



Tri-Party Agreement

03-HAB-0011

JAN 23 2003

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

CONSENSUS ADVICE #138: 100-B/C AREA PILOT PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT

Thank you for responding to the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office's (RL), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA), and State of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology), (together known as the Tri-Parties) recent request for comments on the draft "100-B/C Area Pilot Project Risk Assessment Public Involvement Plan" through Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) Advice #138. Your recommendations on public involvement activities over the next three years are appreciated and will be incorporated into the draft public involvement plan as identified below. The Tri-Parties agree with the HAB's recommendation to reach out to the broader public, as well as to specific individuals and organizations concerned with habitat management throughout the public involvement process.

Comment 1: "In the next year, the agencies should support a Board-hosted workshop to discuss the findings of the Data Quality Objective (DQO) process, the sampling plan, and exposure scenarios for the 100-B/C Area risk assessment with Board members, invited individuals and organizations concerned with habitat management. The DQOs are the foundation layer of the 100-B/C Area risk assessment. This is an opportunity for the more interested public to review and give input to the DQO process and sampling plan early on and ensure the success of the next 10 years of this pilot project risk assessment."

Response to Comment 1: The Tri-Parties will hold a workshop on the DQO process at the HAB River and Plateau Committee meeting in February 2003. The Tri-Parties will extend invitations to the individuals and organizations interested in habitat management who participated in the Exposure Scenario Task Force workshops and the general public. The results of the sampling plan will be provided to the public when they are available in March 2003. RL has identified obvious data needs in order to collect some seasonally constrained samples in the March-April 2003 timeframe. Because this will be before the completion of all public involvement activities, DOE will finish sampling in fall 2003 and spring 2004 after consideration of comments.

Comment 2: "After incorporating the comments at the workshop, we advise the agencies to elicit comments on a draft-sampling plan from a greater public audience through public information meetings and a draft fact sheet. To support this outreach, the Board will develop a fact sheet(s) to help explain to the general public the importance of risk assessments and this pilot."

Response to Comment 2: Comments from the HAB and other interested individuals will be considered when developing plans for sampling in the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004. The Tri-Parties' public involvement and technical staff will provide support to the HAB through the Public Involvement and Communication Committee to develop a fact sheet for distribution to the general public, with input from the River and Plateau Committee.

Comment 3: "Additionally, the Board recommends involving both the greater public and very interested parties in an easy-to-access format by providing continually updated information on the 100-B/C Area risk assessment online. For example, the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation is developing an online decision-mapping system, and employing such a system would expand and intensify the level of communication between the agencies doing the risk assessment and the public."

Response to Comment 3: The Tri-Parties will provide the HAB River and Plateau Committee with project updates as progress warrants. The Tri-Parties will provide updated information through existing web sites. We recognize the high level of interest in this project, and will look at providing "hot links" on the respective Tri-Parties' web sites.

Comment 4: "The 100-B/C Area Risk Assessment Pilot Draft Report, which will be issued in late 2005, will also require a full public comment process, including meetings, fact sheets, advertisements, and a response to comments document. Although public involvement at that juncture is not a regulatory requirement, the Board strongly recommends allowing the public to give input before the final draft is released. The Board also recommends that the agencies come back to the Board for future advice when this draft report is being released."

Response to Comment 4: The Tri-Parties plan to release the draft 100-B/C Pilot Project Risk Assessment Report for a full public comment process in 2005. All comments on the document will be addressed in planning for the subsequent phase of Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies for the 100-B/C Area. We will welcome any advice the HAB may offer at that time.

If you need further information or assistance, please contact Yvonne Sherman, RL, (509) 376-6216; Dennis Faulk, EPA, (509) 376-8631; or Mary Anne Wuennecke, Ecology, (509) 736-3036.



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