

24 September 2001  
1420 Western Ave.,  
Seattle, Wa. 98101.

001 10 2001

Nuclear Waste Control

To: Hon. Vice President Richard Cheney 551332  
Eisenhower Executive Office  
Washington, D.C. 20501

To: Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

From: Royal C. Schendel

Dear Sir:

I write to you and to the Secretary of Energy. You, On a recent television broadcast, you stated a need for reconsideration of utilization of Atomic Energy. The question is how to project this to the general public. I believe a FILM DOCUMENTARY, judiciously filmed, is more forthright and will gain the greatest public audience.

Hard, pertinent facts are not well understood to their full extent. Often thoughts carefully stated in words reach few people. Nobody is going to make a full time occupation of comprehending only written or spoken thoughts. Thus I believe in the value of an audio-visual documentary.

A documentary film is a communication vehicle to reach a wide variety of concerned people and to be more comprehensible to those who must read massive reports and make decisions thereon.

Allow me to tell of my experience while employed years back at the Naval Missile Test Center, Pt. Mugu, Calif. I was involved with an aerial retrieval of a seaborne capsule system. There was a wealth of photographic techniques used to see the impact phenomena occurring as a airborne hook accelerated a stationary pod to the velocity of an airborne aircraft. Because the process of transmitting verbally or in writing the progress and information on this project was redundant, inaccurate and incomplete, I decided to use visual material available to make a documentary film. I wrote a script, stating each phase of the concept to be presented visually, in logical sequences. I then gathered all pertinent film and in co-operation with a film-editor, tied pertinent film shots into a comprehensive story. I could then show this documentary to the sponsors and incidentally presented this film at an American Rocket Society conference. Thus I came to believe in a Visual-Auditory means of communicating, specifically a film documentary.

A viewer of a good documentary can see/understand technical information presented with sufficient iteration, in a forthright

manner for better comprehension by the viewer. In satisfying curiosity there lies the entertainment value.

One superior group producing documentaries is NOVA. Though sometimes lacking in sufficient "dwell time" on factual information they are factual along with moderately humanized background surroundings.

I cannot emphasize enough the need for purposefulness of the contents of a documentary to include and inform in a direct fashion the curious and thoughtful segments of the general public. It requires an informed, dedicated editor.

Post Scrip:

I have several copies of my 1983 Scenario for anyone who would care to look it over.

Thank You for your Consideration,

*Royal C. Schendel*  
Royal C. Schendel

LEGISLATION review

1) Necessary to legislate with understanding not possible to understand on part of population in workaday world. Excessively time consuming.

OPPOSITON to

2) Popular opposition to Nuclear Power due to activists creating unnecessary fears in minds of the major portion of the population.

RESULT OF Opposition

3) Nuclear Power industry found continuation unprofitable due to safeguard redesigns designs to satisfy public opposition.

LEGISLATION review

4) Legislation\* - 1984 Radioactive Waste Management\*\* whereby Federal Government was required to accept responsibility for waste disposal and determine suitable means and locations for for waste disposal. It follows they would follow the life history of various types of radioactive particles determining degradation time to a state of relative harmlessness and to know types of geologic formations and chemical barriers to diffusion of any harmful product.

\*\*"DOE/RW - 0005 Draft Vol. I & II, MISSION PLAN for the CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE Management Program - Overview and Current Plans", April 1984.

COLLECTIVE Industry, Gov't Document

5) In the mid 1980's I prepared a proposal suggesting that industry put their collective thoughts together to create a scenario & documentary for a form of a visual/audio story or DOCUMENTARY, explaining progressive steps in the creation, the life and the end of harmful radioactive matter created in utilization of Nuclear Energy.

CONTACTS for proposal of cooperative Document

6) In early July 1987 I contacted the Dept. of Ecology, Office of Nuclear Waste Management. This office replied to my proposal to write a scenario and I quote "we appreciated your ideas,

but are already working on a similar documentary film " ????  
I am charitably skeptical to this response. The writer further stated that "they were in process of developing a review procedure for unsolicited proposals such as I had submitted".

I presently have in hand a scenario of steps in the layout of a documentary (seventy two pages plus bibliography plus appendix) which I had started in 1991, completed in 1993.

I then contacted NOVA with idea of the scenario I had written. Their their response was that the idea of a documentary of the subject matter was presently "not NOW". It would not be well recieved with present public attitudes. Also I submitted it to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, but recieved no response.

#### Prior EXPERIENCE

7) In 1960, while employed at Naval Missile Test Center, I was involved with aerial retrieval of a seaborne capsule system. There was a wealth of photographic techniques used to catch the impact phenomena occurring as a airborne hook accelerated a stationary pod to the velocity of an airborne aircraft. The process of transmitting verbally or in writing the progress and information on this project was tiresome, inaccurate and incomplete, I decided to use the visual material available to make a documentary film. I wrote a script, stating each phase of the concept to be presented visually, in logical sequences. I then gathered all available film and in co-operation with a film editor, tied pertinent film shots into a comprehensive story. Later, although not my original intent, I did present this film at an American Rocket Society Conference.

#### INTRODUCTION

What happens when technology is so esoteric that the political leaders cannot gain a common sense, realistic understanding of technical matters which they and lawmakers and journalists should understand well enough to make decisions, create legislation and communicate to the populace?

Few people have the time and energy to think about and see through the profusion and complexity of information bandied about, whether true or false. The populace who are ultimately making decisions by following or rejecting the leadership of these political leaders, lawmakers and media experts understand, not in detail but pragmatically and well enough to know when their leadership does make intelligent decisions.

In a proposal prior to ever considering this present writeup I pointed out how disturbing it was to have a lack of communication between the general public, unwittingly represented by activists, and the disjointed Nuclear Industry technical community's explanations. The general public was indifferent as long as the industry provided employment. However they still were vaguely disturbed by various "horror stories" being spread about. I proposed that there should be a film documentary prepared to give a factual, overall perspective with minimal prejudice. A non-prejudicial presentation is difficult, for

one will unconsciously adopt a viewpoint. However one can try!

PROPOSAL: Documentary Film on Nuclear Waste (Nuclear Power)

Communication with nuclear power groups and the general public has been poor.

Communication between the general public and anti-nuclear groups was good.

Because of opposition to nuclear power utilization and expenditures of time and money required to mollify critic's charges, industry decided to follow a path of energy conservation and cut back on building of power generating plants. The disadvantage of this course of action lies in the fact that this industrial nation becomes a second rate industrial power. Ultimately economists and policy makers will do what is economically necessary --- if it is worthwhile to have nuclear power it will sell itself, --- that is, it will not be necessary to justify to ecological demand and environmental hazard critics to win public approval. Better communication facilitates resolution of objections.

In 1982 the Nuclear Waste Disposal Act was passed requiring the Federal Government to accept responsibility for disposal of nuclear waste and to determine suitable means and locations for waste disposal. It is to be expected they would follow the life history of a radioactive particle, determining the degradation time to a state of harmlessness and knowing types of geologic structures and chemical barriers to the diffusion of any radioactive particle or chemical.

Many reports have been written on the feasibility of various disposal modes and since 1982, on the progress being made to finalizing method and geographical \*\*location. One such report is "DOE/RW - 0005 Draft Vol. I & II, MISSION PLAN for the CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - Overview and Current Plans", April 1984.

A typical individual does not have time to study this report (much less search it). Hence it is an unsatisfactory communication vehicle for satisfying critic's opposition or for quick comprehension for others. The only people to get any message from this report are those who work in and around the reported activity on a daily basis, as the report is being generated. To hand this report to a legislator asks too much of that person's time and understanding. He then requires a technical staff for study and interpretation.

I propose a documentary film, on radiation hazards, as a communication vehicle, to reach a wider group of concerned people and to be more comprehensible to those who have to read massive reports and make decisions thereon.

Over time quantities of information in the form of training films, research and test data has been gathered. From this quantity of effort there are films showing research being performed and testing being carried out. Also there are visual presentations of the activities existing in written form.

This visual documentation is accessible to the agencies of the Federal Government. Probably most information is in written form. It is not easy to photograph meanings of mathematical formulations, fluids migrating (diffusing) through geological formations, or to photograph Alpha, Beta particles and Gamma rays interacting with organic/inorganic matter.

Recognizing the visual(filmed or written)-semantics problem, the intent of this proposal is to transform, in-so-far as possible, the worded ideas, concepts, methods, problems and known physical phenomena contained in such a report as "DOE/RW-0005" to filmed visualization. What is the cost of such effort? In reply one may ask what a typical report such as "DOE/RW -

0005" costs in manhours/dollars? How many people did it reach? I suggest a film documentary could be as effective as ten written reports.

You have encountered proposals to make documentaries. I suspect an unconscious slanted viewpoint often exists due to a motivating factor which makes one go to the effort of making such effort of writing the documentary. In addition they feel the need to popularize and entertain the assumed viewing public. Areas of ignorance are adroitly sidestepped. Fluff and padding are inserted. On the other hand training films will tend to be simple, basic concepts. The type documentary I propose would tend to the latter and it will be surprising how interestedly the general public will accept the information passed on. The intent of a document is to articulate areas of interest and point up directions of interest to be pursued. The script is written in parts one related with the next in a logical flow of thought.

Nagging doubts will persist, related to nuclear power utilization, that disturb thoughtful people of all persuasions. The communication vehicle proposed would lay open questions not otherwise viewed in perspective but viewed as a continuum of physical proces.

Film Documentary - A visual enactment which includes an Audio Communication explaining by word the thought of an ENACTMENT.