

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 7-8, 2000

Clackamas, Oregon

Hanford 2012 Plan

A significant portion of this Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) meeting was spent discussing and debating the merits of the U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) Hanford 2012 plan for accelerating cleanup along the Columbia River and shrinking the Hanford site. The discussions began with perspectives shared by a number of HAB participants in two workshops held in October and November on the plan. Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) also shared their thoughts on the plan.

Much time and energy was spent in discussing multiple versions of draft consensus advice on the plan. The key points of debate were how supportive the HAB as a whole was of the plan and how acceleration of cleanup along the river compares with other HAB priorities for Hanford cleanup. The HAB was able to come to consensus and issue Advice #113. The key points of the advice include that cleanup along the river has been a long-time HAB priority, but is not the HAB's highest priority; that the HAB supports efforts to obtain additional funding, especially in light of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) compliance gap; that Hanford 2012 does not resolve HAB concerns about groundwater; that DOE must commit to expedite technology development for cleanup of the 618 burial grounds; and that the TPA must continue to drive workplans and schedules.

Movement of Spent Nuclear Fuel

The HAB issued a letter of congratulations to DOE regarding the first movement of spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins that occurred on December 7, 2000.

The Year in Review: A Look Back

TPA agency representatives and the HAB chair reflected on the Board's work and Hanford cleanup over the past year. They also talked about their impressions of the results of the annual HAB self-evaluation. In general, the TPA agencies recommended that the HAB examine how it can improve its operations, including focusing on fewer issues and improving the committee structure. Marilyn Reeves, HAB chair, noted the value of the HAB as a tool to move cleanup moving forward. She expressed her appreciation for the many people who contribute to the HAB as members, alternates, ex officio members, agency staff, and contract staff. She urged the HAB to evaluate its number of meetings and how it develops and adopts consensus advice. She also

requested the authority to create an ad hoc workgroup to look at options for re-organizing the committees in light of the results of the self-evaluation.

The HAB discussed the results of the self-evaluation and agreed to the creation of an ad hoc workgroup to report back at the February HAB meeting.

Long-Term Stewardship

Susan Leckband recapped the October Site Specific Advisory Board chairs stewardship conference and the draft principles that were developed at the conference. Other Hanford conference participants also shared their thoughts on stewardship and the comparison of issues between Hanford and other DOE sites. Jim Dailey, DOE-RL, discussed the developing stewardship plan for Hanford with the HAB. The HAB asked Susan Leckband, Bill Kinsella, and Harold Heacock to draft a cover letter to transmit the Long-Term Stewardship portion of the December meeting summary to DOE as input into its stewardship planning efforts.