



## From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta

The message from the Control Room this quarter is focused on one matter that is of major significance to BRMA: the results of the National Park Services' (NPS) Draft *Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment* with regard to Manhattan Project Sites.

At the last BRMA Board meeting I recapped the results of meetings with members of the local B Reactor coalition concerning the draft study report, which is out for public comment. What follows is the position the BRMA Board has taken at this point (It will be discussed at our next meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>). It also reflects the results of the coalition meeting of Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.

The study report summary provides five alternative concepts for the resource protection/preservation, public access, federal agency management, and stakeholders roles in the telling of the Manhattan Project story through the historical resources of Hanford, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Dayton.

The local coalition met to discuss the alternatives and to present comments to NPS with more complete and updated information. The result of these meetings was unanimous agreement to recommend to NPS a modification to alternative E that would encompass Los Alamos, Hanford and Oak Ridge as an unit of the NPS. This concept was suggested to the coalition by BRMA as a result of our Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The essence of this approach was dropped from consideration in the NPS study as the most viable and long-reaching effective method of preserving this important piece of our nation's history and the significant impact these areas have had on the world at large. BRMA believes the reasons given in the study report for not considering the establishment and operation of such an NPS unit were weak and perhaps based on wrong or inaccurate assumptions and assertions.

Items of importance that should be addressed in the public forums include the following:

- The One Park/Multiple Sites concept is the most compelling method of telling the Manhattan Site

Story through the physical locations of Hanford, Oak Ridge and Los Alamos

- ◊ Hanford, Oak Ridge, and Los Alamos all have the current capacity or can arrange for physical interpretation of history with little additional physical structure needed or procedure modification
- ◊ Boundary issues have been largely resolved as DOE has partnered with local interpreters and identified and solved barriers to public access.

- The One Park/Multiple Sites concept allows for the integration of the need for preservation of historic sites and the need for interpretive education highlighted by the National Preservation Act and the Preserve America Initiative.

- ◊ DOE is uniquely qualified by law and by experience to maintain the physical upkeep of the DOE-owned facilities, thus mitigating a major NPS consideration in computing the cost of this new park
- ◊ NPS is uniquely qualified by law and experience to bring a national perspective to the interpretive elements
- ◊ Local support in all communities includes many organizations and individuals willing to share their expertise to validate historical and scientific data.

- One Park/Multiple Sites Administration can be accomplished with prudent interconnection of the sites via the Internet.

- ◊ The accomplishments of creating Manhattan Project sites over a large geographical area with 1940's technology was an amazing feat – current 21<sup>st</sup> century technology will allow for much greater communication and efficiency in administering a Park.

- ◊ One Park/Multiple Sites should present less liability to NPS as DOE agrees to continue in their ownership role with the current legal responsibilities that entail responsibility for safety, national security, historical preservation, and upkeep of its facilities.

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## From the Control Room (Cont'd)

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- ◇ One Park/Multiple Sites allows for the broader picture of the Manhattan Project to be told.
- One Park/Multiple Sites also allows the individual areas to highlight their unique contributions during this era while integrating the amazing scientific, engineering, and medical advances that were a positive, but unintentional and unexpected, result of ushering in the Atomic Age.
  - ◇ The legacy extends beyond the history of WW II and the Cold War.

### Conclusion

The B Reactor Museum Association recommends a modification of the preferred Alternative E to include a One Park/Multiple Sites ( Los Alamos, Hanford and Oak Ridge).NPS unit. We applaud the seriousness expressed by the DOE in their willingness to fully participate and the steps that have already been taken to mitigate several of the expressed NPS concerns (See Dr. Goslings' remarks – attached). We encourage NPS to view this suggested modification as an exciting adventure in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Park management, crossing boundaries of time and space, as well as an innovative administration opportunity.

We encourage NPS and DOE to make use of the local stakeholders and their expertise in each location, and we encourage interested parties to follow the planning process online, (see elsewhere in *The Moderator* how to access the NPS report), attend the National Park Service planning teams open houses (Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> in Richland—at 2 p.m.. or 7 p.m.. at the Richland Red Lion Hotel), and provide comments and suggestions.

We particularly encourage BRMA members located in communities outside the Tri Cities to submit comments to the NPS and provide comments to your congressional delegation that you support BRMA's position as shown above, i.e., that the NPS establish a National Park unit including the three significant DOE sites of Hanford, Los Alamos. And Oak Ridge.

The NPS through the Department of Interior is required to present their study results to Congress. The U.S. Congress will review the final study report and recommendations with authority to approve, reject, or modify the Department of Interior's proposed action. Thus, it is wise to have our respective congressional representatives be familiar with their constituents' position on the establishment of a One Park/Multiple Sites National Park including all three major Manhattan era sites (Hanford, Oak Ridge and Los Alamos).

### Follow the Planning Process

To follow the planning process and access project documents on the Internet, please follow these steps:

1. Log on to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>
2. Click on the **Advanced Search** link located in the text of the page
3. Under the **Project Type** pull-down menu, select **Special Resource Study/New Area Study**
4. Click the **Search** button
5. Click on the **Manhattan Project Sites Special Resources Study** link

## 2010 Renewal and New Member Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (h): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (w): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ MSIN address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(current Hanford employees)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual (\$20) or  Senior (age 65+) or Student (\$10) and  New or  Renewal  
 Group (\$25 up to 100 members; please add \$10 for each additional 100 members)

For Group Membership, Official Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tax deductible contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Tax ID # 94-3142387)

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make check out to BRMA)

Thank you; please mail this application with payment to:

**B Reactor Museum Association**  
**PO Box 1531**  
**Richland, WA 99352**

# Review of June 2009 Draft MAPR SRS/EA

Dr. F. G. "Skip" Gosling  
Federal Preservation Officer and Chief Historian  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of the Executive Secretariat  
Washington, DC

*Editor's note: The following letter was in the "Public Comment" section of the Draft Report. BRMA concurs with its content.*

Office of History and Heritage Resources  
U.S. Department of Energy

The Manhattan Project National Park Study Act, Public Law 108-340, directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility of designating one or more Manhattan Project sites as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). The Department of Energy's (DOE) Deputy Secretary directed the Office of History and Heritage Resources (DOE/OHHR) to represent the Department in this process. DOE/OHHR has taken this mandate seriously and has been an active partner with NPS in the preparation of the special resource study, participating in meetings and providing information, input, and comments as needed.

This review is a follow-up and supplement to DOE/OHHR's May 2008 review of the 2008 Draft MAPR SRS/EA.

DOE/OHHR is pleased to see the inclusion of Alternative E: Manhattan

Project National Historical Park in the study and the selection of Alternative E as the best and preferred option. DOE/OHHR concurs with the study's findings, contrary to those of the 2008 Draft MAPR SRS/EA, that a Manhattan Project National Historical Park is feasible. In this sense, the 2009 Draft MAPR SRS/EA is a clear and marked improvement over the 2008 draft.

Two issues nonetheless remain of concern: 1) exclusion of the Oak Ridge and Hanford sites from the Alternative E: Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and 2) proposed boundaries that appear to place the most significant historic assets, those owned by DOE, outside of the proposed park unit.

Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Hanford should be considered and treated as co-equals. Manhattan Project activities came together at Los Alamos, which has

perhaps the greatest public name recognition, but Oak Ridge and Hanford are equally significant and indispensable, both in the development and deployment of the atomic bomb and for a balanced public interpretation of the Manhattan Project. Both Oak Ridge and Hanford have first-of-a-kind or one-of-a-kind facilities and devices that used some of the century's most innovative and revolutionary technologies and remain in essentially the same condition as they did during the Manhattan Project. At Oak Ridge, the Y-12 Beta-3 racetracks are the only surviving production equipment from the electromagnetic isotope separations process that produced the bulk of the uranium-235 for the Hiroshima weapon. At Hanford, the



B Reactor was the world's first large-scale plutonium production reactor and produced plutonium for the Trinity device and the Nagasaki weapon. Both sites have strong community support for preservation and interpretation of the local Manhattan Project heritage. At both sites, public tours of Manhattan Project assets are ongoing.

DOE/OHHR is aware that costs involved in operating a Manhattan Project National Historical Park are of major concern. The 2009 Draft MAPR SRS/EA continues to assert that a new national park unit for the three primary Manhattan Project sites "would likely be very expensive." As with the 2008 draft, DOE/OHHR believes that the annual operating costs for NPS would be less, likely significantly less, than that of many traditional parks. The 2009 draft contends that for Alternative E at Los Alamos costs would not be expected to be prohibitive because a relatively small NPS staff would be needed to administer and operate the park, proximity of Bandelier would allow for efficiencies of administration and operations, and local partners and volunteers would be relied on to assist in serving the public. These same conditions would apply to Oak Ridge and Hanford, with the possible exception of the proximity of shared NPS personnel, and even here it is conceivable

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## Review of June 2009 Draft MAPR SRS/EA (Cont'd)

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that Hanford could share NPS staff with the new Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail. In addition, DOE/OHHR continues to favor location of the park headquarters at Oak Ridge (the Manhattan Project was managed from Oak Ridge; in addition, roughly 60% of the Project's budget was spent on facilities at Oak Ridge), which might warrant it a more robust ranger presence. In any event, costs for operating park units at all three sites need not be large. (See attached outline prepared by DOE/OHHR in 2008 of a possible three-site Manhattan Project National Historical Park.)

Linked to the exclusion of Oak Ridge and Hanford is the apparent disinclination to include DOE-owned assets in the proposed park unit at Los Alamos.

Although the "exact size and boundary of the NPS site is not known," the draft study indicates that the park unit would either be identical with the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark or contain selected historic properties within the landmark. This would include "one or more of the 'Washtub Row' properties of the Ranch School including the Oppenheimer House

along with the Fuller Lodge building." None of the five DOE-owned historic properties cited for inclusion in the "Project Y" Manhattan Project National Historic Landmark District proposed in the Los Alamos Cultural Resources Management Plan (2006) would be part of the park unit. The five properties, which combined cover only about ten acres, are the V-Site, the Gun Site, the concrete bowl, the Fat Man Quonset hut, and the Slotin building.

DOE/OHHR has no objection to including the Oppenheimer house and Fuller Lodge in the proposed park unit. How scientists lived and where they met and socialized is an important part of the Los Alamos story. As such, these properties warrant park service recognition and protection. The more significant story, however, is the work that was done at Los Alamos. The five DOE properties are the surviving remnants of the nation's most well-known and oft-cited scientific research and

development effort. At the Gun Site, scientists performed ballistic tests for the gun method, which brought two subcritical masses of fissionable material together at high speed to form a supercritical mass. At the V-Site, scientists assembled the plutonium device that was tested at the Trinity site. These historic properties also warrant park service recognition and protection.

Similarly, a Manhattan Project National Historical Park should at a minimum include the major DOE-owned historic assets at all three sites, including the X-10 Graphite Reactor and the Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks at Oak Ridge and the B Reactor at Hanford. These are undoubtedly the "crown jewels" of the Manhattan Project historic assets. They should be recognized as such and accordingly be brought under the protection of the NPS arrowhead. The Graphite Reactor and the B Reactor are the first research and production reactors in the world, and the Beta-3s are the only surviving machines of their kind. These are the assets that actually produced the "special material" that made the atomic bomb—and the atomic age—possible. Given their centrality to what a panel of experts convened by the Advisory Council on

Historic Preservation called "the single most significant event of the 20th century," the park service should be telling their story, not DOE.

DOE/OHHR is aware that managing a park unit containing DOE-owned assets presents unique challenges not only for NPS but also for DOE. Some assets—those free of all environmental and other liabilities and outside of the current security fence—could be turned over to the park service. Most assets, including the reactors, separation facilities, and majority of Los Alamos properties, would remain DOE owned. DOE would continue to be responsible for maintenance, safety, and security at all DOE-owned facilities and sites. As DOE/OHHR pointed out in its response to the 2008 draft, DOE has long-term legal responsibilities for all three Manhattan Project sites. These responsibilities cannot be delegated to another party. DOE takes these responsibilities very seriously and has neither intent nor

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# Review of June 2009 Draft MAPR SRS/EA (Concluded)

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ability to evade its responsibilities in areas where the federal government is legally liable.

DOE/OHHR recommends that Alternative E: Manhattan Project National Historical Park be rewritten to include Oak Ridge and Hanford and the DOE-owned historic assets at Los Alamos as part of the park unit.

## Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Salient characteristics:

- Full NPS park service unit, with DOE and local communities as junior partners
- Three sites: Oak Ridge, Hanford, and Los Alamos, with Oak Ridge as headquarters
- NPS presence at kiosk at local museum or at NPS-owned historic asset, with at least nominal NPS presence at each site
- NPS brochure and other applicable publications and NPS website.

Responsibilities:

- Administration and Interpretation: NPS park superintendent would be in charge of overall interpretation, design and location of exhibits in facilities and NPS kiosks, communications (brochures, etc.), assignment of NPS personnel; DOE and local communities would assist in these activities as needed at NPS request; DOE and local communities would be responsible for interpretation and exhibits at local museums.

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## Membership Report

By Burt Pierard, Membership Chair

2010 BRMA MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.

This does not include those of you who paid in the last quarter of 2009 – those payments carry over to 2010 and essentially, everyone on our paid list did so.

Everyone who paid 2010 dues earlier in the year should have received their Membership cards. Give me a call, (509) 943-3400 if you have a question on whether you have paid.

Anyhow, our 2010 paid Membership is 49 and only two of those were received after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. To send in your Renewal, the Form is on page 2 of this issue of *The Moderator* to Clip or Print.

- Ownership: DOE would continue to own all facilities and sites that have ongoing safety and/or security issues; buildings and sites free of any restrictions could be turned over to NPS; local museums and non-DOE owned buildings and sites would not change Ownership.
- Operation and Maintenance: DOE would be responsible for maintenance, safety, and security at all DOE-owned facilities and sites; if any non-restricted DOE properties are turned over to NPS, an interagency agreement could be worked out for operation and maintenance; nominal NPS interpretive presence at all three sites; most interpretive and desk duties performed by local community workers and volunteers.
- Staffing: NPS nominal presence at each site, maybe additional seasonal rangers; local communities—workers and volunteers—would provide most of the site staffing (maybe • wearing a NPS hat with logo but no uniforms) and do tours (where applicable with DOE support)
- Funding and Budget: NPS responsible for NPS staffing, kiosks, possible NPS-owned properties, and design and interpretive work; DOE responsible for overall operation and maintenance of DOE-owned

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## 2010 BRMA Officers, Committee Chairs Elected

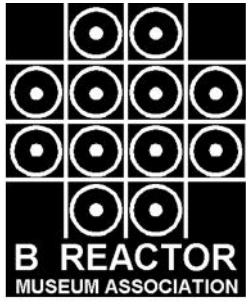
by Missy Keeney Baker, Nominating Committee Chair

The election of Officers and Committee Chairs for the 2010 calendar year was held on December 14, 2009, at the B Reactor Museum Association's monthly meeting.

The following officers will continue in their present positions: Maynard Plahuta - President, C.J. Mitchell - Vice President, Del Ballard - Treasurer. Newly elected as Secretary is Terry Andre.

Continuing as Committee Chairs are: Bob Bowersock – Government Relations, Burt Pierard – Membership, History & Archives, and Del Ballard – Property & Facilities. Richard Romanelli continues as *The Moderator* Editor & Missy Keeney Baker as Associate Editor. Bob Horgos is the newly elected Tour Coordinator.

The Public Relations Chair position remains unfilled. (*BRMA needs an enthusiastic volunteer for Public Relations Chair!*)



PO Box 1531  
Richland, WA 99352

<http://www.b-reactor.org>  
[info@b-reactor.org](mailto:info@b-reactor.org)

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW 2009**

**Del Ballard, Treasurer**

Revenue from tour guide service continues to be the primary source of income for the association. Although the number of public tours was larger in 2009 than in previous years, BRMA provided fewer guides due to the fact that many of the tour guides were employed by others. Total revenue received by BRMA in 2009 was \$11,676; including \$8,050 for tour guide service, \$1,655 from membership dues, and \$430 in donations. The remainder was from investment interest and the sale of BRMA caps.

Our total yearly expenses were \$5,828; the largest expense items were \$4,800 in honorariums for the tour guides, and \$588 expenses for storage of materials and records. Other expenses covered costs for our newsletters and miscellaneous administrative costs. Net cash flow for the year was a positive \$5,848. BRMA has committed \$15,000, from reserves, to a project for digitizing volumes of old photographs of the Hanford Project, and the early communities.

**BRMA Membership Dues Are Due—See Pages 2 & 5**