



2006I-330

August 31, 2006

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
EnviroIssues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin Ave., Suite 4  
Richland, WA 99352

RE: HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) CONSENSUS ADVICE #191 – STATE OF THE SITE (SOS) MEETINGS

Reference: HAB letter from T. Martin to K.Klein, RL; R. Schepens, ORP; J. Manning, Ecology; and M. Bogert, EPA, “State of the Site Meetings”, dated June 2, 2006

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your advice regarding Hanford’s SOS meetings. The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement [TPA]) agencies have found the SOS meetings to be a valuable forum for sharing information on the status of cleanup and hearing first-hand the public’s values, issues, and concerns. We believe that opportunities for a candid and meaningful dialogue between Hanford’s decision-makers and the public are an important component of our public involvement efforts.

Although the HAB’s advice does not address the specifics of the proposed plan for the 2006 SOS meetings presented to the HAB on May 31, 2006, it does recommend principles or practices that should be carried forward in the planning of future meetings.

Advice: Two principles of accountability should continue to be served by these meetings: (1) The opportunity to raise questions/concerns from the public to the Tri-Party agencies’ decision-makers and to receive a public response or commitment to respond from them and; (2) to have a dialogue regarding whether agency plans and responses reflect public values and commitments.

Response: We agree that the opportunity to dialogue and/or raise concerns with the TPA decision-makers and have those concerns addressed is the cornerstone of these meetings and must continue. The changes in the format of the 2006 SOS meetings proposed by the agencies do not remove or diminish these key elements.

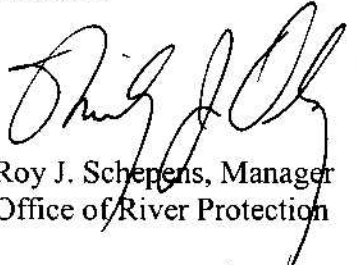
Advice: Active facilitation should be brought in early and maintained throughout the entire process. The facilitator should work with the public and the agencies to develop a meeting agenda that addresses the principles of accountability identified previously. The agenda should be flexible enough to allow discussion time for other issues that may arise from the public at the meeting.


Response: We agree that it will be more effective to engage facilitators and stakeholders early in the planning process, and a flexible agenda is always ideal for large public meetings. As discussed earlier in this response, one of the central elements of the SOS meetings is to provide a forum for any issue or concern to be brought forward for dialogue with the TPA decision makers. To that end, these meetings will be structured to maximize our ability to hear and discuss an array of public issues and concerns, rather than to accommodate "others" that may arise during the course of the meeting.


Advice: In order to allow adequate opportunity for dialogue with the public, formal presentations should be few and short.

Response: We agree that formal presentations should be short.

We acknowledge the HAB's willingness to discuss and provide recommendations on the public's opportunities for Hanford involvement. These discussions promote open communication, clarify issues, identify different perspective, and ultimately lead to better public involvement efforts. We feel confident that we, in consultation with the HAB and others, have designed a SOS meeting that reflects our common goals and enables meaningful stakeholder and public involvement in Hanford decision making. The TPA agencies have considered and incorporated this input and have agreed to the attached TPA SOS format and schedule.

  
for Roy J. Schepens, Manager  
Office of River Protection

  
Keith A. Klein, Manager  
Richland Operations Office

  
Jay Manning  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology

  
Nick Ceto  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

Attachment

cc: See page 3

**2006 State of the Site Meetings  
July, 2006**

The dialogue with the Tri-Party agencies and stakeholders began last winter. The agencies proposed various meeting formats and based on input from the HAB, and other stakeholders, revised those proposals. After considering input and feedback from both managers and stakeholders, the Tri Party agencies have agreed to the State of the Site format and schedule as follows:

Number: Four meetings

Locations: Richland, Seattle, Hood River, Spokane

Timeframe for the Meetings: October; two meetings held per week over two consecutive weeks; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Moderator: Third Party

Meeting Format:

Phase 1: Informational stations/booths offering materials from the various perspectives. Concurrently, along side the stations/booths senior managers will conduct one-on-one small group discussions.  
Time: 1 hour

Phase 2: Introduction of the Tri-Party agency senior managers.

- What you heard at last year's meetings.
- What was done with that information.
- What you heard tonight.
- Critical issues

Facilitated dialogue with the public.  
Time: 2 hours

Agency Participants:

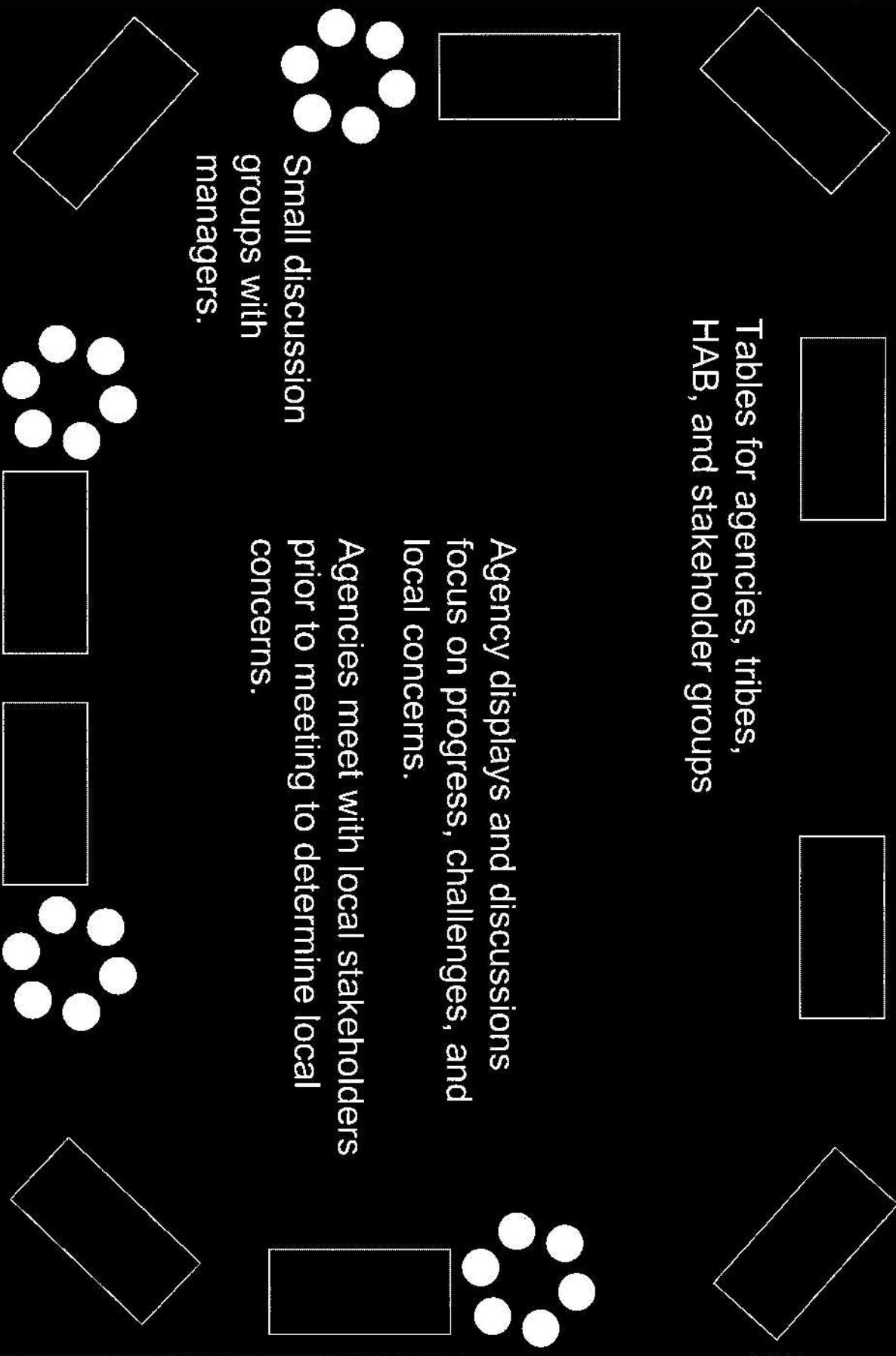
DOE-RL	Keith Klein
DOE-ORP	Roy Schepens
Ecology	Jane Hedges
EPA	Nick Ceto or Dan Opalski

# 6-7 PM Tables and Small Group Discussions

Tables for agencies, tribes, HAB, and stakeholder groups

Agency displays and discussions focus on progress, challenges, and local concerns.  
Agencies meet with local stakeholders prior to meeting to determine local concerns.

Small discussion groups with managers.



# 7-9 PM Town Hall

