

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE LAW LIBRARY
AUGUSTA, MAINEOFFICE OF
THE GOVERNORNO. 9FY 85/86
DATE January 16, 1986

Governor's Task Force on High Level Nuclear Waste

Whereas, there were 236 crystalline rock bodies in Maine and sixteen other States under consideration by the U. S. Department of Energy for a second, national high level nuclear waste disposal site; and

Whereas, on January 16, 1986, the U. S. Department of Energy named two areas in Maine among the twenty areas in seven states still under consideration for the second repository; and

Whereas, since 1980 the U.S. Department of Energy has been aware of Maine's adamant opposition to the siting of a repository in Maine, because the geology of Maine is totally unsuitable for safe burial of high level nuclear waste for thousands of years; and

Whereas, since 1980 we have consistently and emphatically reiterated Maine's concerns regarding the safe transport of quantities of high level nuclear waste long distances through highly populated areas; the need for careful and accurate application of geologic and environmental factors; and the need for consideration of the impact of such a major facility on the lives and well-being of Maine citizens; and

Whereas, for the past five years a Review Team composed of State agency personnel has been protecting the interests of the people of the State of Maine by monitoring the Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program, including reviewing and commenting upon documents produced by the U. S. Department of Energy and other Federal agencies; attending briefings and meetings all over the United States, conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy and other Federal agencies regarding the High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program; and raising strong objections to Maine as a site for the burial of high level nuclear waste because of the unsuitability of Maine's geology; and

Whereas, as a result of the U. S. Department of Energy's selection of two areas in Maine for further study, it is now necessary and appropriate to formalize and expand Maine's review and oversight of the Federal program in order to assure that the U.S. Department of Energy conducts the most careful and complete review of those two areas, and by so doing will realize that Maine is not the most suitable place for the second national high level nuclear waste disposal site;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, GOVERNOR OF MAINE, do hereby establish the Governor's Task Force on High Level Nuclear Waste.

Membership: The Task Force shall consist of the following:

Director, State Planning Office, (Chair)
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Commissioner, Department of Conservation
Commissioner, Department of Human Services
Commissioner, Department of Transportation
Public Advocate
Chair, Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste

Duties: The duties of the Task Force shall be as follows:

- A. Serve as the State Key Contact in Maine for the Department of Energy and all other Federal Agencies concerning high level nuclear waste matters;
- B. Advise the Governor regarding the Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program;
- C. Receive reports, studies, documents, information or notifications from the United States Department of Energy or any other Federal agency on high level radioactive waste matters;
- D. Review and comment upon the U.S. Department of Energy's Draft Area Recommendation Report issued on January 16, 1986, and all future Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program documents requiring State response;

E. Negotiate all formal written agreements, including funding requests and Consultation and Cooperation Agreements, between the State of Maine and the United States Department of Energy or any other Federal agency;

F. Disseminate information about the Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program to appropriate State agencies, the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste, interested Indian Tribes, local units of government, the general public, and interested citizens' groups;

G. Solicit the views of the above mentioned groups regarding the Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program;

H. Monitor activities in Congress and the Federal government related to the Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program and communicate regularly with Maine's Congressional Delegation regarding such activities.

Technical Advisory Group

In its work, the Task Force will consult with interested individuals and affected parties, both public and private, and incorporate their concerns and comments in its deliberations. In particular, the Chairman will establish a Technical Advisory Group to the Task Force, including the State Geologist and appropriate State government personnel and representatives of those public and private interests whose knowledge, expertise, and perspectives are necessary to a full and adequate review of the Federal High Level Nuclear Waste Repository Program.

Director: There shall be a Director of the Task Force who shall work within the Executive Office, and whose duties shall include the following:

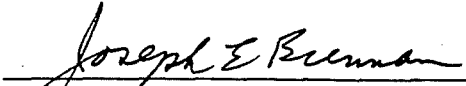
A. Assist in the planning, preparation, and execution of all Task Force activities;

B. Facilitate communication between and among the Governor, the Task Force, the Federal government, other State governments, the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste, interested Indian Tribes, State agencies, local governments, interested citizens groups and the public;

C. Develop a budget for the Task Force and administer such funds as it may be responsible for;

D. Prepare issue papers pertaining to high level radioactive waste disposal and make recommendations to the Task Force for their review and action; and

E. Perform such other duties as the Task Force may direct.



JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor