

Study on river navigation could affect fishing locales

The State Land Board will look at the Rogue River to see if fishermen, landowners can walk its banks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALEM — The State Land Board voted unanimously Tuesday to do a formal study on whether the middle and upper reaches of the Rogue River qualify as a navigable river.

At stake is whether the public — generally sport fishermen — have the right to walk along the riverbank where it runs through private property.

"If ever there was a time to resolve this, it is now," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who voted for the study along with Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and State Treasurer Randall Edwards.

"That means bringing people together to discuss the legal issues and the property owner issues at stake so we can develop a workable solution that meets the needs of landowners and upholds the laws of our state," Kulongoski said.

Originally requested in 1997 by the Josephine County district attorney to resolve trespassing claims along the Rogue, the study would look at 90 miles of the river from Lost Creek Dam down to Grave Creek.

About 2,000 people own property along the Rogue River as it runs through Shady Cove, Gold Hill, Rogue

River, Grants Pass, Merlin and Galice.

The 1859 law making Oregon a state declared the bed and banks of rivers up to the high water mark are owned by the state if used for commercial purposes, such as moving logs or freight. In modern times, the issue tends to swirl around whether anglers have access to the riverbanks.

A 2002 declaration that the lower 37 miles of the Sandy River near Portland were navigable created an uproar among property owners, and the Legislature has failed to work out a different way of resolving the questions over public access.

The State Land Board is comprised of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer.

Investigations show dismantlement of Iraqi nuclear sites

U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei says no high-precision items from Iraq were found overseas

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — The United States said Tuesday it will conduct "a full investigation" along with the Iraqi government of the reported disappearance from Iraq's nuclear facilities of high-precision equipment that could be used to make nuclear weapons.

In a letter to the Security Council on Monday, U.N. nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei said satellite photos and follow-up investigations show "widespread and apparently systematic dismantlement" at sites related to Iraq's nuclear program which had been subject to monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

While some industrial material that Iraq sent overseas has been located in other countries, he said no high-precision items including milling machines and electron beam welders that can be used commercially and in nuclear weapons production have been found.

Since the missing equipment and material "may be of proliferation significance," he asked any country with information about the items to inform the International Atomic Energy Agency.

U.S. deputy ambassador Anne Patterson said the U.S. Mission to the United Nations had not yet received ElBaradei's letter.

"We're anxious to see what he has to say, and we'll do a full investigation," she said, then quickly added: "I mean we'll work with the government of Iraq on a full investigation."

IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said the agency's assumption is that "this was organized looting" by people trying "to make a buck" and sell equipment and material to the highest bidder. Looting was rampant in the first days after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq toppled the Saddam Hussein regime in April, 2003.

A diplomat familiar with the IAEA, who spoke on condition of anonymity, discounted suggestions that the Americans might have carted off the equipment — most of it under IAEA seals — without informing the agency.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said, "I think we share the general concern that some material might have gotten out into the market immediately

after the war."

"But to the extent that all of us have been able to bring it under control, we have done that," he said.

The U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission known as UNMOVIC — which was responsible for overseeing the elimination of any banned Iraqi missile, chemical and biological weapons programs — said Iraqi authorities for over a year have been shipping thousands of tons of scrap metal out of the country.

The UNMOVIC report said those exports were handled by the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, which was under the direct supervision of U.S. occupation authorities until June 28, when the Americans handed power to Iraq's interim government. It said the shipments included at least 42 engines from banned missiles and other equipment that could be used to produce banned weapons.

UNMOVIC and IAEA inspectors left Iraq just before the U.S.-led invasion began in March 2003. The Bush administration then barred U.N. weapons inspectors from returning, deploying U.S. teams in an unsuccessful search for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Nonetheless, IAEA teams were allowed into Iraq in June 2003 to investigate reports of widespread looting of storage rooms at the main nuclear complex at Tuwaitha, and in August to take inventory of "several tons" of natural uranium in storage near Tuwaitha.

ElBaradei said Iraq's interim Minister of Science and Technology Rashad Omar visited IAEA headquarters in Vienna in July, just after the handover of power from the U.S.-led coalition, to discuss the implementation of various Security Council resolutions.

A ministry delegation that visited in September asked the IAEA for assistance in selling the remaining nuclear material at Tuwaitha "with the exception of a small quantity to be retained for research purposes," in dismantling and decontaminating former nuclear facilities, and in resuming IAEA technical cooperation in a number of areas, he said.

Associated Press Writers George Jahn contributed to this report from Vienna and George Gedda from Washington.

Gunbattles, beheadings claim 17 lives this week in Haiti

Violence flared during a Sept. 30 demonstration; the U.S. accuses supporters of a former president

BY AMY BRACKEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Violence in Haiti's capital has claimed at least 46 lives, with hospital records showing Tuesday that 17 victims were killed this week. The United States accused supporters of an ousted president of trying to destabilize the interim government.

Port-au-Prince has been beset by gunbattles and beheadings since a Sept. 30 demonstration marking the 1991 coup that first overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In February, the former priest fled the country again after a three-week revolt led by a street gang and former soldiers.

Tensions still are simmering with Aristide supporters demanding his return and an end to the "invasion" by foreign troops. U.S. Marines arrived in Haiti the day Aristide left and were replaced by U.N. peacekeepers sent in June to stabilize the country.

Rebels who want the interim government to formally reinstate the army that Aristide disbanded have accused the peacekeepers of

doing little to halt the violence and say that they are ready to end it.

On Monday, as mourners gathered for the funeral of five assassinated police officers, gunfire crackled around the capital and businesses shut their doors again.

Records at Port-au-Prince hospital seen by The Associated Press showed 17 people with gunshot wounds died Sunday and Monday, eight of them in the Cite Soleil seaside slum that is filled with Aristide supporters and street gangs, and three in Martissant, a western neighborhood that has been a flashpoint in the recent unrest. That raised the toll to at least 46 killed since Sept. 30.

One man was reportedly shot and killed near the presidential palace.

"There was shooting everywhere," said Lovely Pierre-Louis, 19. "I saw a man walking across that street with a boy, then the shooting came again, and he was on the ground with his head bleeding, and the boy was running."

Messire Sylviani, a 30-year-old beautician, said her salon closed an

hour after opening Monday, and she returned home, a block from where the man had been shot.

"Now I'm so scared," she said. "We're all stressed out because we know shooting could start again any time."

On Sept. 30, police reportedly shot and killed two people at a demonstration. The headless bodies of three police officers turned up the same day, and government officials blamed Aristide militants and a new campaign called "Operation Baghdad."

The United States on Tuesday accused Aristide supporters of "a systematic campaign to destabilize the interim government and disrupt the efforts of the international community."

"Over the past two weeks, pro-Aristide thugs have murdered policemen, looted businesses and public installations, and terrorized civilians," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

His statement urged leaders of Aristide's Lavalas Family to "break with the party's legacy of violence and criminality." It said the interim government represented the best hope for Haiti and expressed confidence that U.N. peacekeepers' capacity to protect Haitians would increase within days and weeks.

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