

High-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council  
Minutes of the November 22, 2021 Annual Meeting  
Virtual Meeting via Teams

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Roers at 10:00am.

Chairman Roers welcomed everyone and began the meeting with introductions of the three newest council members, James Leiman, Dr. Nizar Wehbi and Jeb Williams.

Roll call was taken.

Advisory Council attendees:

Representative Mark Owens, District 17  
Senator Dale Patten, District 39  
Senator Jim Roers, District 46  
Jeb Williams, ND Game and Fish  
James Leiman, Dept of Commerce

Dr. Nizar Wehbi, ND State Health Officer  
John Paczkowski, Water Commission  
Kenneth Vein, City Government Rep  
Dean Pearson, County Government Rep  
Ed Murphy, Geological Survey

Council members not in attendance were: Representative Dan Ruby, District 38; David Glatt, Dept. of Environmental Quality; Rebecca Leier, Agricultural Community Rep

Additional people attending the meeting were: Featured Presenter Tim McCartin, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); Stephen Poy, NRC; Katie Haarsager, DMR.

The first order of business was to approve the May 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Jeb Williams made a motion to approve the 2020 minutes. Dean Pearson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried to approve the May 6, 2021 meeting minutes.

The second order of business was a presentation from Featured Speaker, Tim McCartin, NRC Regulatory Commission, regarding the "Status of High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal" from the perspective of the NRC. The main points of discussion were: Developmental Timeline, Statutory Direction, and Key Dates & Accomplishments. Questions to follow.

The third order of business, Recycling of Spent Nuclear Rods, included a YouTube video introduced by Ed Murphy entitled "Speaking With a Senator." New Hampshire Senator Kevin Avarad was interviewing Steve Curtis, co-founder of Waste to Energy Now, about processing spent nuclear fuel rods for energy and also as a means of reducing the volume of nuclear waste. Ed noted that Steve Curtis contacted the North Dakota Governor's office in May 2021 to discuss his idea for dealing with radioactive waste (spent nuclear fuel rods) and the Governor's office wanted the Council to be aware of what he was proposing. Discussion to follow.

The fourth order of business was preparing for the next meeting with a list of tentative dates. Next year the council plans to ask the US Dept of Energy & the US Dept of Environmental Protection Agency to discuss their views on the storage of high-level nuclear waste. Tentative dates given were June 14, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and November 22, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Roers asked Ed Murphy if he had any further comments. Ed Murphy added that he spoke with Steve Curtis regarding his development of a prototype conversion facility which would require bringing the spent nuclear fuel to the state where the prototype was being developed. The concern regarding reuse of spent fuel rods is the generation of plutonium.

Senator Patton moved to adjourn the meeting.

John Paczkowski moved to second the motion.

Chairman Roers adjourned the meeting.