



Hanford Advisory Board

Draft Meeting Summary

May 1-2, 1997
Richland, Washington

Ten Year Plan

The Ten Year Plan schedule has been changed to target a new issue date of February 1998. The Integrated Priority List was presented at public meetings in Richland, Portland and Seattle. Comments have been received on the FY99 budget. The closing date for comments has been extended to May 30. There has been increased interest in the Ten Year Plan from Secretary Peña. The first Ten Year Plan will be called a discussion draft and will be out in mid-May, followed by a public comment period of 45-60 days, with comments accepted until mid to late July.

TWRS Privatization

The Department of Energy (DOE) indicated the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) privatization program is on track. Issues discussed included the need for stable long-term financial commitment and the privatization set aside. Both BNFL and Lockheed Martin Advanced Environmental Systems (LMAES) presented status reports. The BNFL team discussed its schedules and identified the need for changes in terminology in order to obtain financing. BNFL said it is on schedule to meet its deliverables. The LMAES team announced that M4 has been replaced with EnVitCo, thereby offering a more efficient and advanced technology for low-activity waste needs. The change in contractors impacts the schedule but LMAES is confident that it will meet the deliverable deadline in May 1998. Both contractors addressed the need for DOE to assume more of the financial risk of the project.

Discussion ensued on the possibility that the competitive privatization effort might be reduced to one contractor. DOE reinforced its desire to work with two contractors during Phase I of the privatization process to ensure the benefits derived from a competitive environment.

Public Comment

A former Hanford employee commented on concerns regarding health and safety on the Hanford site and will be leading an effort for full disclosure of information.

FY99 DOE Budget

Comments on the FY99 budget will be accepted through May 31, 1997. DOE received the Board's consensus advice and is expecting formal input from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). This input and advice will be used to update the integrated priority list for submittal to DOE-Headquarters in mid-June.

100-D Treatability Study/Deployment Plan

A proposed treatability test of the In Situ Redox Manipulation technology was discussed with regards to technical application and protecting the salmon redds. Board members expressed concern over the proximity of the test to the River and the potential for the treatment technology to result in more harm to the salmon. Clarification was provided that the In Situ Redox Manipulation technology needs to be

tested on a large scale in the chromium plume in the 100-D Area to ensure the technology's effectiveness. It was noted that other sites may benefit from the use of this technology. Conditions for implementation of the test plan that were discussed included: (1) long-term groundwater monitoring of pertinent constituents, (2) long-term mitigation of impacts from the technology, (3) funding to address peer review panel recommendations, and (4) characterization of the chromium source(s) at the test plan and deployment site. Other concerns were expressed over the use of research and development funding for a process that has been developed. Advice was adopted addressing the need for the adoption of Board values and funding for a treatability study and deployment initiative. It is Consensus Advice #71.

Tri-Party Agreement Negotiations

Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) negotiations on the reactors on the River and K Basins/spent fuel were recently completed. One of the major new elements in the reactors package is the opportunity to revisit technologies for reactor removal and ultimate disposition within a five year period. The spent fuel negotiations agreement aligns DOE, contractor, regulatory agency, and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board milestones. An added benefit of the negotiations is clarification of language as well as roles and responsibilities in the TPA. Concern was expressed over the 200 Area Soils Remediation Strategy negotiations and Board members emphasized the need to work with the more seriously contaminated sites first. The Plutonium Finishing Plant negotiations are scheduled to begin in September 1998.

Tracking of FY97-99 Accomplishments

The Health, Safety and Waste Management and Environmental Restoration Committees have developed lists of objectives for tracking success of each of the programs at Hanford. The objectives were derived from FY99 budget presentations. The committees will use these to define specific indicators to measure success in the Board's areas of interest.

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

A presentation was made by Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) representatives on DNFSB's mission and objectives. The DNFSB is not a regulatory organization. It is empowered by the President and Congress to make recommendations for improvements. Once the recommendations are submitted to the Secretary, they must be implemented or a formal document explaining why they were not must be submitted. Current DNFSB initiatives at Hanford were discussed as well as initiatives at other sites such as Pit 9 at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Canyon Disposition Initiative

The 200 Area Canyon Disposition Initiative addresses five canyons and alternatives for their disposition. The U-Plant will be the pilot for the initiative. Currently, the Phase I feasibility study is going through regulatory review with a public comment period scheduled for June. There are seven alternatives identified for canyon disposition in the feasibility study. Technology funds are being requested to fund characterization activities for the initiative. The Health, Safety and Waste Management and Environmental Restoration Committees are preparing a draft report on issues and concerns to be addressed by the canyon disposition initiative. This will become a formal technical report from the Board.

PHMC Environmental, Safety & Health Plan

The Project Hanford Management Contract (PHMC) Environmental, Safety and Health Plan is currently being revised due to DOE's rejection of the first submittal. Members of a working group, representing a cross section of the workforce, are developing the plan for submittal by July 1997. A report on safety statistics was provided to the Board. The statistics show a downward trend in accident occurrences and an improved safety environment was identified as being responsible for the improvements.

K Basins/Spent Fuel Program

The K Basin and Spent Fuel Program is underway. Multiple projects within the program were discussed, including the Canister Storage Building, Hot Vacuum Conditioning, Cold Vacuum Drying, Multi-Canister Overpacks, Fuel Retrieval, Cask/Transportation and Fuel and Sludge Characterization. Overall, the program has been able to balance the increased workscope and reduced budget. Concerns were raised over schedule slippages that are due to new technical issues and increased equipment costs. Measures being taken to address these issues were discussed.

Tri-Party Agreement Agency Needs from HAB

Chuck Clarke, EPA, Tom Fitzsimmons, Ecology, and Lloyd Piper, DOE, shared their perspectives on the importance of the public involvement process as it applies not only to Hanford cleanup but to the nation. Each representative expressed the need to continue the public involvement process. Concerns were raised over diminishing funding and contractor support for the Board. Emerging issues that were identified included the Ten Year Plan, budgets and long-term stable funding.

Updates

The PUREX Closing Ceremony will take place in June with Al Alm in attendance. Secretary Peña's schedule was not able to accommodate the June schedule and it was recommended that a HAB meeting date be coordinated with the Secretary's visit scheduled for September.

Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment meetings will be held May 15 at the Shilo Inn in Richland from 6-7 p.m, May 20 in Hood River at the Hood River Inn, May 25 in Portland at the State Office Building, and May 22 at the Mountaineers Building in Seattle.

The Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement/Comprehensive Land Use Plan is being revised to incorporate stakeholder comments. This document is intended to be a comprehensive land use plan for the period of time the agency is managing the land.

An agreement between the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP), DOE and stakeholders on how the Openness Initiative will proceed is in progress. Workshops versus panels will be developed. Board members were pleased that CRESP is partnering on this issue.

Over one hundred inquiries for submittal forms have been received for the non-union, non-management seats. The deadline for applications is May 15, 1997. Recommendations should be available by the July Board meeting.

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For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to the Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov

URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/execsum/may.htm>

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