State Advisory and Policy Groups for Nuclear and Radiation Science (1981)

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During 1980, a letter was sent to the Governor of each state requesting information on the nature of advisory and policy making groups on nuclear and radiation science within the various state governments. The following compilation has been prepared from responses to that inquiry. This report paraphrases or directly excerpts sections from responses of each state to summarize the nature of the groups which may play significant roles at the state level in technological and social concerns related to nuclear and radiation science.

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State Advisory and Policy Groups for Nuclear and Radiation Science

Subcommittee on Nuclear and Radiochemistry

Committee on Chemical Sciences

April 1981

NOTICE: The project that is the subject of this report was approved by the Governing Board of the National Research Council, whose members are drawn from the Council of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. The members of the Committee responsible for the report were chosen for their special competences and with regard for appropriate balance.

This report has been reviewed by a group other than the authors according to procedures approved by a Report Review Committee consisting of members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATE ADVISORY AND POLICY GROUPS FOR NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SCIENCE

Subcommittee on Nuclear and Radiochemistry
Committee on Chemical Sciences
Assembly of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
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INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Nuclear and Radiochemistry of the National Research Council Committee on Chemical Sciences felt that it would be of interest to various groups, including in particular state authorities, to compile information on the nature of advisory and policy making groups on nuclear and radiation science within the various state governments. During 1980, a letter (Appendix 1) was sent to the Governor of each state requesting such information. The following compilation has been prepared from responses to that inquiry.

Several states indicated that no such explicit groups existed within their state organization, but within Departments or Divisions of the state groups concerned themselves with issues involved in nuclear and radiation science. In some cases, responses explicitly mentioned such groups as being usually within the Department of Health and/or Environment. In other cases, although the groups were not explicitly mentioned, it seems reasonable, from the pattern of responses, to assume that they exist.

This report paraphrases or directly excerpts sections from responses of each state to summarize the nature of the groups which may play significant roles at the state level in technological and social concerns related to nuclear and radiation science. The nature and completeness of the responses were quite varied and, consequently, this compilation is incomplete. It may nevertheless be useful as an indication of the different approaches taken by the various states.

RESPONSES

(Information received prior to December 31, 1980)

ALABAMA

A Radiation Advisory Board of Health is composed of ten members drawn primarily from the medical area but also including individuals with expertise in other aspects of radiation.

ALASKA

Alaska presently has no advisory or policy making groups on nuclear and radiation science. However, the institution of such a policy commission may be considered in the near future.

ARIZONA

Since 1964, the Arizona Atomic Energy Commission has had primary responsibility for administering a radiation control program for the state of Arizona; this includes regulatory authority over radiation sources used in Arizona. The Commission is developing a radiological and environmental monitoring system and a laboratory facility designed to evaluate existing and future radioactivity levels in water, air, milk biota, and other appropriate pathways in order to provide the state with necessary baseline measures. The Commission also licenses radioactive materials and certifies radiological technologists.

ARKANSAS

A six-member Task Force on Nuclear Waste and Nuclear Safety, drawn from several state agencies as well as the National Guard and the Governor's Office, exists.

CALIFORNIA

No formal policy advisory group for radiation safety exists but, generally, Departments with responsibilities in this area coordinate informally. Much of the responsibility for the regulatory process rests ultimately with the Department of Health Services, Radiologic Health Section. Most emergency planning, including planning for nuclear

power accidents and other incidents involving the accidental potential or threatened dispersal of radioactive materials, rests with the Office of Emergency Services. An advisory panel reviewed nuclear power plant emergencies and reported to the Governor after Three Mile Island. A Nuclear Power Plant Planning Section has now been organized within the Office of Emergency Services.

COLORADO

The Radiation and Hazardous Waste Control Division of the Colorado Department of Health is responsible for licensing and regulating radioactive material.

CONNECTICUT

Two offices of the state government are responsible for addressing nuclear issues: the Office of Radiologic Control within the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Liaison Office for interaction with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The state's General Assembly has two committees which regularly address nuclear issues: the Energy and Public Committee and the Environmental Committee. The Energy Division of the Office of Policy and Management has overall responsibility for any energy policy and planning.

DELAWARE

An advisory group in nuclear energy and ionizing radiation is in the formulation stage and should be functioning by the end of 1980.

FLORIDA

The Governor's Energy Office has established an Inter-Agency Task Force on the management of low-level nuclear waste. Responsibility for other nuclear power related topics is shared among several key agencies.

GEORGIA

In addition to the state university system, the state government contains two centers of radiological expertise. The Radiological Health Unit, a part of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, is responsible for administration of the Agreement-State program activities delegated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Environmental Radiation Program, a component of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, is responsible for a state-wide surveillance network, regulation of radioactive waste burial, and has lead responsibility for radiological emergency response. Both agencies are staffed by nuclear engineers with advanced degrees, radiochemists, health physicists, and other technical support personnel. Georgia relies heavily on its university system for additional expertise and consultation.

HAWAII

There is no advisory committee relating to nuclear energy and ionizing radiation.

IDAHO

There are no advisory groups at the state level to formulate nuclear or radiation science policy. A Nuclear Energy Commission was disbanded four years ago.

ILLINOIS

The Department of Public Health is legally authorized to maintain a program of regulation of radiation sources for the protection of human health safety and welfare; this responsibility is shared with the Divisions of Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety. Two advisory boards provide technical and scientific advice and assistance to the Department of Public Health on radiation-related issues: The Radiation Protection Advisory Council consists of seven members, drawn from both the university and private sector, appointed by the Governor. The Medical Use Advisory Board functions as a subcommittee of the Council for areas of medical concern. The Illinois Commission of Atomic Energy, made up of sixteen members (including legislators, scientists, and leaders from the labor, legal, industrial, etc. sectors of the state) appointed by the Governor, acts as an advisory group to the Legislature and the Governor. It is charged with investigation of the economic, social, health, and technological impact of atomic energy resources and related facilities on the citizens of Illinois.

INDIANA

The Radiation Control Advisory Commission is the policy making and advisory group; its membership includes technical expertise in radiation, medical, and other health-related fields.

IOWA

An Interagency Coordinating Council for Radiation Safety coordinates radiation safety activities. The Council is composed of the chief executives (or their designees) of eight state agencies. The University Hygienic Laboratory cooperates with the Council in providing program coordination and staff support. An Advisory Committee to the Interagency Council, composed primarily of technically trained people, has been formed to discuss technical matters. Its primary concern is the development of legislation for the control of sources of ionizing radiation.

KANSAS

There are no advisory groups in nuclear and radiation science.

KENTUCKY

The Legislative Research Commission has a Special Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Disposal. A resolution has been proposed in the legislature to expand the Committee's activities to include all matters pertaining to nuclear industry and nuclear waste disposal. Another resolution has been introduced to establish a Legislative Task Force to address the effects of the proliferation of power plants, particularly nuclear power plants, in the Ohio River Valley.

LOUISIANA

No advisory group exists in Louisiana. However, a resolution of the Legislature authorized and directed by the Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Affairs, Department of Natural Resources, to appoint an Advisory Board to evaluate and review all issues related to the use of nuclear energy. The Board, with members drawn from technical, political, and social areas of the state, will advise the Assistant Secretary, the Governor, and the Legislature.

MAINE

No advisory group exists within the state government nor is the formation of one anticipated in the near future.

MARYLAND

A Governor's Committee on Three Mile Island has been appointed to advise members of the state administration on the technical adequacy and accuracy of environmental assessments, monitoring programs, impact predictions, and other issues related to nuclear incidents.

MASSACHUSETTS

An Advisory Council on Radiation Protection was established in 1965. It consists of the Commissioners of Public Health, Labor and Industries, Public Safety and Administration, the Director of Civil Service, and six persons to be appointed by the Governor. Of the six appointees, two hold the degree of doctor of medicine or dental medicine and are specialists in the field of ionizing radiation injuries; one is trained or has experience in radiology; one in radiation or health physics; one in radiation law; and one in nuclear engineering or in the industrial application of ionizing radiation.

MICHIGAN

A Special Committee on Nuclear Waste Disposal is composed of fifteen members drawn from state agencies and the universities of the state. A Radiation Advisory Board has members whose primary concerns are education, healing arts, industry, and medical areas.

MINNESOTA

The Radiation Control Section of the Department of Health is responsible for the radiological aspects of public health protection. The State Energy Agency is responsible for certifying the need for a broad array of energy-related facilities including those involving nuclear fuel reprocessing, radioactive waste management, and nuclear power facilities. Other groups within the State Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Public Safety, the State Planning Agency, and the Environmental Quality Board are concerned with various aspects of nuclear power.

MISSISSIPPI

There are two advisory groups dealing with nuclear energy and ionizing radiation. The Radiation Advisory Council, a division of the State Board of Health, serves in a policy making/advisory capacity to the Division of Radiological Health, the regulatory agency of the state; its membership is primarily technically trained. The Advisory Committee to the state's Nuclear Energy/Nuclear Waste Management Program is ad hoc and has no legislative authority. It serves as the organization to establish state policy regarding nuclear waste management; primary emphasis for selection of members is on technical expertise.

MISSOURI

The Governor's Coordinating Council on Nuclear Energy was established in 1979, composed of leaders of state agencies and is charged with reviewing plans for nuclear emergency preparations and with advising the Governor on implementation of such plans. A Nuclear Emergency Team (NET) was also formed; its members function in an advisory capacity when assistance is requested by local emergency response officials. NET members are trained in health physics, nuclear medicine, chemistry, and nuclear engineering. A state Atomic Energy Commission was created in 1969. It is composed of five members each from the state Senate and the House of Representatives, and seven members of the community at large, appointed by the Governor, representing leaders in the fields of law, industry, medicine, agriculture, education, and insurance.

MONTANA

A Radiation Advisory Committee previously existed but was abolished several years ago. At present, there is no such advisory group and no plan to establish one.

NEBRASKA

No response.

NEVADA

A Committee on Radiation Effects, including scientists from both public and private institutions, was appointed in 1979. Its purpose is to provide information concerning the hazards from nuclear research, development, testing and storage, and advice to the Governor on the possible health consequences of radiation fallout from atmospheric testing; on the possible hazards of underground testing; on the potential health and other consequences of underground storage of radioactive materials; and on other related subjects involving radiation.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The State Radiation Advisory Committee consists of seven members. Its membership is limited at any one time to two members from any one field or profession representing a physical science, a life science, industry, medicine, dentistry, or other healing arts. The Committee is charged with keeping the Governor informed on matters relating to radiation problems within the state. The Committee recommends programs and policy to the State Radiation Control Agency and advises the Agency's Director.

NEW JERSEY

The Commission on Radiation Protection is charged with reviewing the policies and programs of the Department of Environmental Protection and providing the Department with such technical advice and assistance as may be requested. Its eight members are drawn from university and private concerns, with broad technological interests. The Commissioners of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health, and the Department of Labor and Industry are also members. A Science Advisory Committee, composed of scientists with a broad range of expertise, also exists.

NEW MEXICO

The Radiation Technical Advisory Council is composed of seven members with environmental, medical, industrial safety, and radiochemical competence. The Medical Isotope Advisory Committee is composed of six

members with strong backgrounds in medical areas related to radiation science.

NEW YORK

Two groups within the State Department of Health are charged with the responsibility for addressing radiation-related issues. The Medical Advisory Committee is a standing committee with rotating membership that advises the Department of Health on questions and policies relating to the regulation of medical users of radioactive materials and associated issues. Its seven members are drawn from various medical facilities within the state. The ad hoc Committee on Radiation in the Environment is a special committee charged with advising the Department of Health on health risks associated with areas of the state where radiation levels are above natural background due to man's activities, and in developing appropriate control strategy where required. Its nine members represent a variety of technical areas including health, environmental, and chemical.

NORTH CAROLINA

The ad hoc informal Task Force on Low-Level Radioactive Waste was formed in the summer of 1979 in response to the imminent closing of disposal sites for such waste around the U.S. The task force, composed of representatives from hospitals, universities, research laboratories, and other institutions producing low-level waste, as well as state government personnel, local and regional government bodies, and others, is presently working on situating and building an in-state disposal facility for such waste. A second group, the Advisory Committee of Nuclear Waste Terminal Storage, is concerned mainly with the management of high-level waste generated by the nuclear power industry in the state. Its composition is similar to that of the task force.

NORTH DAKOTA

No advisory or policy making groups exist. Radiation and nuclear activities within the state are primarily handled by the State Health Department. Radiation activities involving transportation are handled within the State Highway Department.

OHIO

A Governor's Task Force on Nuclear Energy was formed shortly after the Three Mile Island accident; however, this is not a scientific advisory committee and contains very few scientists. The state has employees with nuclear expertise in the Department of Health, in the Environmental Protection Agency, and in the Disaster Services Agency. Experts from within the state universities are also used as needed.

OKLAHOMA

A Radiation Advisory Committee exists whose function is limited to formulation and revision of regulations. It is not authorized to consider policy making matters or broad, generic issues in regard to nuclear energy or use of radiation, but might do so upon request of the Governor or the Board of Health. The Committee is composed of scientists and engineers involved in radiation science. The State Department of Health, designated by law as the official agency for all regulatory activities pertaining to health and safety in the use of atomic energy and sources of radiation, acts as a coordinating agency with federal and other state groups.

OREGON

An Energy Facility Siting Council has been established with the responsibility to conduct studies, investigation, research, and programs relating to all aspects of site selection for power plants. This includes setting standards and promulgating rules for siting, construction, and operation of plants. Within the scope of its responsibility falls the disposal of waste and the regulation of transport of radioactive materials from the operation of such plants. The Council consists of seven members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate; present membership includes several scientists as well as an attorney, a private citizen, an industrial representative, a labor representative, and an ecologist.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy Development and Radiation Control of the Department of Environmental Resources is composed primarily of technically trained people. Among the present membership are faculty from several universities, from nuclear power stations, and from utility companies as well as the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Environmental Resources.

RHODE ISLAND

An Atomic Energy Commission exists with five members: three physicists, one engineer, and one businessman. A Radiation Advisory Commission composed of eleven members exists; all are scientifically trained in aspects of radiation science.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Three bodies exist: the Technical Advisory Radiation Control Council, the Medical Advisory Committee, and the Nuclear Advisory Council. The Nuclear Advisory Council has been established to advise the Governor and the Legislature on matters involving nuclear energy and ractiactive material usage; members of this newly formed group were to be

appointed in 1980. The Technical Advisory Radiation Control Council has seven members, all technically trained in radiation science. It advises the Department of Health and Environmental Control on matters pertaining to ionizing radiation and on standards, rules, and regulations to be adopted, modified, promulgated, or repealed by the Department. The Medical Advisory Committee, all M.D.'s, has been established to enable the Department of Radiological Health to obtain the views and advice of qualified physicians in the regulation of medical uses of radioisotopes in humans.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Hazardous Materials Task Force, composed of ten members drawn from a broad spectrum of state agencies and chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, is concerned with both radioactive and chemically dangerous materials. Its members are not selected for technical expertise. In addition to policy members, the Task Force has a supportive staff group concerned with developing procedures based on the policy group's proposals. This staff group is drawn from several state agencies. The Hazardous Materials Task Force has conducted a series of training courses for public safety officials on how to deal with emergencies related to accidents involving hazardous substances. It is currently investigating the methods of disposal of wastes from uranium mining and milling.

TENNESSEE

No advisory or policy groups in nuclear and radiation science exist at the state level.

TEXAS

The Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council, of which the Governor and Lieutenant Governor serve as co-chairmen, is currently considering the development of an advisory committee on nuclear energy. The Council is also currently reviewing problems of low-level nuclear waste storage as well as Department of Energy actions on away-from-reactor storage for high-level nuclear waste.

UTAH

No policy or advisory groups exist, but a number of technically trained personnel are attached both to the Governor's office and to the Bureau of Radiation and Occupational Health.

VERMONT

The Nuclear Advisory Panel was created by the Legislature in 1978. The panel consists of the Secretaries of several state agencies, a member of the House of Representatives, a member of the Senate, and

two members of the public designated by the Governor. It is charged with advising the Governor, the General Assembly, and the state agencies on issues relating to the present and future use of nuclear power and with defining the responsibilities of the state agencies for assuring the health and safety of the public as a result of the operation of nuclear facilities.

VIRGINIA

No advisory group exists at the state level which deals with issues regarding ionizing radiation.

WASHINGTON

There is a Radiation Advisory Committee composed of eleven members representing various technical, medical, and industrial concerns. Three additional groups provide advice on related areas of state policy: The Cascade Chapter of the Health Physics Society, the Special Projects Group of the Washington Department of Emergency Services, and the Special Planning Task Force for Response to Nuclear Accidents of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. The Special Projects Group is an association of planners whereas the Evaluation Council represents the nuclear industry as well as state agencies.

WEST VIRGINIA

There are no advisory committees, but the State Health Department and the Department of Natural Resources employs technically trained personnel for the regulation of radioactive material.

WISCONSIN

The Radiation Protection Advisory Council is responsible for providing advice, research, and scientific functions in the area of radiation protection. It also sets standards for maximum permissible concentrations of radiation and promulgates such standards and regulations. In addition, within the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Emergency Government, and the Public Service Commission are groups responsible for various aspects of planning, assessment, and enforcement of regulations related to nuclear energy.

WYOMING

No response.

APPENDIX 1

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20418

January 25, 1980

The Subcommittee on Nuclear and Radiochemistry of the National Research Council's Committee on Chemical Sciences believes that it will be of interest to members of the scientific community, and perhaps also to States which either have or are in the process of organizing policy making and advisory groups in nuclear and radiation science, to learn the composition of groups already organized at the State government level to address the many diverse concerns related to nuclear energy and ionizing radiation.

If such groups exist in your State, we would appreciate receiving membership lists, together with a brief comment on the members' professional backgrounds or areas of expertise. We plan to compile this information and make the compilation available to your Office. It will be useful in this regard to know the distribution of different professions with each group.

We hope to complete our compilation and return the compiled information to your Office by spring. Your assistance in this project will be most appreciated; please send information to Dr. William Spindel, Staff Officer for the Subcommittee. If you have any questions, he can be reached by telephone at (202) 389-6257.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. White
Administrator