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Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)  
Contract No. DE-AC05-91OR21949

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# **Community Relations Plan for a Removal Action at the Albany Research Center Site**

**July 1991**



U.S. Department of Energy  
DOE Field Office, Oak Ridge  
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program

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DOE/OR/21949-279

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN FOR  
THE ALBANY RESEARCH CENTER SITE

ALBANY, OREGON

JULY 1991

Prepared for

United States Department of Energy  
DOE Field Office, Oak Ridge  
Under Contract No. DE-AC05-91OR21949

By

Bechtel National, Inc.  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Bechtel Job No. 14501

**FOREWORD**

This community relations plan supports the second and final phase of remedial action at the Albany Research Center (ARC) in Albany, Oregon. The action is being planned as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). The 14-ha (35-acre) site is owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, community relations activities (including the establishment of an administrative record) must be carried out to support the remedial action to be conducted at the site.

The community relations plan describes the community's concerns as identified during community interactions. It provides a description of community relations activities that have been and will be conducted to respond to the identified concerns and to facilitate public input to the decision-making process. The plan contains a brief description of the site, community background information, a summary of community concerns, highlights of the community relations program, and a schedule of community relations activities. It also includes a list of key community leaders and interested parties and a suggested location for an information repository.

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**ACRONYMS**

AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
ALARA	as low as reasonably achievable
ARC	Albany Research Center
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
FUSRAP	Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program
MED	Manhattan Engineer District
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls

## 1.0 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

This community relations plan identifies and addresses issues of community concern regarding contamination present at the Albany Research Center (ARC) in Albany, Oregon, and describes the remedial action activities conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to clean up the contamination. This plan also outlines the community relations activities and schedule suggested for implementation during the final phase of remedial action.

DOE established the Formerly Utilized Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) in 1974 to identify and clean up or control sites where low-level radioactive contamination (exceeding current guidelines) remains from the early years of the nation's atomic energy program or from commercial operations that Congress has authorized DOE to remedy. FUSRAP presently includes 33 sites in 13 states. ARC is the only FUSRAP site located in Oregon.

This community relations plan has been prepared to guide DOE in proceeding with a community relations program tailored to the needs of the Albany community. The plan is divided into the following major sections.

- Site background
- Community background
- Highlights of community relations program
- Community relations activities
- Appendixes: list of contacts, suggested location for an information repository

Basic community relations activities will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- Identifying a contact person
- Establishing an information repository
- Establishing an administrative record

The development of this plan is based on previous DOE experience at the ARC site and interactions in the Albany community. The community relations plan has been developed to meet provisions of the National Contingency Plan; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; the National Environmental Policy Act; and applicable Oregon state laws and regulations. This plan has been developed in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance for conducting community relations programs provided in Community Relations in Superfund: A Handbook, June 1988 (Office of Emergency and Remedial Response Directive 9230.0-3B).

The community relations plan is a public document and will be available for review in an information repository located at ARC.

## 2.0 SITE BACKGROUND

### 2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The ARC site is located at 1450 Queen Avenue SW in Albany, Oregon, about 37 km (23 mi) south of Salem, Oregon. Figure 2-1 shows the location of Albany with respect to Richland, Washington.

The ARC property is roughly rectangular in shape and covers an area of approximately 14 ha (35 acres). It is bounded on the north by Queen Avenue, on the south by a tennis club, and on the west by Broadway Street. To the north is a moderate-income housing area. The South Albany school complex and adjacent private residences are located to the east beyond Liberty Street. The school complex consists of elementary, middle, and high schools. Beyond the tennis club to the south lies an established residential area. Figure 2-2 is an aerial photograph of the ARC site.

The site consists of three main areas: ARC proper, a number of buildings in the northern and central sections of the site; an inactive 0.8-ha (2-acre) biomass research facility located at the site's approximate center; and a 5.7-ha (14-acre) open area identified as the "Back Forty," which occupies the south end of the facility. Figure 2-3 is a plan view of ARC.

### 2.2 SITE HISTORY

ARC was established in 1943 to investigate innovative approaches for developing strategic mineral resources in the United States, reducing costs for metallurgical manufacturing processes, developing materials to fight corrosion, and other activities relevant to metallurgical research. Various operations involving radioactive materials have been conducted at ARC.

From 1948 to 1956, ARC conducted work for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) involving melting, machining, welding, and alloying of thorium. Additional work with uranium and thorium was performed at ARC for the Energy Research and Development Administration, predecessor of DOE. Research on uranium and thorium alloys also was conducted on site from 1955 to 1978.

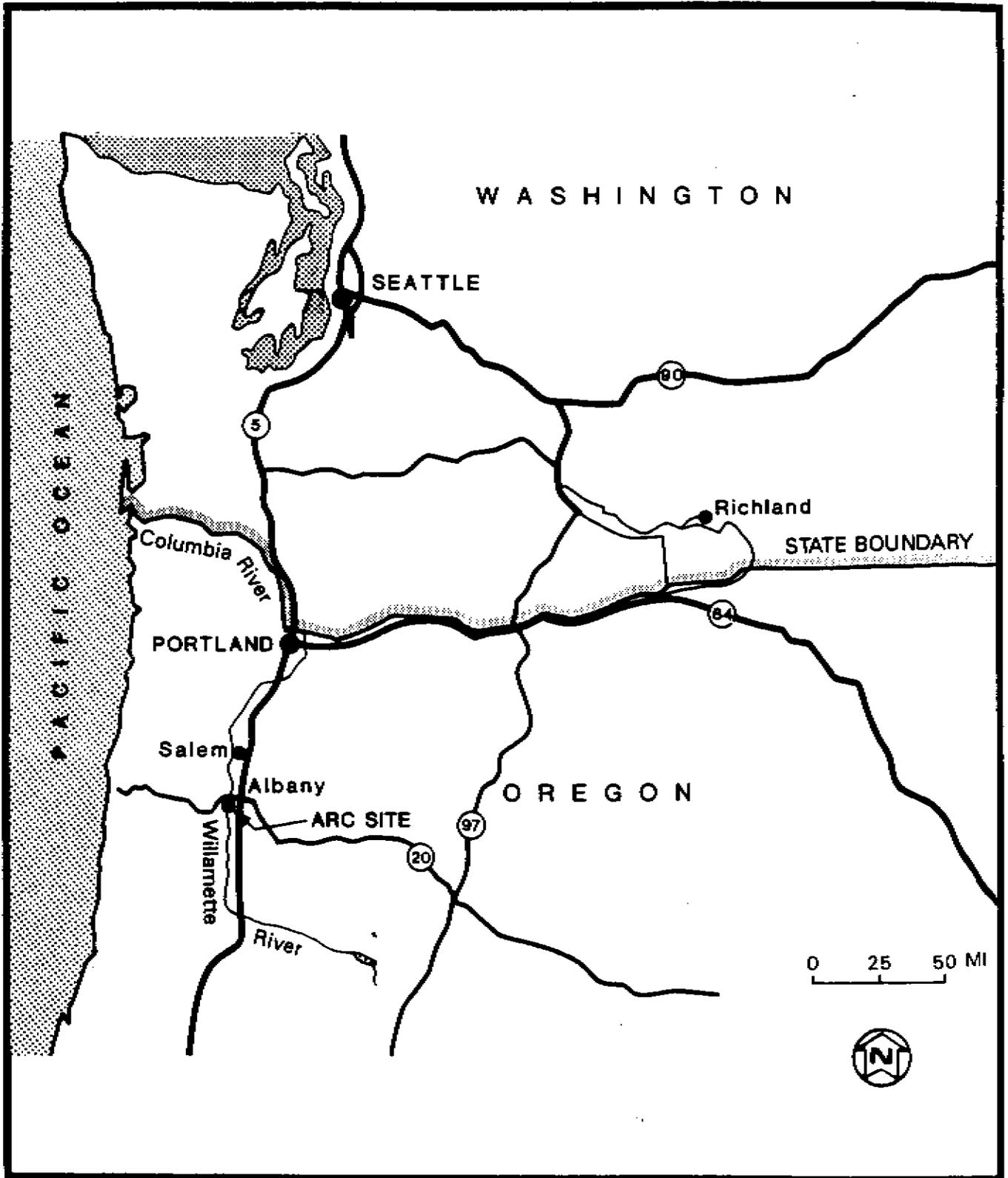


FIGURE 2-1 LOCATION OF THE ARC SITE



FIGURE 2-2 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ARC SITE

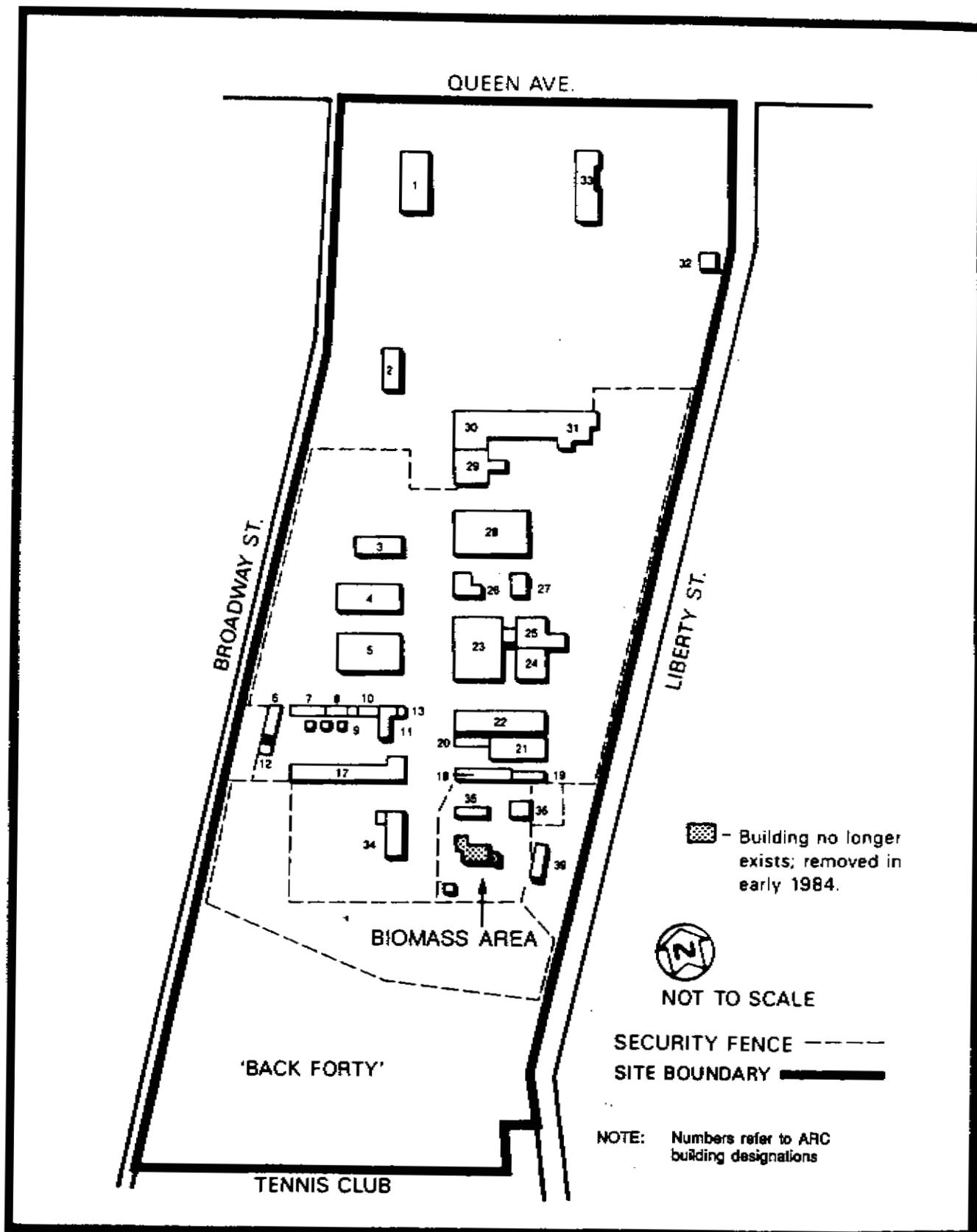


FIGURE 2-3 PLAN OF THE ALBANY RESEARCH CENTER

During these operations, portions of the biomass area and the Back Forty were used as waste disposal areas for materials containing thorium and uranium decay products. Placement of materials in these areas ended in 1956.

During the 1943-78 era of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and AEC, onsite process buildings and their surroundings were decontaminated at various times to meet guidelines provided by AEC. Decontamination guidelines used during those early cleanup efforts were less stringent than the guidelines later in effect.

From 1978 to 1982, DOE conducted a series of radiological surveys to determine the radiological condition of the site. The surveys indicated the presence of thorium-232 and its decay products at a level above current DOE guidelines. Ten of 34 buildings located on the ARC site were found to have some degree of contamination. Ground contamination was reported at 26 locations on unpaved areas and at 33 locations on paved areas. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination was also detected.

Although the levels of contamination did not pose an immediate health hazard, further decontamination and cleanup of the facility were determined appropriate to adhere to the regulatory concept of reducing radiation exposure to levels "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA). Based on the survey results and DOE's commitment to ALARA, ARC was designated in 1983 for remedial action under FUSRAP.

### 2.3 FUSRAP WORK TO DATE

The first phase of remedial action at ARC was completed in early 1988. Remedial action activities were performed at 31 areas and in portions of 11 buildings. Remedial action in the buildings included decontaminating floors, walls, structural members, and contaminated equipment. Remedial action in outdoor areas included excavation, backfilling, and seeding. In total, 2,294 m<sup>3</sup> (3,000 yd<sup>3</sup>) of contaminated material generated during remedial action was shipped to DOE's low-level radioactive waste disposal site in Hanford, Washington.

Follow-up surveys identified additional areas of contamination that exceeded DOE guidelines but had not been surveyed previously under FUSRAP. Additional remedial action scheduled for the ARC site included removal and disposal of approximately 48 m<sup>3</sup> (63 yd<sup>3</sup>) of contaminated material from equipment, drains, pipes, and surface areas inside the buildings.

#### **2.4 WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

The final phase of remedial action will include excavating 28 m<sup>3</sup> (1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>) of contaminated soil from areas near Buildings 27 and 31. Contaminated soil generated during the remedial action will be shipped to DOE's low-level radioactive waste disposal site in Hanford, Washington.

### 3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

Albany, Oregon, has a population of 28,000 and serves as the county seat for Linn County. Albany is governed by a home rule charter under a management system of council-manager. A full-time city manager, who is appointed by the mayor and council, administers the daily operation of the city.

Albany is a center in the Willamette Valley for agricultural and industrial activities, including the production of timber and seed and the processing of foodstuffs and rare metals. Metals manufactured in Albany are used in the aerospace industry, submarine engines, nuclear reactor plants, and photography.

The ARC site is owned by the U.S. Department of the Interior and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. The research center was established in 1943 to investigate innovative approaches for developing strategic mineral resources in the United States. ARC currently employs 160 people; the majority are metallurgical research staff. The ARC site was formerly occupied by Albany College.

Albany has three historic districts that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The city maintains 21 community and neighborhood parks.

#### 3.2 CHRONOLOGY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In 1983, over 100 ARC workers were briefed by DOE on health and safety concerns related to the radioactive contaminants present at the site. The workers were also provided FUSRAP program background, radiological survey results, and a description of cleanup plans.

DOE held a press conference/information meeting that included representatives from television stations, newspapers, and local residents. An overview of DOE's FUSRAP program, the radiological survey results, and DOE's plans for site cleanup were discussed.

activities and a meeting with ARC union safety representatives to discuss employee safety-related concerns.

In 1988, in an effort to accurately identify all possible contaminants, ARC employees provided Oak Ridge Associated Universities with additional historical information about the site. DOE issued a news release at the completion of the first phase of remedial action.

In 1990, ARC requested a weekly briefing by DOE for the deputy research director and department heads at ARC to inform them of cleanup progress. An open forum was held by DOE with ARC employees to answer questions related to employee health and safety. DOE also discussed the process that would be used during the second phase of cleanup.

### 3.3 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Since the beginning of DOE site involvement, issues and concerns of public officials, citizens, and other individuals have been identified through public meetings, forums, news briefings, advisory committee meetings, discussions with property owners, meetings with ARC employees, and meetings with local officials.

DOE will continue to provide information and address community concerns as they are identified. Community relations activities such as news briefings and meetings with state and local officials will be used as appropriate during this second and final phase of the cleanup activity.

Issues of concern to the community include:

- Expenditure of tax dollars when there is no immediate threat to public health or the environment
- Expenditure of tax dollars during a time of governmental budgetary problems
- Increased threat of cancer and other diseases because of the contamination present at ARC
- Cleanup that may have to be repeated if future standards become more stringent

- Safe transport of radioactively contaminated materials
- Health and safety of students and staff at adjacent schools
- Health and safety of ARC employees
- The extent of radioactive contamination and its effect on health and the environment
- Safety of workers and the public during removal of contaminated soil

#### 4.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

The community relations program proposed in conjunction with the remedial action at ARC provides an opportunity for the public to learn about the existing contamination, the need for response actions, and the options being considered.

Concerns identified in Section 3.0 indicate that the community relations program should focus on providing information about existing contamination and associated health and safety risks to the public and ARC workers, the safe transport and disposal of the material generated during remedial action, and the process that will be used to accomplish the remedial action.

The community relations program will include the following activities:

- Enlist the support and participation of ARC employees in identifying appropriate community relations activities
- Enlist the support of local officials in identifying appropriate community relations activities
- Inform ARC employees and the public about contamination as it now exists at the site and the process to be used to accomplish the proposed remedial action
- Provide information to local officials, news media, and the general public throughout remedial action

## 5.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES AND TIMING

The community relations activities planned for ARC are designed to meet the concerns and information needs identified by DOE during its eight-year involvement and interaction with local officials, ARC officials and employees, and the general public. Figure 5-1 presents the chronology of these activities in relation to technical milestones for the remedial action.

The person with primary responsibility for implementing community relations activities at the ARC site is David Adler, the DOE site manager for the FUSRAP Albany Research Center site. Mr. Adler can be contacted at the U.S. Department of Energy, Former Sites Restoration Division, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 37831-8723, (615) 576-0948. He is assisted by the Public Affairs Supervisor for Bechtel National, Inc.

The following activities will be conducted as part of the proposed removal action.

### Technical Milestones

1. During planning for remedial action

### Community Relations Activities

- Designate information contact
- Establish information repository containing background information about the site
- Brief or update ARC and local officials on proposed site activity

COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES	TECHNICAL MILESTONE		
	During Planning for Remedial Action	During Remedial Action	Upon Completion of Remedial Action
Establish information contact	X	X	X
Establish and maintain information repository	X	X	
Open administrative record	X	X	
Meet with state and local officials	X-----	X-----	X-----
Maintain telephone contact with state and local officials	X-----	X-----	X-----
Conduct information program	X-----	X-----	X-----
Provide information to news media and parties on mailing list	X-----	X-----	X-----

----- Ongoing as needed

FIGURE 5-1 COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Schedule meetings with state and local officials to discuss the remedial action process

Open the administrative record

Respond directly to citizen and ARC employee questions relating to site contamination, health and safety, and the remedial action process

Publish a notice of availability of the administrative record and the information repository

Provide speakers to small, informal meetings regarding site activities, as requested

Schedule meetings with state and local officials to describe DOE's work at ARC

2. During remedial action

Conduct meetings with state, local, and ARC officials to discuss the remedial action plans

Prepare a news release to inform the public about DOE's remedial action plans

Respond directly to citizen inquiries regarding site activities

3. Upon completion of remedial action

Prepare a news release announcing completion of remedial action

APPENDIX A  
LIST ON CONTACTS

## LIST OF CONTACTS

**Federal Elected Officials**

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield  
U.S. Senate  
711 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 224-3753

475 Cottage NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
(503) 363-1629

The Honorable Bob Packwood  
U.S. Senate  
259 Senate Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 224-5244

101 Southwest Main  
Suite 240  
Portland, OR 92704  
(503) 326-3370

The Honorable Denny Smith  
House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5711

P.O. Box 13089  
Salem, OR 97309  
(503) 399-5756

**U.S. Department of Energy Official**

Mr. David G. Adler, Site Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Former Sites Restoration Division  
P.O. Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831  
(615) 576-0948

**Albany Research Center Official**

Mr. Howard O. Poppleton  
Deputy Research Director  
Albany Research Center  
Bureau of Mines  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 70  
Albany, OR 97321 (503) 967-5890

Mr. Robert Stalick  
Superintendent  
Greater Albany Public School District  
718 7th Avenue, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4511

Mr. Merl Helms  
Principal  
Memorial Middle School  
1050 Queens, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4545

Ms. Maureen Liles  
Principal  
West Albany High School  
1130 Queens, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4545

Ms. Shary Workman  
Principal  
Liberty Elementary School  
2345 Liberty Street, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4578

Mr. Michael McLaran  
Executive Director  
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
435 First Avenue, W  
P.O. Box 548  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-1517

#### **Local Officials**

Mr. Keith Rohrbough, Mayor, City of Albany  
250 Broadalbin, SW  
P.O. Box 490  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4300

Mr. Steve Bryant, Albany City Manager  
250 Broadalbin, SW  
P.O. Box 490  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4300

Mr. John Joyce, Director of Public Works  
Operations Division  
400 Waverly Drive, NE  
Albany, OR 97321 (503) 967-4329

Mr. Ed House, Librarian  
Albany Main Library  
1390 Waverly Drive, SE  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4306  
Hours: 10-6 M, 10-9 T-F, 10-5 S

Mr. Dennis Dahlen  
Linn County Health Department  
Court House Annex  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-3866

Mr. Rick Partipilo  
Linn County Health Department  
Program Manager for Environmental Health  
Court House  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-3821

#### **Area Business**

Teledyne Wah Chang  
1600 Old Salem Road, NE  
P.O. Box 460  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-4211

Stone Forest Industries  
2703 Pacific Boulevard, SW  
P.O. Box 338  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-4424

National Frozen Foods  
745 30th Avenue, SW  
P.O. Box 944  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 928-3306

Morse Brothers  
P.O. Box 7  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
(503) 451-5141

Oregon Freeze Dry  
525 25th Avenue, SW  
P.O. Box 1048  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-6001

Willamette Industries  
3251 Old Salem Road, NE  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-2281

Oregon Metallurgical  
530 34th Avenue, SW  
P.O. Box 580  
Albany, OR 97321-0177  
(503) 926-4281

Smoke-Craft  
850 30th Avenue, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-8831

Wimer Logging Company  
600 Goldfish Farm Road, SE  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 928-8585

American Cemwood  
595 Geary, NE  
P.O. Box C  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 928-0384

Inland Quick Freeze  
200 Madson, NE  
P.O. Box 745  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 928-5033

Plywood Components  
6523 Old Salem Road, NE  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 928-1691

Selmet, Inc.  
33992 Seven Mile Lane, SE  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-7731

Albany General Hospital  
1046 6th Avenue, SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-2244

Bureau of Mines  
U.S. Department of Interior  
P.O. Box 70  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 967-5890

**Newspapers**

Editor

Democrat-Herald

P.O. Box 130  
 Albany, OR 97321  
 (503) 926-2211

Editor

Statesman-Journal

P.O. Box 1229  
 Albany, OR 97321  
 (503) 928-9451

Editor

The Oregonian

P.O. Box 684  
 Albany, OR 97321  
 (503) 926-4186/1-800-452-1420

**Radio Stations**

Cascade 107-KSKD

Station Manager

P.O. Box 400  
 Sweet Home, OR 97387  
 (503) 367-8107

KFAT FM-106

Station Manager

1221 SW 15th  
 Corvallis, OR 97333  
 (503) 753-8106

KGAL 92-AM

Station Manager

P.O. Box 749  
 Albany, OR 97321  
 (503) 926-5425

KHPE

Station Manager

34545 Highway 20  
 P.O. Box 278  
 Albany, OR 97321  
 (503) 926-2233

KIQY/103.7 FM

Station Manager

743 Main St.  
 Lebanon, OR 97355  
 (503) 928-9601

KLOO, Inc.  
Station Manager  
122 SW 15th  
P.O. Box 965  
Corvallis, OR 97339  
(503) 753-4493

KRKT AM/FM  
Station Manager  
1207 East 9th, SE  
Albany, OR 97321  
(503) 926-8628

### Television Stations

News Director  
KEZI-TV  
2225 Coburg Road  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(503) 485-5611

News Director  
KVAL-TV  
P.O. Box 1313  
Eugene, OR 97440  
(503) 342-4961

News Director  
KMTR-TV  
P.O. Box 7308  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(503) 746-1600

APPENDIX B

SUGGESTED LOCATION FOR  
THE INFORMATION REPOSITORY

SUGGESTED LOCATIONS FOR  
THE INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Albany Research Center  
1450 Queen Avenue, SW  
Albany, Oregon 97321  
(503) 967-5880

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In 1984, the Albany city manager asked DOE to respond to 10 community concerns related to the site. The director of DOE's Former Sites Restoration Division prepared a written response to the questions posed by the city manager.

Five affected property owners were contacted by telephone to inform them of the work scheduled by DOE for the ARC site. Property owners were informed of the contamination present and DOE's responsibility under FUSRAP to determine a remedial action plan. Access agreements were obtained from the property owners so that radiological surveys could be completed and soil samples collected. Questions were answered as they were posed by property owners and other interested parties.

In 1986, a Memorial Middle School teacher expressed alarm over what he called an inordinately high number of medical problems among past and present staff and requested an investigation by the state. The state conducted epidemiological studies of school personnel and a wide array of environmental tests on school property. No significant carcinogens were found, and health studies revealed only a slightly higher-than-average incidence of sinus problems and headaches for Memorial Middle School personnel.

In 1987, a seven-member advisory group consisting of representatives from city and county public works, the school district, affected residents, and ARC was established to study and make recommendations to DOE as to a safe route for transporting the contaminated waste removed from ARC to the disposal site at Hanford. DOE held a public meeting for the advisory group to announce the recommended route and to receive public comments on the recommendation.

Renewed concerns arose when an assistant principal underwent surgery for a tumor, and a principal died of cancer. The state epidemiologist met with staff members of West Albany High School and Memorial Middle School to discuss concerns about cancer-causing agents in the environment.

Other DOE activities during 1987 included a news conference with media representatives to provide information about site

**Bechtel**

Oak Ridge Corporate Center  
 151 Lafayette Drive  
 P.O. Box 350  
 Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-0350

Facsimile: (615) 220-2100

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JUL 10 1991

U.S. Department of Energy  
 DOE Field Office, Oak Ridge  
 P. O. Box 2001  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8723

Attention: David G. Adler, Site Manager  
 Former Sites Restoration Division

Subject: Publication of the Community Relations Plan for  
 the Albany Research Center Site

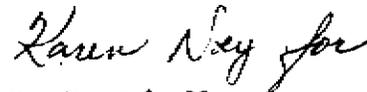
Dear Mr. Adler:

Enclosed are three copies of the subject plan for your files. We will include a copy of this plan in the update of the administrative record located in the Albany Research Center library.

I certify that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Karen Doggette.

Very truly yours,



S. D. Liedle  
 Project Manager - FUSRAP

SDL:rtn:0470

Enclosure: As stated

Concurrence: K. K. Doggette @ KKD  
 A. M. Feidman amf

