



Hanford Advisory Board

Executive Meeting Summary

November 4-5, 1999

Richland, Washington

New Management Vision for Hanford Cleanup

Keith Klein, U.S. Department of Energy - Richland (DOE-RL) manager, spoke about his cleanup vision for Hanford. He wants to make information on cleanup activities more accessible and understandable to the general public. He explained his three priority areas for cleanup: restoring the river corridor, transition of the central plateau, and building economic assets for the Tri-Cities. He also noted that it was important to frame goals in terms of performance objectives and to reallocate resources toward project acceleration.

Cleanup Objectives for the 100 Area

The Environmental Restoration (ER) committee presented a draft letter requesting clarification on former acting site manager Jim Hall's response to the Inspector General's (IG) report whose recommendations for 100 Area cleanup that conflict with Board values. The Board agreed to send a letter to Keith Klein requesting clarification of his position on 100 Area cleanup and the IG report recommendations. The letter also included a copy of Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) Advice #23 to further illustrate the Board's values on this issue.

HAB Focus on the Tri-Party Agreement in 2000

The Board agreed to send a letter to senior managers of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies informing them of the Board's intention to increase its focus on the implementation of the TPA, including progress in meeting milestones, and to dedicate two Board meetings in the year 2000 to examining cleanup progress in light of the TPA. The letter also included a request for a meeting between TPA senior managers, the new HAB Deputy Designated Federal Official (DDFO), the HAB chair, and the two HAB vice chairs to discuss the role of the Board in working with the TPA agencies and supporting Hanford cleanup.

Advice on Key Questions about Alternative Financing for Tank Waste Treatment

The Dollars and Sense (D & S) Committee presented draft advice on alternative financing for tank waste treatment. The original draft advice requested technical assistance for the Board and outlined key questions that the Board believes are important to consider in the various independent and expert reviews to be conducted regarding alternative financing. Following HAB debate and discussion, the adopted advice did not request technical assistance for the Board. However, it did pose a list of questions that the Board would like DOE and the appropriate review panels to consider as they work on the privatization issue. In addition, the advice requested that DOE keep the Board informed about the results of independent and expert reviews.

Management Update from the Office of River Protection

Dick French, Office of River Protection (ORP) manager, provided an update on his five initial initiatives that he began six months earlier when he joined ORP. He also updated the Board on TPA negotiations with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), noting that the relationship between the

two agencies is excellent. In addition, he noted that DOE sees it as a priority to open up its public process, including improving relations with the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

TPA Negotiations for Tank Waste Treatment

Tom Fitzsimmons, Ecology director, updated the Board on the status of TPA negotiations for the tank waste treatment program. The negotiations are on a very positive track. This is significant in light of new DOE managers at all levels of the agency. Each step of the process aims to align milestones with the best-anticipated scenario to ensure that the milestones are achievable in light of the major upcoming decisions, such as the Authorization to Proceed in August 2000. Tom noted that the dialogue has been healthy and that discussions must expand beyond TPA milestones.

Nuclear Research Infrastructure Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and the Role of the Fast Flux Test Facility

The Board had a lengthy discussion on whether or not the topic of DOE's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Nuclear Research Infrastructure and the Role of the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) should remain on the November HAB agenda. Board members who proposed to delete the agenda item were concerned that the public comment period for the EIS was closed, discussion of the topic could divide the Board and be detrimental to the future Board working relationships, and that nothing new on the topic could be identified through a HAB discussion and Sounding Board. Other members expressed the belief that discussion of the EIS and FFTF would be valuable because the discussion might help identify common ground among divided interests, the topic would continue to be a negative undercurrent in Board dynamics, and that a narrowly focused discussion could be effective and meaningful. Under the major procedural actions guidance of the HAB's charter and operating guidelines, the two-thirds of the Board agreed to modify the agenda item, but a two-thirds majority could not agree to how to specifically change or delete the agenda item. Therefore, the HAB continued with the agenda item as originally listed on the agenda.

Colette Brown, DOE -Headquarters (DOE-HQ), reported that DOE held seven scoping meetings in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; Hood River, Oregon; Richland, Washington; and Washington, D.C. The public scoping period ended on October 31, 1999. The Board then had a Sounding Board regarding the EIS focused on the question of "What are the key issues and questions that you want to see addressed in the Programmatic EIS on Nuclear Research Infrastructure?" The Board agreed to transmit the list of Sounding Board comments, aggregated by topic, to DOE as input into the EIS scoping process. The cover letter for this list described the HAB Sounding Board process and emphasized that the views expressed do not represent a full consensus of the HAB.

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to the Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov
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