

Nuclear—

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people of Lane County need the protection afforded by the ordinance. However, Wood said this type of regulation should be handled on the state level. He said the law would have more teeth if passed by the Legislature.

Commissioner Jerry Rust said the matter of nuclear material transportation was "complex and dangerous." Rust said he does not trust the state or federal agencies enough to put the safety of Lane County's people in their hands.

Rust urged the Lane County citizens to put the ordinance on the ballot by initiative if it is defeated in March.

James Peterson, transportation officer at Hanford, Washington, a major nuclear waste storage facility, said the ordinance was not needed. Peterson told the commissioners all incoming and outgoing shipments of nuclear material are strictly controlled.

But he also testified most shipments move on standard transportation routes, like Interstate 5. He added that Hanford has no way of knowing which route the nuclear material is shipped on.

Peterson also said the ordinance would be preempted and negated because of conflicts with existing laws and regulations.

However, Lane County Counsel Larry Shaw, reporting on his extensive legal research into the proposed ordinance's validity, found no specific areas of direct conflict with existing state or federal regulations. He described a few areas of ambiguity and uncertainty that may lead to a preemption of the law.

Shaw recommended that the commissioners have another reading before the ordinance can be adopted. He said this will give his office time to do more research into the matter.

Dr. John Shaw, a radiation treatment specialist at Sacred Heart Hospital, warned the commissioners to "be careful not to preclude the good benefits of radiation with the ordinance."

Stan Biles, acting General Administrator for Lane County, outlined four impediments his staff encountered while researching the ordinance.

Biles said Lane County lacks necessary expertise in the nuclear field. This means, he said, not being familiar with the terms and concepts used in the nuclear industry.

He reported that representatives from both the public and private sectors have been reluctant to give Lane County the necessary data needed for an accurate analysis.

Another area of uncertainty concerns the exact wording to be used in the ordinance and also to what degree the commissioners will want it enforced if it passes.

Car's backfire ends in flames

A car burst into flames because of a carburetor backfire near 15th Avenue and Onyx Street Thursday afternoon.

Car owner Sarah McKean reported the fire to campus security at 5:17 p.m. Eugene fire department personnel extinguished the engine fire by 5:28. University spokesperson Muriel Jackson said no estimate has been given for the extent of the damage. No one was injured.

Friday, January 5, 1979

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