Section 1

INFORMATION RESOURCES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The main objective of the Tri-Parties is to inform and involve by providing clear and comprehensive information to the public. This section addresses the various ways to receive information from and provide comments to the USDOE, Ecology, and EPA about Hanford Site activities. This section also presents information about other public organizations that closely follow Hanford Site issues and how the Tri-Parties work with them.

HANFORD CLEANUP LINE

1-800-321-2008

Call the Hanford Cleanup Line to request information about Tri-Party Agreement cleanup and compliance activities at the Hanford Site. Ecology personnel answer all calls and forward requests for information to the appropriate Tri-Party agency. The Tri-Parties strive to provide a timely response to all requests. The Hanford Cleanup Line is advertised frequently in a variety of ways, including all Tri-Party Agreement newspaper notices, brochures, meeting notices, fact sheets, etc.

INTERNET ADDRESSES

Internet web sites are updated regularly with information that include schedules for public involvement on Hanford Site activities.

Ecology: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp

EPA: www.yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/web page/Hanford,+Washington

USDOE: www.hanford.gov/pubinvolve.html

Hanford Advisory Board: www.hanford.gov/hab/

Community Relations Plan:

www.hanford.gov/crp/toc.htm

Hanford Happenings:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/pdf/happenings.pdf

Hanford Update:

www.hanford.gov/rl/programs.asp.html

Link to Stakeholder Addresses:

www.hanford.gov/misc info/stakehld.htm

Tri-Party Agreement:

www.hanford.gov/tpa/tpahome.htm

MAILING LISTS

The Tri-Parties maintain two mailing lists tailored to different levels of interest on Hanford Site activities. The lists distinguish between 1) those individuals who are "highly interested" and would like to be involved with cleanup and compliance decision-making, and 2) those individuals who would only like to be informed about Hanford Site activities. Individuals on the "highly interested" list could receive 25 or more mailings per year including fact sheets, meeting notices, and schedules, as well as the bi-monthly Hanford Update newsletter and the monthly Hanford Happenings calendar. Individuals on the general list primarily receive the bi-monthly *Hanford Update* newsletter and the monthly *Hanford* Happenings calendar. If you would like your name to be added to either list, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at **1-800-321-2008** and please specify your mailing list preference, including your e-mail address if you would prefer to receive information electronically.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLICATIONS

A continuing goal of the Tri-Parties is to improve the readability of Hanford Site publications. These publications include the *Hanford Update* newsletter, fact and focus sheets, and other summary publications. The Tri-Parties understand that providing accurate, up-to-date and descriptive information is fundamental for active participation by the public in Tri-Party Agreement decisions.

Hanford Update Newsletter

The *Hanford Update* newsletter is published bi-monthly and provides general information about Tri-Party Agreement cleanup and compliance activities. The *Hanford Update* also contains information on public meetings, workshops, and other opportunities to participate in Hanford Site decisions. The newsletter is available on the Internet at www.hanford.gov/tpa/updates.html.

Hanford Happenings Calendar

The *Hanford Happenings* calendar is published monthly and provides the locations and dates for upcoming meetings, public comment periods, and other Hanford Site cleanup activities. The calendar is available on the Internet at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwpl/pdf/ happenings.pdf.

Fact and Focus Sheets

Fact and focus sheets provide information on Hanford Site issues, cleanup activities, and opportunities for public involvement, for example a Tri-Party Agreement milestone change package. The Tri-Parties send out fact and focus sheets throughout the year.

Meeting Summaries

Summaries of certain public meetings are available upon request and are located in the Public Information Repositories (see the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement Public Information Repositories section).

Comment and Response Documents

Following a Tri-Party Agreement public comment period, a Comment and Response document is developed by the Tri-Parties to record the public comments received on an issue. Comment and Response documents are distributed to those members of the public who request copies. The documents are also placed in the Public Information Repositories and Administrative Records as part of the decision documentation, and also on a designated web site.

To receive any of the Tri-Party agreement publications, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

HANFORD TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The purpose of the Public Information Repositories is to give the public access to information on Tri-Party Agreement activities and provide documents for public comment. This information may include work plans, transcripts, and summaries of public meetings and workshops, copies of the Tri-Party Agreement, and other related documents.

The Public Information Repositories also have copies of the Administrative Record index.

Table 1 in Appendix B lists the Tri-Party
Agreement-related documents normally placed in the repositories. A checkout service is not available for documents; however, each library has a copying service.

To review information on Hanford Site Tri-Party Agreement issues and the Administrative Record index, visit the Public Information Repository nearest you:

University of Washington

Suzzallo Library Government Publications Division Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195 (206) 543-4664

Portland State University

Branford Price Millar Library Science and Engineering Floor 934 SW Harrison P.O. Box 1151 Portland, OR 97207 (503) 725-3690

USDOE Public Reading Room

Washington State University, Tri-Cities Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L 2770 University Drive Richland, WA 99352 (509) 372-7443

Gonzaga University

Foley Center East 502 Boone Spokane, WA 99258 (509) 323-6548

In addition to the Tri-Party Agreement Administrative Records, all information is available on the following Internet web site:

Tri-Party Agreement Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:

www2.hanford.gov/arpir/

NEWS MEDIA ACTIVITIES

To keep the public informed, the Tri-Parties conduct a variety of activities to ensure the media has timely, complete, and accurate information about Hanford Site cleanup and compliance activities. Information is distributed through news releases, public service announcements, editorial boards, Hanford Site tours, and individual contact with reporters.

The Tri-Parties strive to provide advance notice of planned media interactions, notifying each other with at least 48 hours to review any Tri-Party Agreement materials prior to distribution to the media.

HANFORD SITE TOURS

One of the best ways to become more informed about Hanford is by touring the Site. The Hanford Site Saturday Road Tour Program is a series of public bus tours around the 586-square mile Site. Tour participants can see the retired nuclear reactors, the old town sites of Hanford and White Bluffs, and the Central Plateau where chemical separations facilities and underground waste

storage tanks are located. The Saturday tours are coordinated through USDOE and eight to ten tours are usually scheduled throughout the summer months, beginning in late April. The tours are free, but pre-registration is required. Participants must be at least 16 years old (18 years of age for tours that include B Reactor), be a U.S. citizen, and bring legal photo identification to obtain a required badge.

USDOE offers specialized program tours to interested parties. Program tours are also offered through EPA and Ecology in coordination with USDOE. These tours are tailored to specific areas of interest for specialized audiences such as congressional representatives, local and national media, and other groups and individuals. Agendas for the program tours are designed to address the interests of the visitors.

For more information on Hanford Site tours, visit our web site at www.hanford.gov.tours/index.cfm or call USDOE Public Affairs at 509-376-7505 or for general information call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Public Comment Periods on Documents Related to the Tri-Party Agreement

All public comment periods on Tri-Party Agreement documents are announced in regional newspapers. The Tri-Parties also notify individuals through the *Hanford Update* and *Hanford Happenings*.

The length of public comment periods vary according to requirements for permits or actions related to the Tri-Party Agreement; typically, a public comment period ranges from 30 to 45 days. All public comment periods will be determined in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. When requested, the Tri-Parties will consider extending a public comment period as

provided for under the law. Documents available for public comment are kept at the Public Information Repositories or are available on the Administrative Record and Public Information Repository web site (www2.hanford.gov/arpir/). Documents for public comment may also be requested by contacting the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008. Immediate notification will be sent to the requestor if a printing fee will be charged for the document.

After a public comment period closes, the Tri-Parties will consider all comments received before finalizing the document or decision. The Tri-Parties strive to publish a Comment and Response document within 60 days after the public comment period closes when possible. If delays occur due to a large volume and/or the complexity of comments received, interested citizens may be notified by mailer, the Hanford Update and/or the Tri-Party Agreement web site at www.hanford.gov/tpa/tpahome.htm. Once the document is finalized, it will be made available to citizens who provided comments and others who request the Comment and Response document. If there are only a few comments made during the public comment period, the agencies may prepare individual letters and/or contact the commentors directly in response to comments.

Final documents, milestone changes or decisions, and Comment and Response documents are available through the Public Information Repositories and Administrative Record web site at www2:hanford.gov/arpir/.

Tri-Party Agreement Public Meetings

In an effort to provide broad and timely perspectives to the public on Hanford Site cleanup priorities and budget decisions, the Tri-Parties regularly conduct public information meetings. To improve effectiveness and efficiency of these meetings, the Tri-Parties strive to use innovative outreach techniques to involve the public and to provide the information to the public 30-45 days prior to holding a public meeting.

Specific Public Meetings

All Tri-Party Agreement quarterly public involvement planning meetings, semi-annual meetings, special meetings, and workshops are open to the public. In addition, the Tri-Parties welcome opportunities for co-sponsorship of meetings by local, state and tribal governments, and members of citizen groups.

The Tri-Parties assess public interest and areas of public concern regarding specific actions based on consultations with tribal governments, and interfaces with the Hanford Advisory Board, stakeholders, interested public and the State of Oregon when public participation activities are conducted in Oregon. A member of the public also may request a public hearing on a permit action or a public meeting on a *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* action. If significant interest is demonstrated, the Tri-Parties will conduct a formal public process.

If the Tri-Parties determine that public interest on an issue is minimal based on feedback and/or the number of requests received, they may conduct informal workshops, briefings, meetings, or informational exchanges instead of holding formal public meetings. The Tri-Parties strive to include a wide variety of viewpoints, such as an alternative viewpoint or local perspective in all Tri-Party Agreement public involvement meetings. When feasible, space is made available for citizens to meet before scheduled public involvement activities.

Annual Budget Meetings

At least one public meeting is held in the spring to involve the public and stakeholders in the USDOE budget formulation, a USDOE commitment reflected in the Tri-Party Agreement (paragraphs 148 and 149). An optional meeting in the fall may be conducted to further discuss and evaluate budget issues. At these meetings, the Tri-Parties discuss the impact of budget decisions and take public comment and questions on cleanup priorities, as well as outline any changes to Hanford Site cleanup objectives and decisions.

One of the meetings may be conducted at the discretion of the Tri-Parties in conjunction with the Hanford Advisory Board. Other meetings will be conducted at public meeting facilities (when available) in key cities in Washington and Oregon.

Tri-Party Agreement Quarterly Public Involvement Planning Meetings

The Tri-Parties meet quarterly with the Hanford Advisory Board, the state of Oregon, local government officials, and interested members of the public to discuss current and future public involvement activities. These public involvement planning meetings are open to the public.

At these Tri-Party Agreement public involvement planning meetings recommendations are made in the following areas:

- Current and upcoming public involvement activities
- Level and type of public involvement needed for activities
- Public outreach activities
- Coordination of multiple public involvement activities
- Enhancement of communication
- Cost efficiencies in public involvement
- Feedback on public involvement activities.

The Tri-Parties are responsible for coordinating these planning meetings. In addition, four times yearly, the Tri-Parties revise the *Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities* document to provide an overview of anticipated public involvement opportunities for the coming months. The revised document identifies which activities the Tri-Parties believe are most important to the public and how they intend to involve the public in the decision-making process. To request a copy of the current *Hanford Site Public Involvement Activities* document, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at **1-800-321-2008** or visit the web site at www.hanford.gov/pubinvolve.html.

Other Tri-Party Agreement Public Outreach Activities

The Tri-Parties conduct other forms of public outreach in Washington and Oregon. Informal public outreach activities are usually conducted on request and include public meetings, focus groups, workshops, open houses, and meetings with local governments and civic organizations. Public outreach activities promote public awareness, education, and involvement with Hanford Site cleanup and compliance decisions. The Tri-Parties also conduct regularly scheduled meetings with public interest group representatives to discuss Hanford Site issues and concerns.

If you would like to have a presentation made to your group by one of the Tri-Parties, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Public meetings, hearings, and workshops are announced in the *Hanford Update*, in the *Hanford Happenings* calendar, and are posted on the Tri-Party Agreement and agency web sites, or with other public notices. All members on the Hanford Site mailing list will receive notices on significant public meetings or workshops. In addition, other methods of announcing public participation opportunities may include:

- Advertisements in regional and local newspapers
- Public service announcements on radio and television stations
- News releases
- Trade publications
- Direct mailings to interested parties
- Telephone notification

- Public access television announcements
- Internet postings and calendars
- Notices in the Federal Register
- Electronic distribution lists
- E-mail discussion sites.

The Tri-Parties will strive to notify stakeholders 30 to 45 days before the start of a public comment period or before a public meeting. As much information as possible, regarding the public involvement activity, will be provided prior to the event.

Effective Public Notice

The Tri-Party Agencies will strive to design public notices that will attract a wide range of participants to become involved in a public comment period, attend a public meeting, or otherwise participate in Tri-Party Agreement public participation activities.

Effective notice will include:

- Understandable descriptions of the proposal and its impacts
- How the public can obtain more information and become involved
- The time frame for a public comment period
- Meeting dates, times and locations (when applicable).

In the event that a cleanup plan uses a site-specific risk assessment that would restrict future site use, the public notice will identify potential restrictions and other applicable requirements.

Different public participation activities require different types of notices, and frequently more than one set of regulations applies to the proposed action or decision. In these instances, the agencies will coordinate all requirements to be as comprehensive as possible. When possible, the agencies will seek input on the design and content of notices from public interest groups and other interested parties in the region where a meeting or comment period is being conducted.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EVALUATION PROCESS

Creating opportunities for the public to provide meaningful and useful input to Hanford Site decisions is an ongoing activity. The Tri-Parties work with the Hanford Advisory Board and its committees, stakeholders, and the interested public to improve the process of evaluating public involvement activities and events. The Tri-Parties strive to accomplish the following:

- Publish effective advertisements and meeting notices
- Provide advance meeting notice
- Provide factual written material that is easily understood by the public
- Obtain knowledgeable speakers who are sensitive to different views and opinions, and who provide concise, easily-understood presentations
- Provide meeting leaders who listen to public comment and consider input to decisions
- Develop creative and innovative ways to communicate meeting information to the public
- Conduct effective meetings
- Provide stakeholder access to the design of public involvement activities
- Ensure meeting locations are convenient, easily accessible and cost-effective
- Provide timely feedback after meetings.

The evaluation process consists of two parts. Part 1: Evaluation forms are distributed at all Tri-Party Agreement meetings, hearings, workshops, seminars, etc., to gather timely feedback on the effectiveness of specific events and activities. The comment cards include a space for participants to rate the effectiveness of the event and how the participant heard about the event.

Part 2: Ecology leads an annual evaluation of the overall effectiveness of public involvement activities for the Tri-Parties. The evaluation process begins in October of each year. Surveys are distributed to members of the Hanford Advisory Board, and other members of the public who have indicated a willingness to participate, as well as to Tri-Parties' management and staff. Feedback received on public involvement activities held throughout the year is also included in this annual evaluation. Ecology coordinates distribution of the surveys and compilation of the information, and publishes a final report on the evaluation results no later than the end of each calendar year. The final report has a list of activities conducted during the evaluation period, including the purpose of the activity and lead agency; a summary of comments received; a summary of efforts taken by each agency to reach new audiences; a description of changes made or planned in response to comments received; and a summary of issues raised during the previous evaluation process and how they were implemented. The report will be provided to the full Hanford Advisory Board as well as any survey participant.

The evaluation report is available on the Ecology web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/pdf/eval.pdf, or by mail by calling the Hanford Cleanup Line at **1-800-321-2008**.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

The Hanford Site is located on land at one time ceded to the United States under separate treaties with Indian nations. As a result of treaties with the United States, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe retained certain rights at the Hanford Site. The policies of both the United States and Washington State commit to maintaining a government-to-government relationship with tribal governments. The USDOE consults with tribal governments prior to taking action, making decisions, or implementing programs that may affect the tribes. In addition, USDOE consults with the Wanapum (a nonfederally recognized tribal government) who live adjacent to the Hanford Site and with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on cultural resource issues.

The Tri-Parties take a proactive approach to soliciting input from tribal governments on Tri-Party Agreement policies and issues. Specifically, the Tri-Parties conduct periodic briefings for the affected tribal governments. USDOE routinely provides copies of Tri-Party Agreement documents concurrently to tribal governments, Ecology, and EPA.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Several public and private organizations in the Tri-Cities area work closely with the Tri-Parties on Hanford cleanup issues. These organizations include the Tri-City Industrial Development Council; Central Washington Building Trades Council; Hanford Atomic Trades Council; Hanford Communities; Benton, Franklin, and Grant County governments; and the city governments of Richland, West Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick. For more information about local organizations involved in the Hanford Site cleanup, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

Briefings for Elected and Appointed Officials and Agency Representatives

Many people receive their information about the Hanford Site from elected or appointed officials, or from agencies other than USDOE, Ecology, or EPA. The Tri-Parties strive to keep public officials informed through publications, mailings,

and periodic briefings. These officials are also on the "highly interested" mailing list to receive timely notification of significant findings or decisions. The Tri-Parties strive to respond to questions from officials and other agency representatives in a timely manner. The Tri-Parties also welcome requests for information or comments on public involvement activities from officials or agency representatives.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board was created in 1994 by the Tri-Parties to advise all three agencies on major cleanup policy decisions. The Hanford Advisory Board is composed of 31 members and their alternates who represent a broad range of stakeholder interests including environmental, cultural and socio-economic; Hanford Site employees; public interest; local government; higher education; other Federal and state agencies; and the State of Oregon. Two of three affected tribal governments are represented on the Hanford Advisory Board. One other tribal government participates on the Hanford Advisory Board in an ex-officio status.

The Hanford Advisory Board's Charter describes the Hanford Advisory Board as "...an independent, non-partisan, and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected by Hanford cleanup issues." The Hanford Advisory Board's mission "...is to provide informed recommendations and advice to the USDOE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington Department of Ecology ...on selected major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site." The Hanford Advisory Board's charter is included in Appendix D.

The Hanford Advisory Board has researched and provided consensus advice on topics ranging from spending and budget priorities to technical recommendations on removing tank waste. The Hanford Advisory Board has also advised the Tri-Parties on the principle to build the

Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, on groundwater pump-and-treat programs, and on privatizing Hanford's tank waste cleanup. The Hanford Advisory Board has issued several pieces of advice on public involvement including public involvement in the budget process and how the Tri-Parties respond to advice.

Included within the Hanford Advisory Board membership are four standing committees:
Budgets and Contracts; River and Plateau; Tank Waste; and Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committees. Although the Public Involvement and Communication Committee is not a standing committee, it can convene when the Hanford Advisory Board deems it necessary.

For a copy of the Hanford Advisory Board Charter, meeting agendas, and other information, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008 or visit the Hanford Advisory Board web site at www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/index.htm or www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/calendar/calendar.htm

Other Agencies Involved in Hanford Site Cleanup

Washington State Department of Health.

The Washington State Department of Health's Division of Radiation Protection regulates Hanford radioactive air emissions. The Division conducts environmental radiation monitoring to fulfill its public health responsibilities and verifies the results of monitoring performed by USDOE and its contractors. The Division also conducts joint investigations with Ecology into practices at Hanford. For more information, contact the Department of Health at (206) 753-3934 or in Washington State at 1-800-525-0127.

Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife monitors and documents Hanford Site activities in regard to restoration and mitigation programs to prevent injury to fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The Department also issues state permits for cleanup work involving the disturbance of the Columbia River and its

shoreline. For more information contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (360) 902-2250 or visit the web site at www.wa.gov/wdfw.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge for the USDOE. The land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes all Hanford Site lands north of the Columbia River and those in the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. Other lands, as they are cleaned up, may be added to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management scope. For more information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (509) 371-1801 or visit the web site at www.fws.gov/.

Oregon Office of Energy. The Oregon Office of Energy is the lead Oregon agency on Hanford Site issues. This office monitors cleanup and other activities at the Hanford Site and the downstream Columbia River environment. Oregon staff work with USDOE and local governments on safe transport of Hanford nuclear wastes through Oregon. Staff also support the Oregon Hanford Waste Board, which recommends policy and gives advice to the Oregon Governor on Hanford Site issues. The Oregon Office of Energy is also the lead for Hanford emergency planning and response and public involvement in Oregon. For more information, contact the Oregon Office of Energy at (503) 378-4040 or in Oregon at 1-800-221-8035, or visit the web site at www.energy.state.or.us/

Organizations Involved with Hanford Site Cleanup

For organizations actively involved in Hanford Site cleanup issues, see Appendix D in this document or the Hanford Advisory Board web site at www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/index.htm.

EPA Technical Assistance Grants

The EPA's Technical Assistance Grant program can provide funds to citizen groups affected by Superfund sites. These funds can be used by

citizen groups to hire technical advisors to help them interpret and understand the complex technical materials produced as part of the Superfund process. Grants can be up to \$50,000 for the life of the project and require a local share contribution of 20 percent of the total program cost. The local share can be cash or in the form of in-kind services. Because Hanford now has three Superfund sites, three Technical Assistant Grants could be made available. EPA has a *Citizen's Guidance Manual* and videos that explain the program and illustrate the ways in which such a grant can help the community participate in the Superfund process. For more information, please contact:

TAG Coordinator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 6th Ave. ECO-081 Seattle, WA 98101 (206) 553-6919

Washington State Public Participation Grants

Washington State Public Participation Grants promote public involvement and education on Hanford Site cleanup activities. The grants facilitate active participation by individuals and citizen groups in the investigation and remedial action required due to releases or threatened releases of a hazardous substance. For more information, please contact:

Solid Waste Financial Assistance Program Washington Department of Ecology P.O. Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504-7600 (360) 407-6061

For more information and contacts for organizations involved in Hanford Site cleanup activities, see the "Hanford Contacts." To obtain a copy, call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.