DOE/EIS-0225

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PANTEX SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC HEARING

HELD AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

ON APRIL 25, 1996 AT 3:00 PM AND 6:00 PM

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Telephone (505) 881-3188
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12 June 1996

Dear Recipient,

Enclosed are public hearing transcripts associated with the Draft Pantex Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We will be continuing to send you transcripts from multiple sites as we receive them. Place them in your reading room with your Pantex DEIS.

If for whatever reason you have not received a copy of the DEIS, notify us and we will send you one.

Sincerely,

Rachael E. Pitts

Rachael E. Pitts
Librarian

ORIGINAL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC MEETING

STATE OF NEVADA

In the Matter of Pantex Sites)
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)

Pantex Plant Site-Wide EIS
Secured File
5/28/96
(date)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Taken on Thursday, April 25, 1996

At 3:00 p.m. And 6:00 p.m. Sessions

At Community College, Cheyenne Campus

Room 1422

Las Vegas, Nevada

Reported by: Janie L. Olsen, RPR, CCR No. 406.

1 MS. ISELL: I would like to now turn it
2 back over to Donna Bergman and open it up for further
3 questions.
4 MS. BERGMAN: Thank you very much.
5 At this time we would like to open up for
6 any questions or comments that you have concerning what
7 you've heard here today and concerning the document.
8 Do we have anyone who would like to ask a
9 question?
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. I don't
11 understand the -- each pit contains how much plutonium?
12 Am I wording that correctly?
13 DOE PANEL: You want to know --
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What is the total
15 weight of the plutonium?
16 DOE PANEL: The generic?
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
18 DOE PANEL: Number 4 pit is 6.5
19 kilograms. That is an unclassified number and generic
20 in nature.
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The states where
22 each of these other sites were located, I didn't get a
23 chance to copy down.
24 DOE PANEL: Okay. It's Hanford, which is
25 in Washington State, Kirtland Air Force Base in

1 Albuquerque, the Savannah River site near Aiken or
2 Augusta, Georgia --
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: South Carolina --
4 DOE PANEL: But it's near Aiken, South
5 Carolina, Augusta, Georgia. And then obviously the
6 fourth one being here at home and Pantex being the
7 preferred alternative.
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And Pantex is in
9 Northern Texas.
10 DOE PANEL: Texas, Amarillo, Texas. It's
11 about 17 miles east.
12 Yes. Do we have another question?
13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On the comparative
14 dose data up there, is there a reason why Hanford has NA
15 on the comparative dose data?
16 DOE PANEL: That was on the one for the
17 20,000. We're at -- Hanford cannot take all 20,000.
18 The structure that we looked at out there was the FMEF
19 building, and it could house 8,000. So on the slide
20 where there was 8,000 you saw --
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You didn't show
22 any of that.
23 DOE PANEL: Didn't I?
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. They all
25 compared the data that I -- all I saw was Hanford was

1 NA.

2 DOE PANEL: I'm sorry. I thought that

3 was in here either that or it got stuck together and

4 that's why I didn't show it. I think it got stuck

5 together, I'm sorry.

6 But you do have this one because for

7 8,000 pits you have those comparisons. It's just not

8 considered for all 20,000 because it didn't have the

9 capacity.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm afraid I'm

11 still a little ignorant on the stuff about plutonium. I

12 was curious, I don't want to know what the half life is,

13 radioactive half life, what I'd like to know is how many

14 years is this considered to be actually hazardous

15 waste?

16 DOE PANEL: It's not considered waste at

17 this time. We're looking at --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hazardous product

19 or whatever.

20 DOE PANEL: Right. So, I mean, in terms

21 of this, I think I'm a little higher than half life, the

22 half life is approximately 24,000 years. So -- but it

23 is also sort of a toxic substance too. So throughout

24 that entire time you would be considering it to be

25 hazardous material.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, if the half
2 life is 24,000 years, wouldn't the actual hazard be much
3 longer than that?
4 DOE PANEL: Yes. Because you're looking
5 at those together.
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. And you
7 don't have that number?
8 DOE PANEL: I don't have that number.
9 DOE PANEL: Ten half lives is the
10 commonly accepted --
11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ten?
12 DOE PANEL: Right. Ten half lives is
13 common, but I don't have the number off the top of my
14 head for you.
15 Any other questions?
16 I will also -- as I said, we have a
17 display over here, and it goes through the different,
18 you know, radiation points, et cetera.
19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was the
20 consideration of the maximally exposed individual at six
21 point --
22 THE REPORTER: Can you speak up. I can
23 hardly hear you.
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry.
25 Maximally exposed individual at 6.6 rem which I assume

is the forklift driver or whoever punctures this thing, if you go all the way down -- we go all the way down completely from that to the public exposure, at what distance were we planning this --

DOE PANEL: Well --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- public exposure would not be safe 100 milligrams per year, and I was wondering how we went from one number to the other just like that?

DOE PANEL: Well, because the public is considered those people who are off-site and Nevada Test Site is 17 miles across, for instance. So what you're doing is looking at something that is -- you're not -- the ability is not there to disburse this high level plutonium mechanism other than just the puncture-type thing. We are also looking at a fairly conservative accident scenario in terms of it puncturing and then actually getting out and just, you know, contaminating the immediate area. So you don't have any mechanism by which you really want to disburse this up and take it off-site. So that's why that --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 17 miles was the number I was looking for.

DOE PANEL: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Also, I believe

1 the 6 rem you're referring to was the worker; it wasn't
2 a member of the public.
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Actually, that's
4 what I said, 6.6 rem maximally exposed individual I
5 assumed to be the forklift driver who punctured the --
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.
7 DOE PANEL: And you also considered the
8 maximum exposed off-site worker but that would be
9 somebody at the Nevada Test Site.
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that person is
11 really the person hanging around for 24 hours a day?
12 DOE PANEL: Yes. That's right.
13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What would be the
14 route that you would transport this to the test site?
15 DOE PANEL: There would be several routes
16 that the department uses to get material here, and right
17 off the top of my head I don't have the specific route,
18 but we did look at those. And obviously we wouldn't be
19 telling people when we were shipping those --
20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.
21 DOE PANEL: But the one thing I do know
22 they would be precluded from, as I said, driving over
23 the dam. We did not analyze that when --
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about -- what
25 about the freeway system?

1 DOE PANEL: Yes. We would be using the
2 interstate transport.
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are these the
4 transport system routes --
5 DOE PANEL: I'm sorry --
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- highway route
7 control monitors. Would they be managed so that they
8 would fall into that category?
9 DOE PANEL: The department --
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The amount that
11 falls into a highway route control finding --
12 DOE PANEL: I'm not --
13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- they can be
14 managed such that they do not fall into the highway
15 route control formula. If they fall into that category
16 we have lots of notifications for things like that. In
17 fact, you have truck drivers in that situation that
18 would not be allowed to leave their vehicles --
19 DOE PANEL: We would be shipping these
20 with the -- with our SSTs. These are the vehicles that
21 actually are used to transport weapons and things like
22 that. The same mechanism would be used to transport
23 these things. So you know you have drivers that are
24 federal marshals and escort vehicles and all of those
25 types of things in order to transport these things.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then you would
2 then be briefed on this if they were expecting to be
3 highway routes. So my assumption is that they are not
4 at this point expecting to load anything from highway
5 routes in quantity. That doesn't have anything to do to
6 federal marshals; that has to do with notification of
7 states and --
8 DOE PANEL: But those are -- SSTs are the
9 TSD, Transportation Safety Division, who manages those
10 things have -- are working with states all the time in
11 terms of what would happen if there was an accident,
12 et cetera. So they would just simply do the same thing
13 if we were going to ship the pits, and we have shipped
14 pits in the past before between our -- and have an
15 emergency system set up in cases of emergency to contact
16 state, federal, and local officials.
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There would
18 certainly be no notification though because the
19 shipments' timing is classified --
20 DOE PANEL: Yes.
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- within the
22 state that it happened?
23 DOE PANEL: Yes.
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So the state -- to
25 be in the state which means you have to have a specific

1 route even if it is classified --

2 DOE PANEL: Yes.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- it still would

4 have to be notified, the states have to be notified?

5 DOE PANEL: Right. And the

6 Transportation Safety Division does that all the time.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many pits per

8 SST?

9 DOE PANEL: How many pits per SST.

10 Somewhere between 20 to 25 is what we're saying. So it

11 would take a while to ship these things, approximately

12 six years to ship all 20,000.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At six years

14 what's the approximate -- is that how many a week? How

15 many a month?

16 DOE PANEL: Let's see if I can remember.

17 We have different scenarios, but I think it was like one

18 shipment a week.

19 Brett, do you remember what those are?

20 DOE PANEL: The schedules are classified.

21 DOE PANEL: I think we're --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would just want

23 an idea of how long --

24 DOE PANEL: Plus if you figure the number

25 of pits, 20,000 and six years it's easy --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what --
2 DOE PANEL: And a convoy can have
3 multiple trucks in it.
4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.
5 DOE PANEL: Do we have other questions?
6 We do have for those who came in late, we
7 do have a display area next door that you might be
8 interested in concerning the AS and the AT400A packages
9 that we would encourage you to look at. We also have
10 copies of the draft EIS here if you want a copy.
11 I do want to point out that our actual
12 comment period closes July 12th, and if you will notice
13 the posterboard out here there are various mechanisms by
14 which you can give additional comments to us. We have a
15 hot line. You can fax it to us, you can mail it to us,
16 and you can E-mail it to us. So any one of those
17 mechanisms. Please feel free to --
18 DOE PANEL: All comments have equal
19 weight, whether they're made here or from one of those
20 other mechanisms.
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You don't happen
22 to have a Web site where we can access more information
23 about --
24 DOE PANEL: Not a Web but an internet.
25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You have an

1 internet address? Is that classified?
2 DOE PANEL: No. It's on the form.
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I didn't mean to
4 be -- I'm new to all this.
5 DOE PANEL: Actually, Tracy, don't we
6 have some form pages also.
7 DOE PANEL: There is generic information
8 at the Department of Energy but I don't have that.
9 DOE PANEL: I know there is one at Pantex
10 dot com that you can find for the plant, just general
11 information about Pantex.
12 DOE PANEL: There is a published address
13 book.
14 DOE PANEL: But more generic information.
15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What I wonder is
16 if I have any other questions is there an area I can tap
17 in and find frequently asked questions?
18 DOE PANEL: The same way that you send in
19 comments, and I'll give you that address after this.
20 DOE PANEL: And we have phone numbers
21 where you can call our offices and ask questions.
22 Evening session of the public meeting.
23 Start time 6:00.
24 DOE PANEL: We'd like to open up for
25 questions and comments at this point. Does anyone have

1 any questions?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many shipments

3 would come to the test site for the 8,000 versus the

4 20,000 container of pits?

5 DOE PANEL: I keep having to do this in

6 my head; I can never remember. But there are about 20

7 to 25 pits to be shipped at a time, and so, therefore,

8 it would be roughly a thousand shipments or, you know,

9 so to speak.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that would be

11 over how long, what time period is that?

12 DOE PANEL: Generally we're looking at a

13 six-year time period.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where would the

15 pits be coming from?

16 DOE PANEL: From the Pantex plant and

17 that's near Amarillo, Texas.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And do you --

19 before they get to Pantex how many places do they come

20 from to transport?

21 DOE PANEL: Well, they come from the

22 various DOD sites, from the depots and then from where

23 they're staged at, et cetera.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And if there were

25 an accident along the route, do you -- are you looking

1 at ways -- do you have any emergency response ideas, or
2 are you looking at that as --
3 DOE PANEL: As part of that is an
4 operational aspect and not as much an impact aspect, but
5 they would be shipped in what are called the safe,
6 secure transports, and that is managed by our
7 transportation safety division or safeguard division.
8 And they because they transport weapons and other
9 materials, do have those emergency response plans in
10 place with state and local governments and things like
11 that and do actually carry out exercises as simulated,
12 you know, accidents from -- as required to make sure
13 that they can meet their emergency response objectives.
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got lots of
15 questions if there's nobody else.
16 DOE PANEL: Please feel free.
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I haven't looked
18 at the AIS yet, but have you looked at -- you've looked
19 at specific transportation routes through Nevada?
20 DOE PANEL: They were evaluated, yes,
21 specific routes because we needed to do that in order to
22 look at what the exposures would be and what the
23 accident analysis would tell us. And so we used the
24 1990 census data. The EIS does not give you what the --
25 absolutely the specific routes we'd be using. We have

1 summarized that in the document.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And you'd be using

3 common carriers or contract carriers?

4 DOE PANEL: They're called safe, secure

5 trailers, and they're run out of the Albuquerque office,

6 and they are DOE employees that run that and then the

7 drivers of the truck, et cetera, are actually federal

8 marshals, et cetera, and they have escort vehicles,

9 et cetera, that go with them. And they are set up

10 normally to transport the nuclear weapons to DOD sites,

11 et cetera, but we have used them to transport pits in

12 the past.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So currently at

14 Pantex right now there's the maximum of 12,000 pits is

15 already on-site.

16 DOE PANEL: No. There are currently

17 about 9,000 pits. They are continuing the dismantlement

18 process out there. And it was when we started the EIS,

19 it was generally assumed that 2,000 dismantlements a

20 year would take place, and so by 1997 we would have the

21 12,000 pits at Pantex. But nominally we're not getting

22 to the 2,000 so they're -- right at the moment there's

23 between 8- and 9,000 at the Pantax plant.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So we're looking

25 at another year and a half before you reach maximum

capacity basically?

DOE PANEL: Nominally.

DOE PANEL: Not capacity, the authorized limit.

DOE PANEL: Right. It will take until about the year 2,000 to reach the 20,000 pits, 2004 nominally.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Depends on how many they're dismantling?

DOE PANEL: Correct.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm interested on how many pits can be held at the other sites. You said 8,000 at Hanford?

DOE PANEL: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How about Kirtland?

DOE PANEL: All of the other ones can hold up to 20,000. At the Savannah River site we're looking at the K reactor. They had some assembly bays that are now empty, essentially, and are seismically qualified warehouses, if you will.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the Kirtland Air Force Base that's in the Manzano Mountains where they already have how many stored?

DOE PANEL: At -- they don't have any

1 pits stored.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Plutonium pits --

3 DOE PANEL: Right. It was considered an

4 excess area by the DOD not too long ago, but we do not

5 have any pits stored there.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In the Manzano

7 Mountains?

8 DOE PANEL: The DOE does not.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because I've been

10 told otherwise that there was a lot of pits stored in

11 the Manzano Mountains.

12 DOE PANEL: Okay. I'll have to check on

13 that.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are the pits

15 considered high level waste or low level waste?

16 DOE PANEL: They're not considered a

17 waste. They are reserve material.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Reserve for --

19 DOE PANEL: They're reserved -- excuse

20 me?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Reserve for?

22 DOE PANEL: Reserved for the nuclear

23 weapons complex at this time.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So they could

25 be -- they're going to be stored completely so that they

1 can be reassembled if --

2 DOE PANEL: They are going to be stored

3 right now in that form and could potentially, you know,

4 go back into a weapon, but there's the storage and

5 disposition PEIS, and there's also the stop pile search

6 and management PEIS. Stop pile search and management is

7 going to look at what they need for a strategic reserve,

8 and then storage and disposition will look to see how

9 much may be declared excess in the future.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So all --

11 DOE PANEL: This is interim storage.

12 DOE PANEL: This is interim storage until

13 those other decisions can be made.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what's the

15 time, I guess -- well, the completion of those different

16 EIS's would be --

17 DOE PANEL: Supposed to be August for the

18 stockpile storage and then December for the other one,

19 for the disposition of other one; that's what they're

20 saying.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So if we -- when

22 we reach 20,000 pits dismantled -- or the pits, what is

23 that in relationship to the treaty figures or what we're

24 supposed to --

25 DOE PANEL: I believe that is enough so

1 we would meet our start two goals. Now, remember the
2 start two actually talks to delivery systems and things
3 like -- but because we are bringing them back and
4 disassembling that's roughly the equivalent.
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Has there been any
6 looks at disassembling the weapons themselves on-site
7 rather than transporting them to Pantex for
8 disassembling?
9 DOE PANEL: Not in our document. Now,
10 the stock pile search and management looked at where it
11 might relocate those assembly and disassembly missions
12 to, for instance, to Nevada Test Site, but right at the
13 moment Pantex is the preferred alternative for that
14 document. So it would continue assembly and disassembly
15 at Pantex.
16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So the technology
17 is not currently available to dismantle the weapons at
18 their various sites around the country --
19 DOE PANEL: Never has been.
20 DOE PANEL: I mean at DOD sites?
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.
22 DOE PANEL: No. The DOE has always been
23 the organization agency which produced, if you will, the
24 weapons for the DOD to use. There could be like on-site
25 maintenance that they might do that was fairly simple,

1 but DOD has never maintained the capability to really do
2 the disassembling and assembling missions.
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many tests
4 have been done in the P tunnel at NTS?
5 DOE PANEL: That I'm going to have to
6 refer to our site representatives here.
7 DOE PANEL: I really don't know the exact
8 number, but those basically have been tested for the
9 defense nuclear agency.
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So starting in the
11 P tunnel would that mean that you'd be opening it up
12 where those tests happened and taking the pits into the
13 assembly --
14 DOE PANEL: Those main tunnels back in
15 there are open so to speak, and so you could just take
16 them down there. The -- it's where the test actually
17 occurred are --
18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sealed.
19 DOE PANEL: -- sealed.
20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How far away from
21 the actual tests are they stored from the sealed area?
22 DOE PANEL: I'd have to look -- I'd have
23 to look at maps to see where they were actually placed.
24 DOE PANEL: I mean, sealed is enough that
25 there's no radiation leak into the area.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And there's been
2 studies done -- there's been studies about radiation
3 leaking out of the seal?
4 DOE PANEL: The tunnels have been used
5 and there's been workers in there. So there are survey
6 done.
7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How about the
8 device assembly facility, what kind of place is that
9 where the other pits are?
10 DOE PANEL: It's basically a
11 multi-structure facility. You have an assembly cell
12 similar to what you have in Pantex. There are some,
13 what we call, assembly base, some of which are -- some
14 of the assembly base that are Pantex. You've got some
15 high base structures which are like an assembly bay on
16 they're about twice the length. You've got some stagi
17 bunkers where you would stage material and
18 administrative facilities plus there's other support
19 facilities there, some spare generators and boilers.
20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, one concer
21 that I'd like to state is in your risk assessment,
22 basing that on 1990 census figures I think is grossly --
23 because Las Vegas itself has changed so much in the past
24 six years, I think that -- I don't know what the -- what
25 the growth rate has been, but I think that the 1990

1 census figures probably aren't -- aren't the -- what?
2 DOE PANEL: The ones to use?
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.
4 DOE PANEL: Well, almost every city can
5 test their city's numbers, but basically that provides
6 us a common basis for analysis throughout the EIS
7 bearing in mind that what's true today is going to be
8 different next year and so forth. So that's typically
9 used to provide a common baseline.
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, again, I'd
11 like to just state it as a concern.
12 DOE PANEL: Understand, and we'll take
13 that under consideration.
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The other thing is
15 during the risk assessment for transportation, was this
16 the thousand shipments over a six year period, was there
17 any cumulative studies done on how that might impact
18 with other shipments of waste proposed and currently
19 planned through Nevada in terms of a cumulative impact
20 risk assessment?
21 DOE PANEL: Well, there wasn't, no, a
22 cumulative because we don't know, for instance, all of
23 the things coming to the Nevada Test Site. But let me
24 turn this over to Ellen for just a moment.
25 DOE PANEL: In our final EIS we're

1 looking at that cumulative impact in our risk assessment
2 because we at the site have a better feeling for what
3 comes into the site not only in the way of waste or
4 these potential materials but all the other programs out
5 there that are proposing actions for the NTS as part of
6 our expanded use alternative. We've looked at that
7 whole picture to make sure that that analysis is done.
8 So we have done that. That will be in our final EIS.
9 Right now in our draft we have noted as
10 comments from the public as well as internal comments
11 that we did not really provide enough information to the
12 public on the movement of the defense materials.
13 Everyone here was very focused on waste and so the
14 defense materials kind of fell to the background, but
15 the final we're going to be bringing that out more and
16 explaining that a little better.
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What would you say
18 are the amount of shipments at this time per week into
19 the Nevada Test Site, the waste?
20 DOE PANEL: I'd have to look it up in the
21 document right now.
22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have an
23 approximate?
24 DOE PANEL: No, I don't. I don't know
25 that it's steady every week. We could probably come up

1 with an average and I'm sure that's what it would
2 consist of is the average.
3 DOE PANEL: Last year the average was 19
4 a week, my understanding based on a figure of 960
5 shipments through Clark County at least.
6 DOE PANEL: Yeah. I've heard that it's
7 gone down a bit since last year. That's -- it could go
8 back up again. So 19 is probably a good number.
9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And can you tell
10 me where, or you might know this anyway, is where the
11 shipments come from currently?
12 DOE PANEL: The shipments to the test
13 site? Within our EIS we've identified all of the
14 generators that are approved to ship waste to the Nevada
15 Test Site. Those are already DOE facilities within the
16 complex nationwide. Bernald right now, I think, is
17 shipping some of their restoration waste and the
18 majority of the waste that comes to the test site is
19 exactly that. It's the resulting parts and pieces from
20 decommissioning activities or restoration activities at
21 other sites where they'll scoop up the dirt, box it up
22 in DOT approved containers and ship it via common
23 carrier.
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have like a
25 list or something of places where it's coming from?

1 DOE PANEL: Yes, I do. I can provide you
2 with that. If I can get your name after the meeting --
3 DOE PANEL: She asked to get a list of
4 where it's coming from?
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because I know
6 that some is coming from Rocky Flats.
7 DOE PANEL: We were receiving waste from
8 Rocky Flats. I don't know if we're actually receiving
9 any right now. Various facilities will come in with
10 different waste streams through time. Maybe they're
11 cleaning up some dirt over here. This year or next year
12 they're decontaminating, decommissioning a facility. So
13 every time a new waste treatment comes forward it has to
14 be characterized, audited, and approved before they can
15 actually consider shipping.
16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there -- are
17 currently any waste by-products involved that result
18 from the disassembling process?
19 DOE PANEL: From the disassembling
20 process, yes.
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Any nuclear waste
22 by-products or radioactive waste?
23 DOE PANEL: Yes. There is low-level
24 mixed waste and hazardous waste that are a result of the
25 disassembly activities.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And is that waste
2 studied in this EIS?
3 DOE PANEL: We have looked at that and
4 have looked at it as part of the waste management
5 activities at the Pantex site.
6 DOE PANEL: And the Pantex waste streams
7 that are generated that come to the Nevada Test Site are
8 discussed in our EIS. I think mostly you're sending us
9 gloves and DEs and basic things that people in the lab
10 or in the facilities are using in the handling or
11 whatever you guys do; that's the waste that comes to us
12 from Pantex, and we discuss that in EIS.
13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So are most of the
14 by-products stored on-site at Pantex?
15 DOE PANEL: Yes.
16 DOE PANEL: We do have a waste management
17 system that does talk about our low-level mixed waste
18 and, in fact, one of those facilities that I showed was
19 a hazardous waste treatment processing facility so that
20 we can meet the land disposable requirements --
21 restrictions. Thank you.
22 DOE PANEL: Does anyone else -- would
23 anyone else like to ask any questions?
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So for the -- what
25 is keeping -- right now what is keeping Pantex from

1 going ahead and getting the okay to store the 20,000
2 pits?
3 DOE PANEL: What it was was in 1994 they
4 did an environmental assessment, and as part of that
5 assessment they looked at storing 20,000 pits there.
6 What happened at the time is we got public feedback back
7 that said we really want you to look at the storage of
8 components in much greater detail than you do in the
9 EA. So the secretary committed to the governor of the
10 State of Texas that we would do that based upon a
11 nominal 2,000 weapon dismantlement a year, and he said
12 okay we can do an EIS in three years. They set a limit
13 at 12,000 pits.
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And so that was
15 based on the -- the 12,000 pits you decided not to go
16 above that based upon the radiation level differences
17 or?
18 DOE PANEL: No. It was a commitment to
19 sort of the state holders in that area that we would
20 look at this in greater detail than what you might do in
21 an EA. One of the other sort of public feedback that we
22 got from scoping is they wanted us to look at more
23 sites, DOD sites, that might be capable of storing these
24 pits. So because of that we set the limit at 12,000
25 based upon -- okay, we had about 6,000 pits already.

1 Then 2,000 pits a year, takes three years to do an EIS,
2 the limit was set at 12,000.
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Has there been any
4 look at long-term storage, you know, if we decide to not
5 use the material any more and to --
6 DOE PANEL: That is being looked at as
7 part of the storage unit on disposition problematic
8 EIS. So they're going to look at long-term storage and
9 the disposition of both plutonium and highly enriched
10 uranium. That's where it is. Ours was really an
11 interim document until these other ones could make
12 decisions on them, and at the time it was considered
13 that we needed that interim decision. But now the rods
14 for those will either be before ours or in conjunction
15 with us so there's a coordinated decision-making process
16 on the storage of this material.
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When -- what is
18 the length of time people deciding on where they're
19 going to go? I mean, like, are there pits being waited
20 to be stored somewhere, or, you know, what's the time
21 that this has to be figured out by?
22 DOE PANEL: Well, in general, essentially
23 for the Pantex plant, it's before we reach 12,000 pits
24 there, and sort of a time period otherwise we will have
25 to shut down the dismantlement process at Pantex.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many pits are
2 ready to be stored right now that aren't -- that want to
3 be decommissioned so that they can be stored somewhere?
4 How many weapons are ready to be dismantled?
5 DOE PANEL: There's nothing waiting.
6 They're automatically being stored at Pantex because
7 they're still allowed to store 3,000 more before they'll
8 be cut off. So nothing is waiting. It's all being
9 automatically being put into bunkers at Pantex.
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Have there been
11 any accidents from the transportation to Pantex from the
12 DOD sites?
13 DOE PANEL: No. Actually, the TSD has a
14 very good safety record. It's something like 75 million
15 miles without any disbursal accidents.
16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I ask
17 specifically about the outreach to Las Vegas. I just
18 found out about this this morning in the newspaper so I
19 had no prior knowledge that this was going to happen.
20 What kind of outreach has gone on in Las Vegas?
21 DOE PANEL: Well, we have a mailing list
22 from the Nevada Test Site that we used primarily to mail
23 out to elected officials, local state holders, interest
24 groups, things like that. Are you involved in any of
25 those?

1 DOE PANEL: We also had the federal
2 register notice that went out. We did place ad copies
3 in, I believe, the Sunday paper, and we also had a press
4 release that went out too and was distributed to the
5 community. So those are the type of outreaches that we
6 have done.
7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think I'm on the
8 DC -- I moved here from DC, so I was at the original SSM
9 hearing in DC, but I never -- I went to the past two DOE
10 EIS -- NTS EIS meetings.
11 DOE PANEL: Did you get on the mailing
12 list through that?
13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, but I
14 haven't received anything yet.
15 DOE PANEL: By registering tonight you'll
16 be part of ours.
17 DOE PANEL: You know, I will have to say
18 that we didn't do -- have a mailing go out, but I have
19 received in my office yesterday about 20 returns because
20 of addresses or people not being at those particular
21 addresses. So we're looking at that.
22 DOE PANEL: The mailing list included all
23 people who have attended the scoping meeting that was
24 held here almost two years ago now and also any people
25 that have since that time expressed an interest in

1 getting a copy of the documents, almost 7,000 people.
2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nationwide?
3 DOE PANEL: I'm sorry?
4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 7,000 nationwide.
5 DOE PANEL: Basically five sites.
6 Nationwide, yes, but essentially the responses came from
7 these particular sites that were being looked at.
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there something
9 that has a list of DOD sites that are decommissioning
10 weapons, where they're located?
11 DOE PANEL: No. Those -- that's
12 essentially classified information. But what it is is
13 the Pantex receives everything. There isn't any other
14 place that does assembly, disassembly, but from where
15 those weapons are coming from that's classified
16 information.
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you talk at
18 all about water usage and where for the dismantlement of
19 the 20,000 pits at Pantex?
20 DOE PANEL: Yes, I can. I don't remember
21 right at the moment where the water usage is but --
22 DOE PANEL: It's in the water quality
23 section.
24 DOE PANEL: Yeah, it's in the water
25 quality section, and right after this we can look it up

1 for you.

2 DOE PANEL: Section 4.5.

3 DOE PANEL: There's a table in there that

4 it has it up at the top.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That would be in

6 volume one?

7 DOE PANEL: Yes.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 4.5?

9 DOE PANEL: Yes. Some people have these

10 sections memorized.

11 DOE PANEL: It's 4.6.

12 DOE PANEL: That's not a page number;

13 that's a section number.

14 DOE PANEL: 4-79.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So has -- this was

16 addressed at the local hearing in Amarillo, water usage?

17 DOE PANEL: Yes. We just had the joint

18 public hearings for the stock pile and management, the

19 storage and disposition, and Pantex site --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All three of those

21 or --

22 DOE PANEL: -- at Pantex, all three at

23 the same time Monday and Tuesday of this week and water

24 usage is an issue there.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But the Pantex

1 plant feels that there is enough water to disassemble
2 the entire 20,000?
3 DOE PANEL: Yes. Now water usage is
4 always an issue because it's an agricultural region and
5 looking at draw down of the overall, but Pantex is not a
6 huge percentage of the water usage in that area.
7 Agriculture is the major water usage there.
8 Do you have any other questions?
9 Maybe what we can do is break for about
10 ten minutes or so and again take some of you over to our
11 display area and show you a little more of the
12 videotapes, et cetera.
13 (Short break.)
14 DOE PANEL: We're going to get started
15 again if you have any more --
16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. Was there
17 another prepared --
18 DOE PANEL: No. Just a little break
19 because we knew you were looking at the documents. Just
20 wanted to give you an opportunity to gather your
21 thoughts in case you had some more questions or
22 comments.
23 (7:30 p.m. Session.)
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's the
25 difference between continuing the current mission and no

1 action?

2 DOE PANEL: They're very similar except

3 the no action says that once you get to 12,000 pits you

4 shut down the dismantlement operations out there because

5 you cannot store any more than that, and you could not

6 transport them away from the site because that's the

7 alternative. So that's really what is looked at in no

8 action.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What routes do

10 you -- how many containers would be on a particular

11 vehicle on a truck?

12 DOE PANEL: We have evaluated nominal of

13 20 to 25 containers on an SST.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And is this

15 legal -- are they legal weight?

16 DOE PANEL: It's my understanding that

17 they are over-the-road requirements.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What routes would

19 you use?

20 DOE PANEL: I can't tell you right at the

21 moment exactly which routes they are, but we've

22 summarized them in the document, and one thing I can

23 tell you is they would not go over the dam, so to speak,

24 but we can get that information for you sort of which

25 routes would be used.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you have a copy
2 of the -- your handouts?
3 DOE PANEL: Yes. We have a copy of our
4 handouts. ,We also have copies of the EIS. Would you
5 like more than one?
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, I do.
7 My name is Russell Dibartolo, and it's
8 D-i-b-a-r-t-o-l-o. I'm with the Clark County, Nevada
9 Department of Comprehensive Planning, Nuclear Waste
10 Division. And my particular area has to do with impact
11 assessment and review of Department of Energy impact
12 assessments or impact -- environmental impact statement
13 activities.
14 One of the major things that we have
15 found with a number of Department of Energy EIS's or
16 environmental assessments is that we feel that they
17 unrealistically limit their regions of influence that
18 are studied. If you studied, for instance, the Nevada
19 Test Site within a 50 mile radius you are leaving out
20 with regard to any potential impacts or risks over a
21 million people or two-thirds of the population of the
22 State of Nevada when you're dealing with shipments to
23 the Nevada Test Site.
24 So one of the major requests we would
25 have of you, the individuals preparing this particular

1 EIS and others within the DOE complex, is that you take
2 a very good look at the space between the sites. The
3 areas between the sites in this case is the Clark County
4 metropolitan area also known as the Las Vegas valley
5 metropolitan area.
6 We're primarily concerned with the
7 routing of this material. There are certain areas in
8 Clark County that we know of that are very high in
9 accident rates. We know that there are a number of
10 areas in Clark County where there's construction
11 anticipated on major -- on the interstate and U.S.
12 highways. This construction program to last about ten
13 years. We know there's a high correlation between
14 construction, congestion, and accidents, and we would
15 like you to take that into account.
16 We also, depending upon the number of
17 shipments and nature of the shipments, we also are
18 concerned here with perceptions of risk and possible
19 consequences of that on the tourism industry. This is
20 how -- this is the mainstay of Nevada economy, and if
21 there were to be an incident or accidents on the
22 interstate, especially near The Strip, this could have
23 various severe consequences, economic consequences.
24 With regard to environmental justice, if
25 you're shipping by -- through the interstate, or if you

1 happen to use rail, both the interstate and the rail go
2 along about the same route, more than 38 percent of the
3 minority population of Clark County lives within half
4 mile of either of those routes. And so the impacts or
5 risks might be a little bit higher since -- let me back
6 up. 38 percent of the population along the railroad and
7 the interstate is minority or low income. In Clark
8 County the minority, low-income percentage is 11. So
9 there's a substantial difference between the minority,
10 low-income population along the routes and the general
11 minority, low-income population of Clark County.
12 What we -- and the reason I'm here now is
13 that we have -- we were surprised by this meeting.
14 Maybe there were -- maybe there was public information
15 or scheduling announcement that we missed, but we would
16 like to have the Department of Energy no matter whether
17 it's Pantex or has to do with the people that are doing
18 NTS, EIS or any of the EIS's where Nevada Test Site is
19 involved, we would like to have a mechanism set up
20 whereby Department of Energy representatives and
21 representatives of local governments that may be
22 affected like Clark County can meet so that we can have
23 a briefing so that we can prepare ourselves for
24 statements which in many cases might be statements of
25 support given that certain mitigation measures are taken

1 or at least addressed.

2 And at this point I'd like to request a

3 meeting among the management of Clark County, probably

4 the Director of Comprehensive Planning, County Manager,

5 and so on and representatives of Pantex to give us more

6 detailed information. And I would like to also to

7 request in your institutional program that there be

8 periodic updates with identified state holders or units

9 of local government that are affected.

10 DOE PANEL: Yes. I think that that can

11 be arranged. I know that there's a request to meet with

12 the PBC, the State's advisory board, and we would be

13 doing that in June time frame so we would be more than

14 happy to come and meet with you at that time.

15 MR. DIBARTOLO: You should also know that

16 the Nevada Test Site has established for their EIS

17 process a transportation advisory group, and within that

18 group is a smaller subgroup or team that's called a

19 protocol working group. This particular working group

20 has already provided recommendations and census

21 recommendations among a number of local governments and

22 other interested individuals or groups that have already

23 been sent to the Department of Energy prior to the

24 comment deadline.

25 They are already working and addressing

1 this, and this particular protocol working group or
2 transportation advisory group has turned out to be a
3 very good vehicle for our interactions. That's the
4 route that we're -- it's Frank DiSanza who is head of
5 that program. It's D-i-S-a-n-z-a. He works with DOE
6 Nevada, and he has -- they have staff and brought
7 together that group. That group meets on an as-needed
8 basis, generally once every two months. The
9 transportation advisory group meets usually about once
10 every quarter, and that's been going on for probably a
11 little bit more than a year.
12 And it came up for shipments such as
13 this. There were shipments that were planned to come in
14 through North Las Vegas. North Las Vegas by accident
15 heard about them. Turns out that they were just a very
16 few shipments going to the test site cutting across
17 Craig Road, which is a convenient way to get from -- if
18 you're going south on I-15 and you go north on U.S. 95;
19 it's a very good cut-off.
20 North Las Vegas officials became very
21 concerned about that, and I was working at the
22 university then as a consultant and was brought in to
23 help facilitate meetings. And from that and from the
24 need that was seen for that we developed this
25 transportation advisory group, and it has worked very

1 well.

2 DOE PANEL: We would be very happy to

3 maintain contact with them, and the first step would be

4 to make sure that they get a copy of our EIS for review

5 and continue that interaction.

6 MR. DIBARTOLO: What is the -- is there a

7 comment deadline on this?

8 DOE PANEL: July 12th.

9 MR. DIBARTOLO: That meets my statement.

10 DOE PANEL: Did you have any other

11 responses, and we'll give you our EIS also?

12 So other than identifying the different

13 transportation routes I think that was possibly one of

14 the major considerations that you had, and, of course,

15 at the moment the Pantex plant is the preferred

16 alternative to our document.

17 MR. DIBARTOLO: And the other major

18 concern is the ongoing -- the initial interaction and

19 the ongoing mechanism for ongoing communication, that

20 clear communication makes things a lot easier on both

21 sides.

22 The person that you might address any

23 correspondence to with regard to establishing a meeting

24 with Clark County is Richard Holmes, H-o-l-m-e-s. He's

25 the director of the Department of Comprehensive Planning

1 for Clark County. His telephone number is area code
2 702, 455-5175.
3 DOE PANEL: Okay. Thank you very much.
4 We do appreciate it.
5 MR. DIBARTOLO: Thank you for the
6 presentation.
7 (Thereupon the proceedings were
8 adjourned at 8:45 p.m.)
9 * * * * *
10 ATTEST: Full, true and accurate transcript of
11 proceedings.
12
13 Janie L. Olsen, RPR, CCR No. 406
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