paso
- County of El Paso
- Patti Godbold (Alpine resident)
- Greenpeace Mexico
- Houston Light and Power
- International Environmental Alliance of the Bravo
- Municipio de Juarez
- Donald Judd Estate (Marfa estate)
- Nuclear Information and Resource Service (Washington, D.C.)
- Gary Oliver (Marfa resident)
- Edward Patrykus (Sierra Blanca resident)
- Presidio County
- Sierra Club - El Paso Group
- Texas Utilities Electric Co.
- Albert Torres (Chihuahua resident)
- Michael Wyatt (El Paso resident)

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Special
Edition

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Public Hearing Update:
October Party Status
Hearings



Not All Granted Party Status

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Several persons and groups, including the following, were denied party status for a variety of reasons:

- Ciudad Acuña
- Senator Luis Alvarez (Chihuahua)
- Chemical Sensitive Network
- Congreso de Chihuahua
- Congreso de Coahuila
- Hudspeth County Attorney's Office
- Indian Hot Springs Ranch
- Alfredo Reza
- Cathy Baylor Rush
- San Antonio Citizens Concerned About the LLW Project
- Texas Rural Legal Aid Client's Council

The Order suggests that the parties align into groups to simplify the presentation of evidence. The parties are directed to submit proposed alignments to the judges by November 20, 1996.

The next step in the hearing process is the adoption of a schedule for discovery. Discovery includes the exchange and examination of evidence among the parties, designation of witnesses, taking of depositions and other pre-hearing matters. The discovery process could last six to nine months after which hearings will actually begin. The judges have directed the parties to submit a discovery schedule by November 20, 1996.

Neighbor To Neighbor is published monthly by the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (the Authority). The Authority is the State agency responsible for siting, constructing, operating and eventually closing a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility for the State. The Authority is headquartered in Austin, Texas and also has a field office in Sierra Blanca, Texas.

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