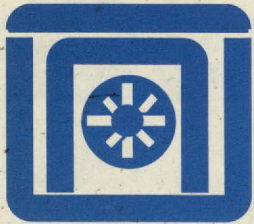


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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

September 1998



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LLW PROJECT BRIEFS

Status of Interstate Compact

Several months ago, the U.S. House and Senate approved the Texas Compact. The two chambers passed differing versions of the bill, the House text containing one amendment by Representative Lloyd Doggett, and the Senate text containing two amendments by Senator Wellstone. These actions necessitated the appointment of a joint Senate -House conference committee to resolve the differences in the bill.

On July 16, 1998, the conference committee report was filed with the clerk of the House. The report contained a completely "clean" bill, i.e. the House and Senate amendments were deleted from the bill. The House approved the conference committee report by a vote of 305 to 117. The report now moves to the Senate where it is scheduled for consideration on September 1.

Under an agreement reached by proponents and opponents of the Texas Compact, each group will be granted two hours of floor time for debate in the Senate. Following Senate passage of the conference report, the Texas Compact will be sent to President Clinton for signature.

Tigua Indian Lawsuit

The Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo (Tigua Indian Tribe) lawsuit against the Authority's general manager and board members was dismissed at the request of the Tribe. Judge Lucius D. Bunton of the federal District Court in Pecos signed an order dated July 31, 1998 granting the parties's stipulation for dismissal.

SOAH Recommends No License for Site

On July 7, the State Office of Administrative Hearings issued its proposal for decision (PFD) on the Authority's license application. Although the administrative law judges found in favor of the application on 15 of 17 main issues, they recommended denial of the application because of alleged insufficiencies in the Authority's socioeconomics study and the characterization of an inferred fault beneath the site. The Authority strongly disagrees with the negative findings and filed exceptions to the PFD on August 19, the date set for such filings. Any responses to the exceptions are due on September 4. The commissioners of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission will consider the matter at some point later in the year. The Authority is confident that it will prevail on the exceptions and that the license will be granted. 😊



Doug Bell, P.E., New Deputy General Manager



An Austin professional engineer has filled the position of deputy general manager (operations) at the Authority's Austin offices. Mr. Douglas Bell joined the Authority team on Monday, July 27. The former Radian International employee is very familiar with Texas' low-level radioactive waste disposal project, having served as project manager for the Authority's facility design contract with Radian since 1992.

"We are pleased to have Doug on our team," said Authority General Manager Rick Jacobi. "Doug has extensive experience in construction management and civil design."

Mr. Bell has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and is licensed to practice in twelve states, including Texas. His professional experience includes directing a team of 60 engineers and drafters to design the state's low-level radioactive waste disposal facility, and design of municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants, solid waste landfills, and municipal infrastructure. As a consultant he also managed design and construction projects for government and commercial clients nationwide. Other experience includes direction of projects at industrial facilities, military installations and

municipalities. Extracurricular activities include a tenure as president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (Travis Chapter) and active participation in several church/community organizations and boards of directors.

Mr. Bell has been married to his wife Diana for 32 years. They have three adult daughters and four grandchildren.

"I joined the Authority because I believe in the need for an environmentally sound site for low-level-radioactive waste disposal. As the primary designer of the facility, I know it is engineered to protect the environment of the Sierra Blanca area," stated Bell.

When asked about his goals at the Authority, his response was, "My goal is to build the (facility) and develop an organization that will operate (it) in the safest possible way for the citizens of Texas."

The Authority staff and Board of Directors welcome Doug Bell as a team member.

August Board Meeting Report

The Board of Directors of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority held its quarterly meeting in Austin, Texas on Thursday, August 13. The Board convened at 9:37 a.m., shortly after a budget committee meeting and Board workshop which began at 8:00 a.m.

The Board's first order of business was an Executive Session to discuss legal aspects of the pending license application and the Tigua Indian lawsuit against General Manager Rick Jacobi and the Board of Directors. After the executive session, the Board approved the first three action items on the agenda: minutes from the May 8, 1998 quarterly meeting, adjustments to the fiscal year 1998 budget, and the proposed fiscal year 1999 budget.

Authority Deputy General Manager Lee Mathews reported on the status of the license application and the Texas interstate compact. Mr. Mathews stated that the Authority was preparing exceptions to the administrative law judges' proposal for decision, which (were) due on August 19. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote on the Texas-Maine-Vermont compact bill on September 1. If the bill is approved by the Senate, it will be presented to President Clinton for his signature.

Authority Chief Engineer Ruben Alvarado informed Board

members of reports on existing agency contracts included in the Board packets. There were no questions from Board members.

Mr. Jacobi reported on the agency's community development, public information and quality assurance programs as well as on community meetings held in Sierra Blanca.

Ten agency contracts were approved for renewal in 1998-1999. Included were contracts with the Authority's outside legal counsel and the Sierra Blanca Volunteer Fire Department for the provision of emergency services. In addition, the Board also approved an amendment to the Hudspeth County Master Plan which will allow the payment of \$41,920.57 on the Sierra Blanca Volunteer Fire Department's fire trucks; authorization for the Authority to adopt a memorandum of understanding between the agency and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission; and Mr. Jacobi's and Mr. Mathews' financial statements.

Five people spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting. Most comments were questions regarding the cost of the Authority's outside legal counsel, appropriations procedures and the amount of money spent on licensing fees to date.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 S.B.H.S. Varsity & J.V. Volleyball vs. Valentine 4:30 PM (Valentine)	2 S.B. School Progress Reports	3	4 S.B. School Varsity Volleyball at Marfa Tournament Beta Sigma Phi Mtg. 6:00 PM (J. Elder's) (BEGINNING DAY)	5 S.B. School Varsity Volleyball at Marfa Tournament
6	7 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i>	8 S.B. School Board Mtg. 6:00 PM (Library) S.B. Varsity Volleyball vs. Balmorhea 6:00 PM (Sierra Blanca)	9 S.B. Chamber Mtg. 6:00 PM (Michael's)	10 S.B. Jr. H. Football vs. Dell City, 5:00 PM (Dell City)	11 S.B. School Varsity Football vs. Marathon 6:30 PM (S.B.)	12
13	14 Hudspeth County Commiss. Court Mtg. 9:00 AM (Crthse.) S.B. Jr. H & Varsity Vollybl. vs. Jesus Chapel 5:00 PM (J. Chpl.)	15 H.C. Water District Meeting, 5:00 PM	16 Beta Sigma Phi Mtg. 6:00 PM (Location TBA)	17	18 S.B.H.S. Volleyball vs NECA, 5:30 PM (NECA)	19 S.B.H.S. Varsity Football vs. Jesus Chapel 2:00 PM (El Paso)
20	21	22 S.B. Jr. H. Varsity Volleyball vs. Ft. Hanck. 5:00 PM (Sierra Blanca)	23 S.B. School Progress Reports	24 S.B. Jr. H. Volleyball vs. Tornillo 5:00 PM (Tornillo)	25	26 S.B. Jr. H. Volleyball Tournament
27	28 Hudspeth County Commiss. Court Mtg. 9:00 AM (Crthse.)	29	30			

Adriana Rhames and Joe Castro have resigned from their positions with the Authority. Adriana had served as public information officer for almost six years and Joe had served as engineering technician for almost ten years (the last one and a half years as field office supervisor).

Good luck to both of you.

The TLLRWDA Staff

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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TELL US ABOUT IT... 


We are working hard to provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information pertaining to our project. Please feel free to comment, ask questions and/or make suggestions:

Name/Nombre: _____

Address/Dirección: _____

Phone / Teléfono: _____

Comments/Comentario :

_____ 

 **Mail To/Envíe á:**

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COMENTARIO...** 

Deseamos ofrecerle la información mas precisa y reciente tocante a nuestro proyecto. Por favor envíenos su comentario perteneciente al proyecto y/o a este boletín de noticias.

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