

The New York Times

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears next to any article. Visit www.nytreprints.com for samples and additional information. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

January 10, 2010

Challenge Is Planned After Nuclear Site Is Excluded From Park

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRI-CITIES, Wash. (AP) — Supporters of the B Reactor at the Hanford nuclear site in Richland are preparing to fight a decision by the government not to consider it for inclusion in a Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

A draft study released by the [National Park Service](#) in December concluded that only part of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Landmark District in New Mexico should be considered for the park.

It excluded Hanford's B Reactor and historic facilities at the Department of Energy's site in Oak Ridge, Tenn., although the park service might be willing to play a limited role at the sites.

Maynard Plahuta, president of the B Reactor Museum Association, said the draft study's arguments for excluding the B Reactor from a possible national park were "very, very weak."

Representatives of the museum association, the Tri-City Development Council, the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau and the Hanford Communities — which includes Hanford-area cities, counties and ports — agreed recently that the best course for the B Reactor's future was to continue to push for its inclusion in a national park.

There seems to be some support for that at Department of Energy headquarters.

"Los Alamos, Oak Ridge and Hanford should be considered and treated as co-equals," F. G. Gosling, the federal preservation officer and chief historian at the department, said in comments included in the draft study's appendix. He called the B Reactor and two facilities at Oak Ridge — the X-10 Graphite Reactor and the Y-12 Beta-3 Racetracks — "undoubtedly the crown jewels of the Manhattan Project historic assets."

Mr. Gosling supported making all three sites part of a Manhattan Project National Historical Park, but having the Energy Department continue to own and maintain certain facilities and ensure safety and security.

The B Reactor, which looks much as it did in World War II, was the world's first production-scale reactor. It produced plutonium for the first nuclear explosion and for the atomic bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki.

The study said that making Hanford and Oak Ridge part of a national park was not feasible because of the "unreasonably high cost of management." The park service was also concerned that visitor access would be limited.

[Copyright 2010 The New York Times Company](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)
