

THE

MODERATOR



B R E A C T O R M U S E U M A S S O C I A T I O N

July—September

Vol. 18, Issue No. 3

Summer 2012

From The Control Room

by Maynard Plahuta, BRMA President

Summary of Legislation Status

Regarding establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historic National Park (MPNHP), progress is being made a step at a time. We are pleased that both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives held hearings on bills (S. 3300 & H.R. 5987 respectively) proposing the establishment of a MPNHP.

On June 27 the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, held hearings on Senate Bill 3300. This bill is co-sponsored by Senators Bingaman (NM), Alexander (TN), Cantwell (WA), Udall (NM), and Murray (WA). Mayor Thomas Beehan of Oak Ridge, TN, testified on behalf of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) in support of S.B. 3300. Mayor Beehan is the current chair of ECA, which is an organization of DOE communities throughout the nation. Beehan represented all three sites (Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford) identified in the bill as units of the Park and was effective with his testimony.

The Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Natural Resources Committee, chaired by our Representative Doc Hastings, held hearings on H.R. 5987 on June 28. Rep. Hastings introduced the bill along with Reps Lujan (NM) and Fleischmann (TN). Gary Petersen of TRIDEC testified in support of the bill for all three communities identified above. Gary made an excellent presentation for establishing the MPNHP. Thanks, Gary, for representing Hanford and the other sites very well.

We can trace the evolution of the “Park” starting in 2001--a few years after BRMA was founded. In that year a panel of experts convened by the President’s Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation stated that “the

development and use of the atomic bomb during World War II has been called ‘the single most significant event of the 20th century’” and recommended that nationally significant Manhattan Project sites be formally established as a collective unit and be administered for preservation, commemoration, and public interpretation in cooperation with the National Park Service.

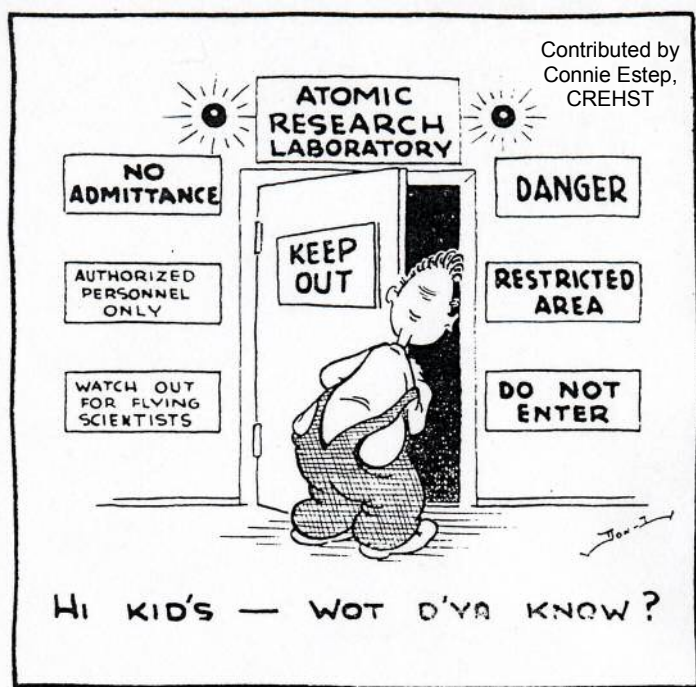
In 2003 Senator Cantwell and Congressman Doc Hastings sponsored the Manhattan Project National Park Study Act that directed the Secretary of Interior in consultation with the Secretary of Energy to conduct a special resource study of the historically significant sites associated with the Manhattan Project to assess the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating one or more sites as a unit of the National Park Service. As we know, the Department of Interior completed its study and recommended to Congress that a MPNHP be established with units at Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford

We recall that Senators Cantwell and Murray, along with Representative Doc Hastings, have each played key roles in the success achieved thus far. The Senate and House bills are very similar. They both provide the establishment of a MPNHP within one year after enactment of the Act, with facilities and lands at Oak Ridge, Los Alamos and Hanford. During the one-year period the bill provides the Secretaries of Interior and Energy shall enter into an agreement governing the respective roles of the Secretaries in administering the facilities, land, or interests in land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Energy that is to be included in the historical park, including provisions for enhanced public access, management, interpretation and historic preservation.

It is noted that both bills include the following Hanford
(Continued on page 3)

www.b-reactor.org

The B Reactor Museum Assn. meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the CREHST Museum Auditorium, 95 Lee Blvd., Richland. **Next meeting is August 13.**



The heat load in each process tube in the reactor varied from tube to tube, making it impractical to adjust the water flow in every tube to the same outlet temperature. Individual tube flow was determined by the size of the venturi throat or the orifice placed inside the nozzle connection to the crossheader system—larger openings were used for central columns than for fringe columns. Flow was not measured directly, but for a given size orifice or venturi the difference in pressure in the front crossheader and that observed at the upstream end of the column was used to calculate the tube flow.

The specially designed gauges of the Panellit system gave a continuous indication of the inlet water pressure of each process tube just downstream from the orifice, or at the center of the venturi. An increase in the Panellit pressure could be due to an obstruction downstream in the annular space in the tube, to boiling “vapor lock”, or to the swelling of a slug. A decrease in pressure could result from plugging of the front crossheader or venturi screens. *Source—HW-51856 CH3*

Membership Report

2012 Membership Renewals are due. We are running about 10 percent behind last year’s Membership Renewals and are presently at 74 paid 2012 Memberships. If your dues are due, a notation will be made on your Hard Copy of this issue or on the cover sheet of your Electronic Copy as a reminder. To send in your Renewal, the Form is on this page to Clip or Print.

 ★ **BRMA Charitable Contributors** ★
 ★ This is a Public Acknowledgement of the generous ★
 ★ cash contributions to BRMA. The following list ★
 ★ covers the period April through June 2012. ★
 ★
 ★ Carl Connel and Tom Matthews ★
 ★
 ★ **Thank You!** ★
 ★*****



2012 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

From The Control Room (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

land, or interests in land: the B Reactor National Historic Landmark; the Hanford High School in the town of Hanford and Hanford Construction Camp Historic District; the White Bluffs Bank building in the White Bluffs Historic District; the warehouse at the Bruggemann's Agricultural Complex; the Hanford Irrigation District Pump House; and the T Plant (221-T Process Building).

We understand the bills will be "marked up" by staffers in July to attempt to achieve common language. Rep. Doc Hastings announced the full House will vote on the bill July 11. Hopefully the full Senate will follow with legislation soon. Congress then can forward their passage to the President for his approval. The fact these are bipartisan bills with both Committee Chairs favoring passage is key for passage.

#

Sen. Cantwell Press Conference

BRMA was invited by Senator Cantwell to be represented at her July 6 Press Conference covering Manhattan Project National Historic Park legislation. The conference was held at the B Reactor Project Office. I was honored to present a few words on behalf of BRMA at the round table preceding the conference as well as during the press conference.

Kris Watkins of the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau served as Master of Ceremonies. Others invited to speak at the conference included Councilman Bob Thompson of Richland, and Aaron Burks representing local business---owner of Monterosso's Italian Restaurant and Atomic Ale Brewpub and Eatery. Other invited guests included Mayors Matt Watkins and Anna Noski of Pasco and West Richland respectively, Carl Adrian and Gary Petersen of TRIDEC, and members of the Bruggemann family associated with the Bruggemann ranch on the Hanford site were also present.

#

Update on Models

The 100-B Area model and the graphite model are near getting a final contract in place. Cindy Kelly of the Atomic Heritage Foundation who has provided valuable assistance in getting these models produced is anticipating receipt of a proposed contract very soon from Lockheed Martin whom we have selected to make the models. We look forward to working with Cindy to get the final contract in place and get the models produced soon thereafter.



U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, D-WA, at the podium, has co-sponsored a similar bill in the Senate to form a Manhattan Engineer District National Historic Park. She participated in the Richland conference and spoke to Tri-City leaders about the bill and what a national park could mean to the Tri-Cities area. Other speakers were, from left, Aaron Burks, Richland restaurateur; BRMA president Maynard Plahuta, and Richland City Councilman Bob Thompson.

Photos by Gary White, BRMA Communications Director



Participants in the July 6 Richland conference on formation of a Manhattan Engineer District National Historic Park included Bing and Paula Bruggemann Holm (center), their daughter Debbie (left), and TRIDEC official Gary Petersen. Paula is the daughter of Paul and Mary Bruggemann, who at one time had a 400-acre farm near where B Reactor is situated. The most prominent remnant of the ranch is the farm warehouse, which is being considered for inclusion in the proposed park.

B Reactor Tours

by Bob Horgos, BRMA Tour Coordinator

The 2012 B Reactor Tour Season started on April 2 as planned and will terminate on September 30. The goal for the 2012 Season is to accommodate 10,000 visitors. To enhance their experience, improvements have been made in the B Reactor lighting systems and the public address system.

The two separate Tours—Hanford Site Public Tours and B Reactor Tours—are regularly scheduled throughout the Tour season. B Reactor Tours generally are scheduled for every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday plus two Mondays and two Saturdays during the six-month season. Hanford Site Public Tours are only scheduled on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. The two Tours are not scheduled at the same time, so on the scheduled days only a B Reactor Tour or a Hanford Site Public Tour is scheduled. There is no charge for either Tour.

Details for the schedules and specific requirements for B Reactor Tours are posted on the DOE Hanford Website at: <http://manhattanprojectreactor.hanford.gov>. This Website gives complete information for the 4.5-hour B Reactor Tours. For those lacking Internet capability, information also can be obtained by visiting B Reactor Tour Headquarters at 2000 Logston Blvd., Richland 99354, or by telephone at (509) 376-1647. Special Group Tours can be arranged by calling Russ

Fabre, Project Support Manager at (509) 373-2774. B Reactor Tour Headquarters is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

B Reactor Tours do not require the mandatory reservations that are required for the Hanford Site Public Tours. The B Reactor Tours will accept “walk-on” visitors who show up at the Logston Blvd. Office on the day of any scheduled B Reactor Tour on a seats-available basis. Scheduled B Reactor Tour dates can be found on the DOE Hanford Web Site. Participants on the B Reactor Tours may carry cameras and photographs may be taken at all locations within the B Reactor.

Details for the Hanford Site Public Tours can be found at www5.hanford.gov/public tours/ All 2012 DOE Hanford Public Tours are currently full. Hanford Site Public Tours are unable to maintain a waiting list. However, should reservations be cancelled, the available seats will be listed at the Web Site.

To date there have been 120 combined Tours that accommodated 3,742 visitors from all 50 states plus 40 foreign nations. The total number of visitors included 390 visitors younger than 18 years old who were members of school groups or otherwise attended with their parents.

Energy Communities Association Members Tour B Reactor

by Bob Horgos, BRMA Tour Coordinator



ECA members met in Richland in late April. Their itinerary included a tour of B Reactor. Kirk Christensen, Mission Support Alliance, welcomed the ECA members to B Reactor and prepared them for their tour. The visitors were reported to be quite impressed with the facility.



BRMA members, from left, Wendell Lane, Paul Vinther, C.J. Mitchell, Bob Smith, Steve Buckingham, Hank Kosmata, and Bob Horgos were on hand to provide information during the ECA Members' tour of B Reactor

News From The Reach

by Stephanie Button

Since launching our Education Initiative in early spring, the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center has delivered programming to more than 1,500 students in the Mid-Columbia.

We have taken our Education Initiative into the schools at Family Science Nights; to Keewaydin Library for its Summer Start Party; and to community events all over the Tri-Cities. For the first time ever, we have a booth at the Market at the Parkway! We have also launched several new programs, such



Booth at Market Friday—June 2012

as “Fun-Sized Science” and partnered with the Richland Public Library to present the monthly “Hanford Reach Interpretive Center Lecture Series”. In addition, we are developing many more programs for both students and life-long learners alike!

During spring break we launched “REACH into Spring,” which was a week-long series of activities ranging from volunteer opportunities for area high school students, a family friendly class on how to make eco-friendly plantable seed paper, to a lecture on the history of grape growing on Red Mountain. This spring marked our first annual “Postcards from the Reach” student photography contest, where the top six photographs were transformed into postcards that are available for purchase at our office and at our booth at the Market at the Parkway every Friday in Richland from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. We are already hard at work on next year’s Postcard contest as well as creating opportunities for area high school students to celebrate the Hanford Reach by choosing to participate in “Expressions of the Reach” a mixed-media option for a culminating project, a graduation requirement.



Fun-Sized Science participants

Each season of the year will focus on a different theme of the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center’s vast array of stories that we will be interpreting. These themes will be repeated each season, year after year as we build consistency and reliability with our many educational programs and family events for the community. Each summer we will feature the river with Environmental Education focusing on the Columbia River and its

confluence of the Yakima, Snake, and Columbia, The Hanford Reach National Monument, and outdoor recreation. This summer we wanted to introduce the youth of the Tri-Cities to the treasure that is the Hanford Reach. We partnered with US Fish and Wildlife, the Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest, and Tri-Tech Skills Center to lead its Natural Resource Career Camp for Girls on a five-mile hike through the southeast section on the Hanford Reach National Monument on the Franklin County side of the Columbia River. We also partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties to take the youth from their Music and Arts Center on a three-mile hike on the Monument around the White Bluffs Boat Launch for a photo safari. Later in July we have an all-ages excursion with Columbia Kayak Adventures where we will float down from Vernita Bridge to the White Bluffs Boat Launch. In early August we will take youth from the Center for Sharing on a jet boat tour of the Hanford Reach with Columbia River Journeys.

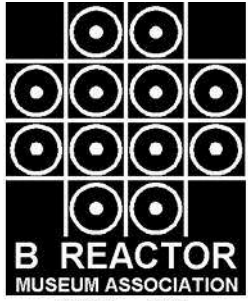
This fall we will celebrate the harvest and showcase the agricultural legacy of the Mid-Columbia. During the winter season we will explore the invention, discovery, and innovation of STEM education, and in the spring of 2013, heritage, culture, art, and expression will rule the day! With all of our programs and events we have made it our prerogative to be a resource for educators, students, and parents by providing free-share and open-sourced education and activities. We will continue to develop and offer education and public programs based on our mission to foster appreciation, stewardship, and understanding of the Hanford Reach National Monument, the Columbia River and the larger Columbia Basin; everything from the Ice Age Floods, to the Manhattan Project and beyond!



Boys & Girls Photo Safari

All our stories begin with the Columbia River, and these stories will be our legacy to future generations. If you would like to be a part of our education initiative, or any other program underway, we could use your wisdom and experience. Volunteers are at the heart of every successful program in our community. We’d like to hear your stories too, as part of our REACH Radio Network oral history project.

And speaking of history, mark your calendar for Friday, Sep. 21 at 6 p.m. when we jointly sponsor with CREHST Museum, a 1940’s authentic mess hall dinner and USO Show at Building 59, at the Pasco Airport. Giggle water at 6 p.m., Grub at 7 p.m., and get ready to Drag a Hoof at 7:30 p.m. For information, contact Dianna Millsap at DianaM@VisitTheReach.org or call 943-4100.



PO Box 1531
Richland, WA 99352

<http://www.b-reactor.org>
info@b-reactor.org