

**OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

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**ORNL**  
**FOREIGN TRIP REPORT**

ORNL/FTR-3778

DATE: October 9, 1990

SUBJECT: Report of Foreign Travel of T. J. Wilbanks, Corporate Fellow, Energy Division

TO: Alvin W. Trivelpiece

FROM: Thomas J. Wilbanks

**PURPOSE:** At the request of eleven international agencies and with the approval of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), this trip was conducted in order for the traveler to serve as U.S. representative to an international advisory group on "energy and electricity supply and demand." This group was established to assist with preparations for a major international Symposium on Electricity and the Environment, scheduled for Helsinki, Finland, in May 1991.

**ITINERARY:**

9/10-11/90	Traveled to Brussels, Belgium
9/12-14/90	Participated in advisory group meeting
9/15/90	Returned to Knoxville, TN

**ABSTRACT:** At the request of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), representing eleven international agencies which are sponsoring the 1991 Helsinki Symposium on Electricity and the Environment, I traveled to Brussels to participate in the second meeting of one of four advisory groups established to prepare for the Symposium. At the meeting, I was involved in a review of a draft issue paper being prepared for the Symposium and of the Symposium program.

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## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

I arrived in Brussels on Tuesday, September 11, 1990, and participated in meetings of the advisory group September 12-14, 1990, at the Offices of the Directorate-General for Energy of the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). I returned to the U.S. on September 15, 1990.

To review, the 1991 Helsinki Symposium on Electricity and the Environment is intended as the principal stepping-stone related to electric power for the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, which is being organized as a followup of the Brundtland Commission report. The symposium will be focused on four "key issues:" supply, demand, environment impacts, and policy/decisionmaking. For each issue, an international "expert advisory group" of 10-15 members has been established to prepare an issue paper as both a basis for discussion and a major output of the symposium itself. Each issue paper will be translated into six languages. Group members are also contributing invited background papers to be published as a part of the proceedings.

The Symposium is taking shape fairly quickly. A copy of the general agenda is attached. The opening session on Monday afternoon, May 13, will include greetings by the Director of IAEA and the Prime Minister of Finland and keynote papers by Ms. Brundtland, Maurice Strong, Helga Steeg (IEA), a Deputy Prime Minister of the USSR, and a developing country representative (probably from China or India).

The topical session on energy and electricity supply and demand will include a summary of the issue paper, three invited papers, and a panel discussion. The three papers will be selected from four candidates: (1) possibilities and limits regarding the efficient use of electricity (Seppo Kärkkäinen of Finland, requested by the Government of Finland); (2) electrification and development (Pachauri of India or DeOliveira of Brazil); (3) electricity strategies and environmental impact reduction (candidates include my nominee Dr. Umaña of Costa Rica, a Professor Kaya of Japan, and others); and (4) environmental impacts of regional integration (requested by USSR). This whole process is pervaded by the politics of international organizations: e.g., balance in the representation of regions, keeping various groups and organizations happy, etc. The organizers still plan to limit attendance to about 300, by invitation only -- including the representatives of the eleven sponsoring organizations and the members of the four advisory groups.

The first draft of the issue paper for this group had been prepared by the CEC staff and circulated to group members before the meeting. Unfortunately, the strong view of the members was that it was inadequate in tone, coverage of the issues, and command of the English language. Most of the time together was devoted to discussing what the next version of the paper should say, and the discussion was quite useful.

### CONCLUSIONS

The decision of the group was to ask Wilbanks of the U.S. to prepare the next draft of the issue paper, with a rough version to be discussed in Cambridge, England, with Richard Eden (UK) and Kevin Leydon (CEC) on October 2-3 and a revised version to be submitted to CEC and IAEA on October 12.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled in Moscow, February 5-7, 1991, hosted by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

## Senior Expert Symposium on Electricity and the Environment

13 - 17 May 1991  
Helsinki, Finland

Time	Monday May 13	Tuesday May 14	Wednesday May 15	Thursday May 16	Friday May 17
09:00-12:00	Registration of Delegates	Topical Session #1 Issue Paper (c) + Invited Papers  Panel Discussion of Issue Paper (c)	Topical Session #3 Issue Paper (a) + Invited Papers  Panel Discussion of Issue Paper (a)	General Plenary #1 "Policy Dimensions of Electricity and the Environment" Policy-oriented papers covering various country examples of policy and experience of incorporating environmental issues in electricity sector planning	"Challenges for International Co-operation" International organ- izations to discuss main issues and findings of the Symposium - Role of Int. Orgs. - Action Plans Symposium Closes
12:00-14:00		Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Closing Cocktail hosted by Int. Orgs.
14:00-17:00	Opening Addresses	Topical Session #2 Issue Paper (b) + Invited Papers  Panel Discussion of Issue Paper (b)	Topical Session #4 Issue Paper (d) + Invited Papers  Panel Discussion of Issue Paper (d)	General Plenary #2 "Policy Dimensions of Electricity and the Environment" (continued)  Reporting Session Reporters' Reports from Topical Sessions and Final Discussion of Issues Papers	Departure of Delegates
	Welcome Reception hosted by Finland		Reception hosted by City of Helsinki		

**- END -**

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