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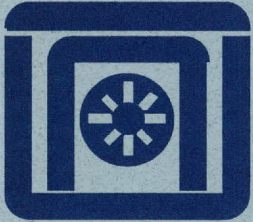
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NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

July, 1996



TESTING AT THE FASKIN SCHEDULED FOR FALL

The Faskin Ranch will host a series of testing projects for the low-level radioactive waste facility beginning this fall. Excavation of an exploratory trench and testing of a prototype trench cap and trench cover will be conducted beginning in September.

The exploratory trench excavation project is planned for the actual location of the first Class A disposal unit. This project will help the Authority evaluate the constructability and operation characteristics of the trenches. The test will also provide additional information on monitoring issues such as geotechnical procedures to predict subsurface characteristics within the disposal unit excavation area; development and evaluation of the proposed monitoring system; practices and equipment requirements for construction of the trenches including floors and sidewalls; maintenance procedures; and material stockpiling and classification processes.

A pre-bid meeting for the exploratory trench project was held on June 24. Bids are scheduled to be opened and read at the field office on July 15.

The prototype trench cap project is scheduled to begin in December. This study will provide details on the cap's performance under various precipitation levels, using different cover materials and cap designs. Such information will enable scientists to monitor the long-term performance of the cap; evaluate the performance differences between different cap designs; evaluate the long-term maintenance of the cap; ensure establishment of an effective cap cover; and develop cap construction techniques including compaction control, materials handling, and penetrations sealing.

Testing of the vegetative trench cap covers will allow for the monitoring of various vegetation growth patterns throughout different seasons and different types of rain events.

These trench cap tests will be conducted near the meteorological station and will become part of the facility's environmental monitoring program. Design plans for these projects will be prepared and opened for bidding in late fall.



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TO THE POINT

-- by Rick Jacobi, General Manager

On June 5 about 250 children from Ciudad Acuña accompanied by about 100 adults traveled to Austin to protest the construction of the low-level radioactive waste disposal site. Most of the children were unclear about why they were here or what they were protesting. Most had been indoctrinated with false information about the low-level waste project and the dangers of radioactive waste. I was truly disappointed to see young children manipulated in this way.

What the children were not told is that the Sierra Blanca site is absolutely safe. There is no way that they, or their children, or their children's grandchildren will be adversely affected by the Sierra Blanca waste disposal site.

Another thing they were not told is this: their future health and prosperity depends on the construction of the Sierra Blanca facility. That's because many important daily activities - medicine, agriculture, manufacturing, electricity - depend on radioactive material. And, when you use radioactive material, you make radioactive waste. That waste must be disposed of safely.

I know that the children of Sierra Blanca have taken the time to study both sides of the issue. They have taken the time to go to a nuclear power plant. They have toured a nuclear medicine laboratory. Their teachers have given them the opportunity to research the issue thoroughly. I commend them for that. Because, whatever position they take, either for the site or against it, they will do so intellectually and with the conviction that comes from knowledge.

Independence Day Celebration

A Fourth of July celebration will be sponsored by the Sierra Blanca Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, July 6. The event will kick off with a parade at 10:00 a.m. beginning at the Snyder residence, continuing through town and up to Michael's Restaurant then to the Hudspeth County courthouse. A flag raising ceremony and prayer will follow the parade at the courthouse front lawn.

A memorial for the late Lt. Colonel Michael Wohleking of the Texas State Guard is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Retired Army Colonel Joe Rodriguez will be the guest speaker.

A Bar-B-Que brisket dinner is scheduled for noon. Adult plates will sell for \$5.00 and child plates will sell for \$2.50.

The celebration will conclude with a fireworks finale scheduled for 9:00 p.m. near the County barn. The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor bingo and dart throw booths, plus various games ranging from egg races to the annual watermelon eating contest. ☺



Jeff Davis County Supports LLRW Interstate Compact

On Monday, June 10, 1996, the Jeff Davis County Commissioners Court passed a resolution in support of the proposed Texas low-level radioactive waste interstate compact with the states of Maine and Vermont. The fact that the compact will protect the State of Texas from becoming a national low-level waste disposal facility and will also allow Texas to maintain control over the amount of waste disposed of by Maine and

Vermont, were deciding factors in approval of this resolution.

The proposed interstate compact and the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority's license application are two separate issues. Approval or rejection of the compact by Congress will not affect the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's decision on licensing the proposed facility. ☺

JULY 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 **(Parade, Dance and Performance by Esmi Talamantes on Thursday, July 4 are sponsored by the Catholic Church's Our Lady of Miracles Group)**	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (National Holiday) Parade: 10:00 AM Dance: 9:00 PM (Esmi Talamantes)	5	6 Chamber of Commerce Independence Day Celebration
7	8 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00 AM	9 Working Group Mtg. 7:00 PM (Courthouse)	10 Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00 PM (Lina's Restaurant)	11	12	13
14	15 Trench Project Bid Opening (TLLRWDA Office)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00 AM	23	24 Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00 PM (Lina's Restaurant)	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July Working Group Meeting

A working group meeting has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9 at the Hudspeth County courthouse. The topic of discussion will be the license application and the environmental and safety analysis issued on this application. Authority Chief Engineer Ruben Alvarado is the scheduled speaker.

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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