



Hanford Advisory Board

Executive Summary

September 7-8, 2000

Seattle, Washington

DOE-Office of River Protection

Bill Taylor, U.S. Department of Energy- Office of River Protection (DOE -ORP), gave an update on DOE-ORP activities in light of significant changes recently. DOE-ORP issued a request for proposals on August 31. Contractor proposals must be submitted by October 16. Activities continue to transfer information from the former contractor, BNFL, to the interim contractor CH2M Hill. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have expressed concerns about dates contained in the request for proposals that do not match Tri Party Agreement (TPA) commitment dates. The contract should be awarded by January 2001.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) members inquired about the short turnaround time between the issuance of the request for proposals and when proposals are due, the rationale for contracting with separate contractors for the design and construction of the facility and for facility operation, access to contractor information, funding, and strategies for avoiding repeat of the mistakes associated with the BNFL contract.

"Done in a Decade" Proposal for Hanford Cleanup

Members of the Environmental Restoration and Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committees reflected committee discussions and concerns regarding the DOE-Richland (DOE-RL) proposal to accelerate Hanford cleanup along the Columbia River and to adjust other site cleanup activities to accommodate this acceleration. Major concerns included implications for work in the 200 Area, the need to address the highest risks, meeting Tri-Party Agreement milestones, identification of cleanup end states, and budget. Members concluded that a focused effort should evaluate HAB values in relation to "Done in a Decade" before the November HAB meeting.

EPA Five-Year Remedy Review for Hanford Superfund Sites

Dennis Faulk, EPA, provided an overview of the EPA Five-Year Remedy Review of Hanford's Superfund cleanup sites listed on the National Priorities List that include the 100, 200, 300, and 1100 Areas of Hanford. The objective of the review is to determine if the cleanup objectives established in cleanup decisions are being met. When the results are completed, EPA will release the report for public review and comment. HAB members asked for clarification about the scope of the five-year review and the relationship of institutional controls to cleanup levels and future land use,

HAB Chair Transition

The HAB discussed and adopted guidelines for the HAB to solicit nominations and develop recommendations to give to the TPA agencies that will select the new HAB chair. The HAB charged the working group that developed the guidelines with implementing them, including collecting nominations. Marilyn Reeves has served as HAB chair six years, and her term

expires in February 2001. HAB members recognized the significant challenges faced in finding a replacement for Marilyn and her leadership.

Hanford Fire

Pam Brown led a discussion on the Hanford fire of June 2000. A number of agency reviews are underway to assess emergency response procedures and effectiveness. Pam proposed that the HAB hold an evening informational session in association with the November HAB meeting to further discuss the fire.

Advice Performance Measures

The Dollars and Sense Committee presented draft advice to the HAB regarding the development of performance measures for cleanup contracts. Advice #111 was adopted on Friday afternoon by the 13 of 31 HAB seats present. It was signed by HAB chair Marilyn Reeves and sent to the TPA agencies. Since there was not a quorum present at the time the advice was adopted, the advice will be brought before the HAB again at the November HAB meeting for reconsideration.

Perspectives from Senior TPA Managers

Keith Klein, DOE-RL Site Manager; Harry Boston, DOE-ORP Acting Manager; Tom Fitzsimmons, Ecology Director; Chuck Findley, EPA Region 10 Acting Regional Administrator; and Maxine Hayes, Washington Department of Health State Health Officer, participated in a panel discussion to share their individual visions for Hanford cleanup.

Mr. Klein has developed three focused cleanup objectives: restoring the River Corridor, transitioning the Central Plateau, and preparing for the future. The plan for achieving these objectives and accelerating some cleanup activities is called "Done in a Decade." Mr. Klein wants to have a solid plan in place before the change in Administration.

Harry Boston noted that the tank waste treatment project has faced substantial set backs in recent months. A broad base of support is needed to secure funding for the vitrification facility. He said tank wastes must be safely treated and stored and the tank farms must be closed safely to protect the region. He noted that the path forward is clear, and he is committed to resolving issues between DOE and the regulators.

Tom Fitzsimmons stressed the importance of recognizing the achievements made on site. Ecology sees "Done in a Decade" as a good idea that needs further definition without relaxing regulatory requirements. Ecology wants to draw attention to the greatest risks. Work to negotiate tank farm consent decrees is underway. Mr. Fitzsimmons suggested that the HAB step back from criticizing and look toward contributing creative solutions to problems. He also suggested that the HAB narrow its focus.

Chuck Findley said that EPA's role is to keep the current cleanup schedule on course. EPA is supportive of DOE-RL's vision to accelerate cleanup and strongly supports any plan that addresses the highest risks first.

Maxine Hayes commended the Board for its recognition that public health and worker health is very important both today and in the future. Ms. Hayes said WDOH is supportive

of Mr. Klein's vision for cleanup and also supports the work of Ecology and EPA. The role of WDOH is to ensure that public health is protected in all cleanup decisions made across the site.

Merilyn Reeves outlined a number of the unique aspects of the HAB and the Hanford site, including pioneering efforts to launch true public involvement, establishment of the TPA, the existence of two site managers, and the broad spectrum of interests represented on the HAB.

Board discussion followed presentations by the senior managers with a wide spectrum of issues and concerns raised. Discussion primarily focused on the future of the site, ranging from issues about the vitrification contract, to the accelerated cleanup plan, to budget, and to site contracting. The views represented the broad spectrum of perspectives and interests of HAB members and the constituencies they represent.

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

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