



Hanford Advisory Board

Revised Meeting Summary

November 6-7, 1997
Portland, Oregon

Maintaining Cleanup Progress

The Board spent several hours discussing cleanup progress at Hanford and what can be done to ensure that stakeholder values relating to cleanup are maintained in the face of declining budgets. Ecology, EPA, and DOE provided input to the Board's discussion by focusing on the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), the remaining major milestones, and what needs to be accomplished to move cleanup forward. The Board agreed to hold a workshop at its December meeting for Board members to identify the top policy issues for 1998, what the Board can do to ensure that stakeholder values are being integrated in cleanup activities, and ways that to get the message of the importance of cleanup to Congress.

Focus on 2006/Contractors Integration Report

The Board received reports on several meetings related to the 2006 Plan and Contractors Integration Report. These included a joint meeting held between the members of the Board and the Idaho Citizens Advisory Board that resulted in a joint statement. The results of the National Dialogue Pilot Workshops were summarized. Uncertainty remains on how the results of those workshops will be used and whether the National Dialogue process will continue. A meeting was held in Dallas with all of the site-specific advisory boards' chairs in attendance. The focus of the meeting was on the 2006 Plan and Contractors Integration Report and how DOE will be using the information included in those reports. The Board also received an update on the FY98 and FY99 efficiencies. It appears that even with the identified efficiencies, there will still be a gap in the funding for FY98 and FY99.

The Board adopted advice which focused on issues relating to planning documents currently under public review, including the Focus on 2006 Plan and the Contractors Integration Report. The concerns addressed in the advice included DOE ensuring that assumptions about waste transfer are the same in each document, defining a clear path forward and purpose for the documents, aligning the timelines in each of the documents, identifying legal documents on which the decisions will be made, identifying who will be paying for disposal costs, and addressing TPA milestones. It is Consensus Advice #78.

200 Area Soils Remediation Strategy

Ecology and EPA presented the 200 Area Soils Remediation Strategy and the proposed related TPA change package to the Board. The Environmental Restoration Committee presented draft advice focusing on concerns relating to the strategy. After discussion, the Committee agreed to rewrite the advice, focusing on the TPA change package, and resubmit the advice for consideration at the December Board meeting.

Decontamination and Decommissioning Budget Impacts

The Environmental Restoration Committee presented draft advice on the impacts of budget cuts to the decontamination and decommissioning program which result in laid off workers, a loss of institutional memory, and impacts on safety issues. After discussion, the Board adopted the advice. It is Consensus Advice #76.

PHMC Performance Evaluation

The Dollars and Sense Committee reported on the input it had provided to the DOE independent validation of Fluor Daniel Hanford's self assessment. Also, it presented draft advice on the PHMC performance measures for FY98 which applied the lessons learned from FY97 evaluation. After discussion, the Board adopted the advice. It is Consensus Advice #77.

New Business

The Board was briefed on a court case in Texas which has resulted in a preliminary injunction forcing DOE to consider sending waste to unregulated off-site disposal facilities. After discussion, the Board adopted advice which asked DOE to appeal the decision and present a credible defense. It is Consensus Advice #79.

The Board was asked to consider DOE's policy of openness and commitment to working with outside groups before alternatives are developed and to request that both site and Headquarters' personnel restate their commitment to this policy.

Tank Waste Remediation System

An update on the TWRS privatization funding was provided. With current and anticipated funding levels, there will be a funding shortfall in 2006 of \$600 to \$900 million. A partnering team has been formed to include regulatory agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and contractors to review double shell tank integrity, vadose zone, and the development of a program plan. The SX Farm borehole has been extended to 175 feet, but further drilling is being slowed by gravel layers.

Independent DOE Validation of PHMC Performance Measures

A brief overview of Fluor Daniel Hanford's self assessment and DOE's independent validation was provided. While there were areas of agreement, areas for improvement, such as eliminating overlapping roles between DOE and the contractors, were identified. The Board raised questions on compliance with milestones, safety and employee reprisals, and economic transition.

Hanford's Safety Culture

The Board discussed the growing concerns about the safety culture and fear of retaliation for reporting safety violations. Input was provided to the Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee on its framing of draft advice and included who the advice should be targeted towards and potential data to back up concerns about safety.

Updates

The EMAB Science Committee met on November 5-6 to focus on funding for basic science research and technology development based on the sites' needs. The Hanford Site Technology Coordination Group is in the process of developing technology and science needs for FY98 and encouraging program managers and contractors to pursue using new technologies. The Board was briefed on the status of TPA milestones. The spent fuel milestone (M-34) is being renegotiated based on schedule problems and the need for additional funding. The tank characterization milestone (M-44) has completed its public comment period and a request will be prepared. DOE has appealed Ecology's decision to deny a TPA change to delay removal of waste from the C-106 tank (M-45). The change package for the Plutonium

Finishing Plant is on hold while funding issues for FY98 and FY99 are resolved.

Public Comment

Dirk Dunning provided public comment to the Board. He reminded the Board to keep in perspective the dangerous materials that are being handled at the Hanford site. Secretary O'Leary disclosed that a large amount of plutonium is unaccounted for at Hanford, potentially over 1.5 tons. However, the alarm raised over the unaccounted for plutonium is not nearly as strong as what would happen if 1.5 tons of \$50 bills were missing from the U.S. Treasury.

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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/nov6-7.htm>

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