



## Hanford Advisory Board

Executive Summary

November 2-3, 2000

Richland, Washington

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### **Tri-Party Agreement: Regulating for Success**

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies discussed cleanup progress and the outlook for continued progress under the TPA. Four specific program areas were discussed: Spent Nuclear Fuel, Waste Management, Environmental Restoration, Facility Transition, and the River Protection Project. HAB members are anxiously awaiting the first movement of spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins, and it appears that this will happen on or very close to the November 30 TPA milestone date. The waste management program is being restructured. HAB members were interested in transuranic waste issues. They also expressed great concern about off-site waste. Concerning the Environmental Restoration program, HAB members were concerned about the implications of accelerated cleanup in the 300 Area and the timely cleanup of the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds. Work appears to be going well in the area of facility transition, and Fluor Hanford is about to mark 10 million accident-free person hours of work. Interim stabilization of tanks is making good progress, but HAB members expressed concern over the fate of the liquid in the tanks as treatment capability is delayed and the tank infrastructure continues to age and degrade.

In response to HAB member concerns regarding off-site waste, a piece of draft advice was developed during the meeting. While there was a suggestion to consider adopting this advice at this HAB meeting or at a meeting of the "committee of the whole", the HAB decided to send the draft advice to the Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee for further work and discussion.

### **October Hanford 2012/Done in a Decade Workshop**

HAB participants in the October workshop focused on the new vision and plan for Hanford cleanup briefed the full Board on the major points of agreement and concern from the meeting, including the importance of conducting work under the auspices of the TPA, public involvement, addressing the 618-10 and -11 burial grounds, examining trade-offs related to acceleration of cleanup along the river, developing the ability to retrieve and treat transuranic waste, and clearly communicating that all Hanford cleanup cannot be completed in the next decade. Concerns were also raised regarding the applicability of closure contracts to parts of Hanford cleanup and the definition of desired cleanup end states. The HAB is debating what the product of its work will be on the Hanford 2012 topic.

### **Hanford Advisory Board Chair Transition**

HAB members spent much of the two-day meeting searching for consensus on a single candidate to recommend to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to be the next HAB chair. This was a long and difficult process for the Board. When consensus could not be reached, the HAB made use of the fallback position in its charter and operating groundrules that provides for a 2/3rds majority vote for major procedural actions, provided a quorum is present. Three candidates were considered for recommendation to DOE: Shelley Cimon, Leon Swenson, and Todd Martin. HAB members expressed their confidence in the abilities

of all the candidates and were grateful that all three were willing to serve in the challenging position of HAB chair. After numerous motions and votes, the final decision was to unanimously recommend Todd Martin to DOE to be appointed as the next HAB chair. If appointed, Todd would succeed Merilyn Reeves who will complete six years of highly-regarded service to the HAB in February 2001.

### **Contracting Advice**

The HAB considered two pieces of advice relating to site cleanup contracts. The first piece of advice concerning contractor performance agreements for fiscal year 2001 was adopted at the September HAB meeting without a full quorum present. The HAB reconsidered and readopted this advice at this meeting with a quorum present. The second piece of advice concerned factors that the HAB believes are important for DOE to consider in making the decision whether or not to extend or recompete the large Fluor Hanford cleanup contract. HAB debate included raising concerns that the local DOE office had already sent its recommended decision to DOE-Headquarters for concurrence and approval and that parts of the advice were too detailed and not focused at a policy level. After discussion and a number of wording changes, the HAB adopted Consensus Advice #112 on contracting criteria.

### **Hanford Health and Safety**

The HAB had the pleasure of listening to and talking with a panel of workers from the Hanford site about the new Integrated Safety Management program. The frank discussions gave the HAB a good sense of the philosophy behind the new program, the commitment of the workers in making it a success, and the satisfaction with the changes in the safety of the work and the quality of communications between workers and management that is already occurring. An important piece of the program is continuous improvement to address pockets of mediocrity that still exist. HAB members expressed their gratitude for the work that the workers perform and their concern for worker safety. The HAB requested that the panel return in 2001 to provide another update on the status and progress of the health and safety program.

### **Updates**

The HAB received numerous updates on a wide variety of topics, including Science and Technology, the national Environmental Management Advisory Board, the annual Tank Closure Workshop, the recent DOE Stewardship Workshop, a recent Washington State Department of Ecology workshop on tank cleanup, the Hanford Strategic Plan, and the outcome of the EPA multi-media inspection. The HAB also received an update on the November 1 Executive Committee meeting and the new facilitation contract. The next two HAB meetings will be on February 1-2 and April 5-6. Both meetings will be in the Tri-Cities.

### **Public Comment**

Don Myers, private citizen, and Joyce Olson, District Director for Representative Doc Hastings, both presented public comments to the HAB. Joyce Olson provided the HAB with a copy of a letter from Doc Hastings to Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson that encouraged DOE to provide the HAB with a written determination of whether the next HAB chair can be compensated, an issue of great concern to many HAB members.

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**Hanford Home Page | HAB | Summary List**

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

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