

Hanford Advisory Board

June 7-8, 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMITTEE WEEK SCHEDULE

The Public Involvement and Communications committee has not yet settled on a standard meeting time. This schedule was proposed for committee week:

Public Involvement and Communications - Tuesday morning
Budget and Contracts - Tuesday afternoon
River and Plateau - Wednesday morning and afternoon
Health, Safety and Environmental Protection - Thursday morning
Tank Waste - Thursday afternoon

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, RICHLAND OFFICE (DOE-RL) CONSTRAINTS TO CLEAN-UP MEETING, JUNE 26TH

The Board will send Todd Martin, Shelly Cimon, and Susan Leckband to this meeting.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

The Roles and Responsibilities document was adopted for use in the new member orientation packets.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TOP-TO-BOTTOM REVIEW

The general consensus was that there have been enough reviews. The time and money spent on this one should be directed to cleanup activities.

The agencies agreed that this review is inevitable. The underlying message is that the Tri-Party Agreement is out of date due to technology changes and efficiency considerations and needs to be renegotiated. Hanford has complied with the new interest in writing endpoint contracts, but these types of contracts cannot work without funding. There is concern by the agencies that the progress made will be negated by the results of this review.

The Board will request to participate in this review process and reserve the right to review the final product. The purpose of the Board's participation is to keep the process legitimate.

LOW-LEVEL WASTE BURIAL TRENCH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Board adopted advice on this issue. The main concerns of the Board were the way in which Parks Township compensated the Hanford site for its waste disposal and DOE continuing to pursue interim actions given its failure to have completed the HSW-EIS. Options discussed included building the trenches with the money from Parks Township but leaving them empty until the EIS is completed and using the money to take the first steps to do the EIS.

Board members were in favor of refusing to accept more waste until the EIS is done and demanding that characterization work and groundwater monitoring work be done before any more waste is accepted. There is no legal basis at this time to refuse to accept waste.

The agencies reported that there is a movement to send more, not less, waste to the Hanford site for disposal.

B REACTOR ENGINEERING EVALUATION AND COST ANALYSIS (EE/CA)

The Board adopted advice to support the preferred alternative in the EE/CA; a ten year plan for interim clean up of the reactor site in such a way as to not preclude a museum in the future.

There is national interest in creating this museum with an eye to similar projects around the country.

CLEANUP BASELINES AND BUDGETS

Ken Bracken assessed the affects of the proposed ORP budget scenarios. The worst-case scenario presents inaction and a ten-year setback for cleanup. The best-case scenario presents a one-year delay. Cost overruns could amount to \$600 million due to worker loss, restart costs, and inefficiencies.

Board members emphasized that the proposed budget has serious impacts on minimum safety requirements.

Regulator Input

Numerous letters have been sent or will be sent to the administration, Congress, and Headquarters by the agencies, the State Attorney General, and the Governor regarding the budgets and the budget process. No responses have been received yet.

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT ENFORCEMENT

Mike Gearheard (EPA) said budget shortfalls will result in a stoppage of work along the river, which will result in enforcement action. EPA enforcement is limited to penalties under the TPA and will be restricted to issues directly affecting cleanup work.

Mike Wilson (Ecology) said the Department of Ecology is not limited to TPA enforcement actions. Colleen Warren (Attorney General's Office) is acting as legal counsel to Ecology on enforcement issues. He talked about the appeal of making the TPA a consent decree. Mike stressed the unified effort being made by his office, the State Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office in addressing funding and compliance issues. There will be more information available on this at the September Board Meeting.

DOE CONTRACTS

The Board adopted a general piece of advice regarding contract principles. It was suggested the Budget and Contracts Committee might consider working on a more general principle-based document that would apply to any contract.

HAMMER ADVICE

The Board adopted a piece of advice in support of funding for the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) program. It was pointed out that the elimination of HAMMER has regional impacts on human health and safety.

TPA AGENCY RESPONSES TO HAB ADVICE

#115/River Corridor Contract

The thrust of the response was to agree with it in general terms. However, many expressed the opinion that actions do not conform to the words. The Budget and Contracts Committee will continue to talk to the Richland Office about the issues raised in the advice.

#116/Budget FY 2002-2003

The response from Carolyn Huntoon was that there is intense competition for funds and they are trying to be fair in allocating available monies.

The response from Keith Klein (DOE-RL) revealed a disconnect between the advice recommendations and the actual submission. It also included a priority list. However, it was not a list sufficient for assessing TPA milestone compliance.

