



Hanford Advisory Board Draft Meeting Summary

April 2-3, 1998
Kennewick, Washington

FY2000 BUDGET AND 2006 PLAN

The funding target for FY2000 has been established at \$961 million by the Office of Management and Budget. This results in a compliance gap of \$124 million. While the U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations (DOE-RL) will be requesting funding to meet its legal requirements, John Wagoner suggested that DOE, its regulators, stakeholders, and the public need to begin reviewing the items that are currently being funded and determine what absolutely must be funded. Items which are not must-dos might fall below the funding line. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continue to be concerned about the compliance gap and do not consider lack of funding a reason to miss milestones.

The Board adopted advice on the FY2000 Integrated Priority List which included two major themes: DOE is obligated to request full funding for all legally required cleanup and safety activities and cleanup funds should not be used for non-cleanup activities. Advice on the specific programs was also included.

SPENT FUEL WORKSHOP

Twenty-one hundred metric tons of spent fuel are stored in the K Basins at Hanford, near the banks of the Columbia River. The fuel in the basins is corroding, sludge containing plutonium is located on the bottom of the basins, and the basins pose enormous risks in the event of an earthquake. The Board has offered repeated advice that this project receive the highest priority and be adequately funded. Currently, the program is facing schedule delays and cost overruns. EPA and Ecology have been attempting to negotiate enforceable milestones with DOE for the past two and a half years and have been unable to do so. DOE has been unable to establish a cost estimate and schedule in which there is enough confidence to establish milestones. Ecology and EPA have set a deadline of the end of July 1998 to have a milestone in place.

The Board approved a letter to John Wagoner asking for information on the corrective actions being taken to establish a firm baseline, correct management programs, and have a firm estimate of the cost.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board agreed to maintain its current committee structure and suggested that the Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee review its workscope and determine if there are ways to eliminate some topics from its agenda. The Executive Committee will now consist of the Board's chair and vice chair, and the chairs of each of the committees. The Board also agreed to co-sponsor the second Health of the Site meeting in November 1998.

INTERSITE WASTE TRANSFER WORKSHOPS

DOE is holding two workshop in June on intersite waste transfers. The Board expressed its disappointment in the continuing lack of a National Dialogue on intersite waste transfer. The Board also approved a letter to be sent to Secretary Pena and the League of Women Voters, coordinators of the workshop, describing components to assist in making the workshops successful and emphasizing that these workshops do not take the place of a National Dialogue.

ACCELERATING CLEANUP: PATHS TO CLOSURE

The Board was briefed on the Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure, which is now considered a strategy document. It summarizes the baseline for all the sites in DOE's complex. The comment period for the current draft ends May 1, but it will be a continuing process and if extensive comments are received, they will be folded into the document. If DOE does decide to use this as a decision document, some environmental impact statements might have to be revised.

UPDATES

DOE updated the Board on the current status of the FY97 and FY98 performance agreements. Twenty-seven of the FY97 performance agreements are still being evaluated to determine the amount of fee award. DOE-Headquarters has approved the FY98 performance agreements so the contract will remain as it is currently written.

A public meeting was held on April 2 on the proposed strategy for 100-N Area remediation. The current approach is to clean up the area to residential standards.

The Board will not be participating in review of the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) privatization proposals because of the restrictive confidentiality agreements. The Board will continue to be involved in the process through the Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee.

The public meetings held on a Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) change package to address standby of the Fast Flux Test Facility were well attended. The TPA agencies are in the process of preparing a comment response document and a decision that should be finalized within four to six weeks.

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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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