



## **Hanford Advisory Board**

### **Executive Meeting Summary**

#### **December 2-3, 1999**

#### **Portland, Oregon**

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#### **Letter to DOE regarding Principles for Environmental Management**

The HAB adopted and transmitted a letter to Dr. Carolyn Huntoon that communicated HAB support and appreciation for her recent identification of six principles for DOE Environmental Management (EM). The letter also encouraged DOE to bolster public confidence in cleanup through greater openness, stakeholder involvement, tribal consultation, and community outreach.

#### **Updates on TPA Negotiations for Tank Waste Treatment and Off-Site Waste**

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), updated the Board on the Agreement In Principle (AIP) reached on the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) schedule for the tank waste treatment between Ecology and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). He outlined the milestones agreed upon, while extending thanks to Dick French, DOE-Office of River Protection (ORP) manager, and Keith Klein, DOE-Richland (RL) manager for working through the grueling negotiations. He also raised concerns about the potential for Hanford to be designated as a disposal site for low-level waste (LLW) and low-level mixed waste from DOE cleanup sites across the nation. Board discussion reiterated past HAB advice stating that Hanford cleanup must not be adversely affected by acceptance of off-site waste.

#### **100 Area Cleanup**

The majority of the Board meeting focused on the cleanup of the 100 Area. A variety of agency, tribal, and HAB speakers led presentations and discussions about the many facets of this issue. Regulators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the Washington State Department of Health (WDOH) outlined their regulatory authorities and processes under Superfund laws and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). They also touched briefly on cleanup standards and risk assessment. An overview of recent 100 Area workshops for the general public was provided to highlight public perspectives on the cleanup. In addition, the HAB reviewed past values and recommendations from the Future Site Uses Working Group and past HAB advice on cleanup. Representatives from the Hanford Natural Resources Trust Council and the tribes also gave perspectives on the importance of cleanup to trustees and affected tribes. The HAB held a Sounding Board to guide future work of the Environmental Restoration Committee on this issue. The common ground themes from the Sounding Board included the need to better understand the risk assessment process, concern with groundwater contamination and remediation, the unacceptability of the one-shot cleanup concept outlined in a letter from Jim Owendoff, DOE-Headquarters, and clarification of cleanup standards.

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