

MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

February 2, 1988

Fernwood Middle School Cafetorium

Committee Members Present: Larry Cooper, Tom DeJardin, Jim Gardner, Gary Hansen, Sharron Kelley, Corky Kirkpatrick, George Van Bergen

Other Councilors Present: David Knowles

Staff Members Present: Rich Owings, Dan Cooper, Ray Phelps, Bob Applegate, Debbie Gorham, Sandy Gurkewitz, Judith Mandt, Ray Barker

1. Public Testimony on Metro's Landfill Options

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Chair Hansen briefly explained the format to be used for the meeting. The Committee would take testimony on each of the landfill options. Mr. Rick Daniels, Waste Management, would give a brief update on the status of the Arlington landfill. Then the Helvetia/Mountaindale Preservation Coalition, Inc., would give a 45 minute presentation.

Chair Hansen said Oregon House Bill 662 set the landfill process in motion and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) developed landfill siting criteria. Chair Hansen said Metro had assessed other solid waste options. Chair Hansen said the Metro Council, after five years of research, was at a pivotal point and would decide, of the various options available, which option to choose for solid waste disposal.

Mr. Rick Daniels, Waste Management; said they had a land permit from Columbia County and a permit hearing would be scheduled by DEQ for February 18, 1988. Mr. Daniels said they had submitted to Metro a guaranteed bid bond and that clear and definite numbers were stated. The Arlington landfill option was ready to go, he felt. On the other hand, he said, the Bacona Road option was suspect because of unfavorable environmental reports and inaccurate financial predictions. He thought the leachate treatment proposed for Bacona Road unwise. He

Feb 2, 1988
SWC

compared transportation costs and other factors and concluded that an out-of-region landfill was superior to the Bacona Road site.

Mr. Carl Long, Regional Manager of Investigative Development for Union Pacific Railroad; corroborated Mr. Daniel's testimony with regard to transportation costs.

Ms. Linda Peters, Helvetia/Mountaindale Preservation Coalition, Inc.; gave the opening statement for the group. Ms. Peters showed slides of the Bacona Road area. She said the proposed landfill would contaminate the area's groundwater. Ms. Peters showed the Committee a three-dimensional scale model of the proposed Bacona Road site which demonstrated why a landfill would be unfeasible because of geographical considerations. Ms. Peters said waterfalls in the area lead into Pebble Creek. She said a landfill sited in this location would adversely affect residential drinking water. Ms. Peters then introduced Mr. Mike Edera.

Mr. Mike Edera, Route 1, Box 232E, Banks; discussed weather factors to be considered in relation to the proposed site. Slides shown displayed the heavy snowfall the area receives. Mr. Edera said extreme snowfall, rainfall and extreme dryness which would include the hazard of fire, were all possible conditions for the area. Mr. Edera said he felt the DEQ analysis of weather-related conditions and factors to be accurate. Mr. Edera said the DEQ analysis was not mentioned in Metro staff reports or included in cost estimates.

Mr. Carl Cunningham, HCR C1, Box 510, Buxton; discussed transportation concerns in relation to the proposed Bacona Road landfill. He said he had been the Director of Research for the Department of Transportation for the State of Illinois. Mr. Cunningham said the mix of heavy and light traffic that would result because of a landfill would not be suitable for the area and there were high grades that would be difficult for haulers to drive their vehicles.

Mr. Robert Gaudin, Senior Economist, Western Economic Services; said there was no certainty that the proposed Bacona Road site would succeed financially. He did not think that Metro staff financial analysis was correct.

Mr. Greg Brown, Cornelius; discussed the technical feasibility of the site. He said DEQ's testimony differed from Metro's data. He said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended a 404 permit which would mean avoiding the wetlands completely. Mr. Brown discussed groundwater and the Coalition's concerns about leachate. Chair Hansen and Mr. Brown debated whether legal feasibility, the subject of the next and last Coalition presentation, should be discussed.

COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

February 2, 1988

Page 3

Chair Hansen said the 45 minutes allocated the Helvetia/Mountaindale Preservation Coalition's testimony were over. Chair Hansen said there were too many people present at the meeting who wished to give testimony to allow the Coalition more time. Chair Hansen said if there was time remaining in the meeting, the Coalition could complete their testimony.

Mr. Dale Jurich, Route 1, Box 1, Cornelius; said he had no connection with the Helvetia/Mountaindale Preservation Coalition, Inc., but that he strongly opposed any landfill with monofill. He urged the Committee to withdraw Bacona Road as a possible dumpsite. Mr. Jurich said he personally would pay for a campaign against the Bacona Road site if necessary.

Mr. Ken Lewis, Tualatin Valley Economic Development Corporation; said he was alarmed by Metro's loose cost analyses and the possibility of contaminated seepage into the Tualatin River.

Mr. E.J. (Ed) Sullivan, Mitchell, Lang & Smith; gave the Helvetia/Mountaindale Preservation Coalition's presentation on legal feasibility. Ms. Ellen Saunders, Box 35, Manning, deferred her testimony so Mr. Sullivan would be able to give the Coalition's final presentation.

Ms. Ione Pilot, HCR61, Box 3, Buxton; said Bacona Road residents were not the only opponents to the proposed landfill site; she said the new road to access it would be across the street from her residence. She said she was angered responsible people would select such a dangerous site.

Mr. Steve Misner, Rt. 1, Box 222B, Banks; was concerned because he had heard no discussion of how any future problems would be solved once the landfill was in place. He felt Waste Management Systems provided the best option for a landfill. He urged the Committee to vote to send waste to Eastern Oregon.

Chair Hansen called for a recess at 7:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

2. Public Testimony on Metro's Alternative Technology Options

Mr. Alfred A. Mikalow, N.W. Astronomy Group; said his organization plans to build a telescope in Vernonia which would overlook the proposed landfill site. Mr. Mikalow said the increased lighting, particulate matter, gasses, and thermal updrafts from the proposed landfill would affect the effectiveness of the telescope. He said the new telescope would be a drawing card for high-tech industries and that

the loss of Hamill Observatory would deprive school children of hands-on experience with the telescope.

Mr. Ted Stanwood, Health Impact Review Panel Oversight Committee; testified on both landfill and alternative technology options. Mr. Stanwood said the burner option was not appropriate for Columbia County, Metro or the region as a whole. Mr. Stanwood said composting, recycling and burning by themselves would not solve the issue of how to dispose of solid waste, but landfilling would. Mr. Stanwood strongly recommended the proposed Arlington landfill site. He recommended monitoring other areas of the country that have built burners.

Mr. Walt Larson, 34355 Bennett Road; concurred with Mr. Stanwood's testimony and agreed with the conclusions of the Health Impact Review Panel's report.

Mr. James Aiello, Director, Government Affairs, Combustion Engineering; said after rigorous bidding Combustion Engineering was selected by Metro and was required to look at potential Columbia County sites. Mr. Aiello said the Health Impact Review Panel's report was not an assessment but a qualitative management recommendation. Mr. Aiello said Combustion Engineering could provide specific data if an actual site were selected.

Dr. Alvin J. Greenberg, President, Risk Science Associates; said the Health Impact Review Panel's report was not a risk assessment document, but rather, a risk management document. He said the report confuses the words safe and unsafe. Dr. Greenberg submitted his written assessment of the Health Impact Review Panel's report to the Committee.

Mr. Michael Hartman, Manager, Environmental Affairs, Combustion Engineering; asked the Committee not to make any conclusions before they had all the facts before them.

Mr. Robert Smith, Chairman, Columbia Group of the Sierra Club; opposed the burner because of air emissions which would enter the air shed. He said burners were not resource recovery facilities. Mr. Smith said burners generate hazardous emissions, ash disposal was difficult, and resources are not fully utilized. He urged the Committee to put their efforts into recycling and other technologies.

Ms. Judy Dehen, Solid Waste Issues Coordinator, Columbia Group of the Sierra Club; submitted written testimony to the Committee and of the three landfill options; Arlington, Wildwood and Bacona Road, recommended the proposed Arlington site. Ms. Dehen also recommended the Committee continue the recycling program and pursue a composting plant option.

Ms. Marion Griffith, 3042 N.E. 12th Ave.; urged the Committee to pursue all recycling options possible. She said she sells her recyclables and uses those funds to feed the homeless. Ms. Griffith passed out copies of an article from the March/April 1985 issue of Sierra magazine entitled "Toxics and Male Sterility." Ms. Griffith said the proposed burner would cause male sterility.

Ms. Barbara Iverson, 485 N.E. 20th Drive, Gresham; said the public has a limited forum compared to a company such as Combustion Engineering which is able to advertise. Ms. Iverson said the cost of building a burner would be extremely expensive and was concerned about the toxic effects. Ms. Iverson said building a refuse-derived facility (RDF) would show disrespect for the people of the region. She urged the Committee to site a composting facility, to aggressively recycle, and said that mandatory recycling could be an option. She urged the Committee to pick the proposed Arlington site.

Mr. Austin Collins, 3125 N.E. Schuylerst, Portland; praised the Solid Waste Committee for their patience and hard work. He opposed the proposed burner and said we could dispense with most plastics now in use for packaging.

Ms. Jeanne Roy, Recycling Advocates; said it was time to take a stand against the burner because it would discourage recycling. She did not think the energy gained from a burner would be worth the cost. Ms. Roy suggested alternatives to the burner including instituting economic incentives for recyclers at disposal sites.

Mr. Charles Treinen, 2214 S.E. Ladd, Portland; urged the Committee to vote against the burner.

Mr. Russ Farrell, 3144 N.E. 43rd, Portland; suggested the burner proposal be placed on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Mr. Per Fagereng, Oregon Fair Share; said toxic residues from incinerators do not disappear. He said the burner was bad economics. Mr. Fagereng said there was no way to dispose of ash safely and the burner would be bad technology.

Ms. Cherie Holenstein, Oregon Fair Share; said in December 1987 Oregon Fair Share submitted a list of questions regarding the feasibility of the proposed burner. Ms. Holenstein asked the Committee why their questions were not yet answered.

Mr. Tracy Maier, Greenpeace; said he would soon submit written testimony to the Committee opposing the burner. Mr. Maier said incineration would waste resources, cause health hazards, and asked the Committee not to pursue negotiations to build the burner. Mr. Maier

COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

February 2, 1988

Page 6

said source reduction, recycling, and alternative technologies should be pursued in place of building a burner. He said the City of Philadelphia has had problems with ash disposal.

Mr. Pierre Brunelle, 5556 S.E. Logus, Milwaukie; took exception to vendors testifying during a public meeting. He asked if more public meetings would be scheduled in which the public would have a chance to testify before the Metro Council made a final decision.

Mr. Alex Meyers, Greenpeace; said he opposed the burner.

Mr. R. G. Dreyfuss, 2104 N.W. 127th St., Vancouver, Washington; submitted written testimony to the Committee and said he was shocked by Combustion Engineering's rebuttal of the Health Impact Review Panel's report. He said Dr. Greenberg's testimony was inaccurate. He discussed technical aspects of incineration such as the temperature required to maintain a burner and said burners were not successful as sources of energy.

Mr. Edera of the Helvetia/Mountaindale Preservation Coalition, Inc., spoke before the committee again about the proposed burner. He said the proposed burner and the proposed Bacona Road landfill were integrally connected because the intent was to make the Bacona Road landfill into a monofill for the burner. He asked the Committee if the intent was to dump leachate into Bacona Creek.

Mr. Keith O. Nyman, 3644 N.E. Liberty St., Portland; submitted a written report to the Committee entitled "Various Garbage Disposal Options (Specifically: a Combined Transfer Station and Composting Operation)." Mr. Nyman was opposed to the composting plant because of lack of adequate notification to the residents of the two neighborhoods affected--Concordia and Cully; environmental concerns such as odor and litter; increased traffic resulting from such a facility; and uncertainty over whether Metro would be able to market the compost product.

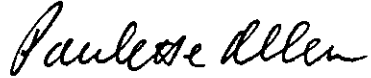
Mr. David Reed, Oregon Fair Share; distributed copies of a spread sheet he requested from Combustion Engineering in September 1987. Mr. Reed said the technical terminology was difficult for a layman to understand, but he said the sole benefactor of the proposed burner would be Combustion Engineering. Mr. Reed refuted Mr. Harvey Gershman's claim that the findings of the Health Impact Review Panel were fictitious. He said the burner would cost more than the Ordinance allowed for.

Chair Hansen thanked everyone for their testimony and said there would be more opportunities for the public to testify. Chair Hansen said the

COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
February 2, 1988
Page 7

Metro Council would be making solid waste disposal option decisions in the near future. Chair Hansen then adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paulette Allen".

Paulette Allen, Clerk
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