



Hanford Advisory Board Draft Meeting Summary

**February 6-7, 1997
Kennewick, Washington**

FY97 Budget Allocations

The FY97 Hanford budget allocation and program impacts were reviewed and discussed. Board members discussed the reasons for the funding shortfall and questioned whether it was due to Congress failing to allocate funds or Hanford not requesting enough funds. EPA and Ecology perceptions of FY97 work scope and budgets were also presented.

Two pieces of advice were approved concerning the budget. The first piece of advice addressed the issue of renegotiating TPA milestones based on budget reductions. The Board identified several milestones that would potentially be impacted by the budget shortfalls. The Board reiterated previous positions that the TPA is based on health and safety and that budget shortfalls should not be the reason to miss or jeopardize milestones. The Board also stated that the failure to request adequate funding should not be the basis for making changes in the TPA milestones.

The second piece of advice addressed the unacceptable program impacts under the FY97 budget. This advice addressed concerns that indirect and overhead costs exceeding budgets are the cause of the budget shortfall. The Board urged that funding be provided for TWRS vadose zone characterization. The Board also agreed that cleanup funding should not be used for any work associated with non-cleanup work (e.g., tritium production at the FFTF). A letter formally requesting a meeting between John Wagoner and the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment group was also approved.

Institutional Controls

Institutional controls, which originated as an issue last May and was discussed in following meetings, was adopted as formal advice. Much discussion ensued as to the applicable cleanup laws of the Hanford Site. References to the Model Toxic Control Act and NRC were incorporated. The advice recommended the Tri-Parties use the identified principles as they develop and implement cleanup decisions and make land available for others. Two Board members expressed dissenting opinions regarding the references to MTCA and NRC as they believed these references were not necessary.

National Dialogue

A meeting to identify a path forward for implementing the National Dialogue program took place in January. The League of Women Voters is beginning the process for preparation of a draft program plan that includes pilot workshops for stakeholder involvement on DOE issues. Concerns were raised as to the commitment of the DOE and the new Secretary of Energy. Consensus advice was issued in support of the program and raising concerns about the goals and scope of the draft process, its stakeholder involvement, schedules, participants, and involvement by the Northwest in the pilot programs. In addition, a letter to Secretary Pena urging his full support of the National Dialogue was approved by the Board.

Public Comment

David Black, Ph.D., explained that he is doing a dissertation on Hanford and the HAB. He will be setting up meetings over the next few months with HAB members.

Tank Waste Remediation Systems

The work done by the vadose zone expert panel and the Hanford Tank Initiative (HTI) expert panel were discussed. Ralph Patt was identified as the HAB representative for the Hanford Tank Initiative expert panel. A recent vadose zone borehole revealed that cesium contamination was deeper than originally thought. Draft advice in support of funding for additional vadose zone work was presented. Following discussion by the Board, the draft advice was referred back to committee for additional work.

PNNL Contract Renegotiation

DOE has decided to extend the PNNL contract instead of doing a competitive re-bid. Stakeholders expressed a desire to comment on the policy and funding issues surrounding the renegotiation. In light of this, the HAB is reviewing the Environmental Management portion of the PNNL contract, which includes overheads and indirects as well as technology development associated with the cleanup.

Technology Development

A panel discussion featuring members of the Site Technology Working Group (STCG) described the STCG process for identifying and applying technology to the Hanford cleanup. The panel discussed the strategy for technology application within the programs, the process for sharing lessons-learned with other sites, and the program's funding and management. HAB members participate in the STCG Management Council and sub-groups. An opening for HAB representation was identified and members were asked to consider their participation on the STCG.

Report from Executive Committee

The Executive Committee presented a draft workplan to HAB members for their review and comment. Recommendations for streamlining the development of advice and the HAB administrative management processes were reviewed. In addition to the process improvements, the Board received information as to changes regarding travel reimbursement. The Board approved a letter to John Wagoner supporting the selection of a PHMC non-management, non-union HAB representative.

Reactors on the River

The Board was briefed on TPA negotiations on schedules for final disposition of the reactors on the River. The process for interim safe storage of the reactors along the River includes removal of exterior buildings around the reactor core. The core will then be entombed by concrete primary shield walls and radiological notices will be posted on exterior fences. Following a period of maintenance and surveillance, the Record of Decision calls for one piece removal of the remaining core and shield walls for final disposition in the 200 Area. The B Reactor museum activities and the ability to make the facility safe for public access were discussed. The TPA agencies' primary concern is the type of cleanup required, which may vary with the type of museum to be established.

N Springs Shoreline Remediation Strategy

There are 109 separate source sites in the N Area at Hanford. Due to the unique geographic location of the N Springs Shoreline and the associated cultural and ecological issues, a proposal has been made by

DOE to designate this area as a separate source site for purposes of evaluating alternatives for remediation. Concerns were raised by Board members that the designation would increase costs and separate the site from existing cleanup laws. The HAB Environmental Restoration Committee will be reviewing this issue in upcoming meetings and requested the Board share their comments and concerns with them prior to the next meeting.

FY99 Budget

The FY97, FY98 and FY99 budgets were discussed. DOE is going through the process of solidifying the FY99 budget and presented a timeline for stakeholder involvement. Changes in FY98 include increases in privatization and out-year funding for construction projects. The EM cleanup funding breaks down to: (1) ER - \$132 million, (2) other waste management - \$141 million, (3) TWRS - \$316 million, (4) TWRS privatization - \$427 million, (5) nuclear materials & facilities stabilization - \$406 million, (6) future construction - \$202 million, and (7) other EM - \$114 million. Board members expressed concern that the FY98 budget request is less than FY97 and questioned this in light of the fact that Congress allocated more funds to the EM program.

DOE and Project Time and Cost representatives presented information on a review of the PHMC overheads and indirects. This was in response to HAB Consensus Advice #48 which requested external reviews of overheads and indirects. The review led to recommendations for a \$13.5 million dollar reduction in overheads. Activity Based Costing (ABC) was used in the review.

Updates

Suspended TPA negotiations on spent fuel and K Basins have resumed with a reassessed schedule and current budget information. The major elements of the change request regarding the type of milestones needed has been identified. The sludge issue in the K Basins is still being worked and negotiations should be completed on March 14, 1997.

A status of the Occupational Health Services recompetete process was provided. On February 28, the final RFP will be issued and a pre-proposal conference will be conducted on March 19. The deadline for receipt of proposals is April 15 with the award announced on June 30, 1997. The contract will begin on October 1, 1997. The Board recommended a member of the HAB serve on the contract review team.

Fluor Daniel Hanford's recently submitted ES&H plan, which was rejected by DOE, was discussed. Reasons for the plan's rejection were reviewed, as well as the approach for resolution of the issues which led to its rejection. A team made up of representatives from the contractor, DOE and the Hanford workforce has been formed to revise the ES&H Plan. Recommendations were made to include HAB representatives in the process to provide stakeholder input.

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