

# HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

*A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act*

**Advising:**

US Dept of Energy  
US Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Washington State Dept  
of Ecology

**CHAIR:**

Todd Martin

**CO-VICE CHAIRS:**

Susan Leckband

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Local Business**  
Harold Heacock

**Labor/Work Force**

Mike Keizer  
Thomas Carpenter  
Susan Leckband  
Jeff Luke  
Rebecca Holland

**Local Environment**

Gene Van Liew

**Local Government**

Maynard Plahuta  
Pam Larsen  
Rob Davis  
Gwen Luper  
Jerry Peltier  
Jim Curdy  
Bob Parks

**Tribal Government**

Russell Jim  
Gabriel Bohnee

**Public Health**

Margery Swint  
Jim Trombold

**University**

Mark Oberle  
Jane Twaddle

**Public-at-Large**

Martin Yanez  
Norma Jean Germond  
Keith Smith  
Bob Parazin

**Regional Environ-  
ment/Citizen**

Todd Martin  
Greg deBruler  
Paige Knight  
Gerald Pollet  
Madeleine Brown

**State of Oregon**

Larry Clucas  
Ken Niles

**Ex-Officio**

Confederated Tribes of  
the Umatilla  
Washington State  
Department of Health

February 3, 2006

Roy Schepens, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
P.O. Box 450 (H6-60)  
Richland, WA 99352

Jay Manning, Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Tank Closure & Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement  
Scoping Process

Dear Messrs. Schepens and Manning,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) is concerned that the planned accelerated scoping process for the expanded Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as proposed by the Department of Energy (DOE) and agreed to by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), will not result in broad public involvement throughout the process. This new EIS results from the inadequacies of previous EISs. DOE should make every effort to conduct a thorough and credible process from the outset.

The Board sees no justification for the proposed short time line; it does not meet minimum standards under the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Community Relations Plan. While these standards do not strictly apply to National Environmental Policy Act actions, DOE should meet these standards in good faith for this EIS. We are concerned that the language in the proposed newspaper ad does not include sufficient information to stimulate public participation in the process.

**Advice:**

1. The public comment period on the scoping process should be extended to April 10, 2006 to allow for Board deliberation and advice.
2. The public meetings should be rescheduled to allow a minimum of 30 days notice.

3. Notice of the scoping meetings and comment opportunities should be clear and informative. The notice should identify the significant decisions concerning nuclear, chemical and other wastes that will be made using the EIS as a basis.
4. DOE should conduct additional outreach beyond newspaper ads. We urge DOE to follow the suggestions found in the Board's Public Involvement White Paper (see attached) and be consistent with the spirit of the TPA Community Relations Plan.
5. The Board recommends that comments from the relevant previous EISs and draft EISs (draft Tank Closure EIS and all versions of the Hanford Solid Waste EIS) should be available to the public on a website and should be considered as comments pertinent to this EIS. Also, to the extent practical, members of the public who provided comments on these EISs in the past should be directly notified of this scoping opportunity.
6. Ecology should require that DOE fulfill the terms of the settlement agreement that speak to "effective citizen involvement."

This is the single most comprehensive EIS at Hanford. The settlement agreement and the spirit of the TPA charge DOE to engage the public from beginning to end on the document that will be the foundation for major cleanup decisions at Hanford for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,



Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

---

*This advice represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.*

cc: Keith Klein, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
Michael Bogert, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Shirley Olinger, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection

Dave Brockman, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
Nick Ceto, Environmental Protection Agency  
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Doug Frost, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H Smith  
Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell  
Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (OR)

Earl Blumenauer      Greg Walden  
Peter DeFazio        David Wu  
Darlene Hooley

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Brian Baird            Cathy McMorris  
Norm Dicks            Jim McDermott  
Jay Inslee              David Reichert  
Richard Hastings      Adam Smith            Rick Larsen

State Senators (WA)

Jerome Delvin  
Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)

Larry Haler  
Shirley Hankins