

regional

OSU president raps measure

CORVALLIS (AP) — Oregon State University Pres. Robert MacVicar has lent his name to a direct-mail campaign against a

ballot measure to tighten state standards for disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

MacVicar's letter says that as a scientist and educator, he's urging defeat of Measure 9 as unnecessary regulation and harassment of a company the

measure's sponsors "don't happen to like."

Teledyne Wah Chang Albany has said the measure would require it to spend up to \$25 million to move 60,000 cubic yards of sludge from its Millersburg metals manufactur-

ing plant site to an out-of-state site.

Jim Denham, a spokesman for the company, said Wah Chang approached MacVicar to ask for his help in the campaign against the measure. "and he was happy to do that."

About 800,000 copies of the letter have been mailed to households around the state, Denham said.

In his letter, MacVicar said people are constantly exposed to natural radiation and that the Wah Chang sludge is no more radioactive than common building materials and a table-salt substitute.

The Wah Chang sludge has been thoroughly tested and, in a state Health Division study, was found to pose no significant health risk, MacVicar's letter said.

He said Oregon already has "very tough" standards for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

Anti-nuclear activist Lloyd Marbet, principal supporter of the measure, has acknowledged that the measure would force Wah Chang to move the waste away from the Willamette River.

But Marbet says the restrictions also are aimed at any new uranium milling operations that might locate in Oregon.

Forest Service guarding trees

From the Associated Press

In an effort dubbed Operation Nail, Forest Service employees are guarding trees to halt vandalism by the "Hardesty Avengers," a group that pounded hundreds of 5-inch steel spikes into Douglas firs earmarked for logging.

The Rotor Sale parcel, so-named because it eventually will be harvested by Aurora-based Columbia Helicopters Inc., is on a 1,600-acre section of land hit hard by winter winds last year. The U.S. Forest Service says the slowdown is the reason for recent log sales in the area.

The Hardesty Avengers, apparently taking their name from the mountain where the trees grow, reacted to the sales by spiking a number of trees. They informed forest officials of the spikes in a letter.

Nearly 30 Forest Service employees spent the weekend searching for spikes with metal detectors and extracting them with crowbars. Humphrey said several hundred were discovered.

"We are now continuing to monitor the situation to be sure it doesn't happen again. We don't expect that there will be any more nails placed out there."

Humphrey said that a reward of \$5,000 has been posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for spiking the trees, he said.



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