

Hanford Advisory Board



Annual Report

*Providing Advice on Hanford Cleanup to the U.S. Department of Energy,
the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State
Department of Ecology*

Hanford terms and acronyms used in this report

Central Plateau	The location of the 200 East and 200 West Areas and waste management facilities located in those areas.
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, also known as Superfund, providing statutory authority for cleanup of hazardous substances.
change package	Changes to the TPA (see below) negotiated and agreed to by the agencies involved in Hanford cleanup.
DOE-HQ	U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters in Washington D.C.
DOE-ORP	U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection.
DOE-RL	U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office.
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement, a document prepared to comply with NEPA (see below).
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
HAB	The Hanford Advisory Board.
HPMP	Performance Management Plan for the Accelerated Cleanup of the Hanford Site (DOE-RL-2002-47, Rev. D, August 2002).
HSW-EIS	Draft Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0286D or DOE/EIS-0286D2).
K Basins	Water-filled basins that were used to store spent nuclear fuel from reactor operations.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on all major federal actions significantly affecting the human environment.
RBES	Risk-Based End State, defined by DOE as “representations of site conditions and associated information that reflects the planned future use of the property and are appropriately protective of human health and the environment consistent with that land use.” Guidance from DOE-HQ in 2003 required each site to develop a document describing how cleanup plans are consistent with this approach.
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, regulating the management of solid and hazardous waste.
River Corridor	Hanford facilities and waste sites along the Columbia River.
ROD	Record of Decision, the CERCLA (see above) document used to select the method of remedial action to be implemented at a cleanup site.
TPA	Tri-Party Agreement, the informal name for the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order signed by DOE, EPA, and Ecology in 1989. The TPA sets cleanup activities and schedules designed to bring Hanford into compliance with environmental laws.
Transuranic (TRU) Waste	Typically plutonium-contaminated trash, such as discarded tools and equipment, that is highly radioactive and can take thousands of years to decay to safe radiation levels. Mixed TRU waste (TRU-M) is TRU mixed with hazardous substances.
vitrification	A process that mixes wastes with other materials to form glass. The waste is immobilized in glass, reducing the potential for contamination of the environment.
WTP	Waste Treatment Plant, the facility where tank waste will be vitrified.

Mission Statement

The Hanford Advisory Board is an independent, non-partisan, and broadly representative body consisting of a balanced mix of the diverse interests that are affected by Hanford cleanup issues. The primary mission of the Board is to provide informed recommendations and advice to the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology on selected major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford site. Through its open public meetings, advice on agency public involvement activities, and the responsibilities of Board members to communicate with their constituencies, the Board is chartered to assist the broader public in becoming more informed and meaningfully involved in Hanford cleanup decisions.

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Message from the Chair

Ten years ago, 35 stakeholders—the newly created Hanford Advisory Board—gathered in a room in Richland and advised the Tri-Party Agreement Agencies (U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) to move ahead rapidly with cleanup along the Columbia River. Stating that characterization and cleanup activities along the river should be integrated to facilitate getting on with the cleanup, the Board issued Advice #1.

The next month, the Board identified the need for a disposal facility for Hanford waste produced during cleanup along the river. That was HAB Advice #2. This piece of advice essentially supported the building of Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

In just its first two pieces of advice, the Board had already played an important role in supporting Hanford's successful cleanup approach along the Columbia River.

Late in 1994, the Board issued Advice #6, highlighting the importance of expedited removal of reactor spent fuel stored in K Reactor Storage Basins. The Board advised DOE to resolve technical issues and fully fund the program in order to remove the fuel by 2002. Once again, a current Hanford success was initially buttressed by HAB advice.

The Board then played a role in developing an extremely successful process that facilitated the collection of input from Northwest citizens on Hanford's budget priorities. In addition, in Advice #'s 8, 11, 12, and 17, the Board took aim at contractor overhead rates, artificial barriers to shifting funds between cleanup activities, and funding of activities not related to Tri-Party Agreement compliance. If these ideas sound familiar, it's because they have become a focus of DOE's current management strategy.

The Board has also focused significant energy on Hanford's efforts to treat and dispose of Hanford tank waste. This included advice on DOE's efforts to turn tank waste treatment over to private companies. Through multiple pieces of advice (18, 24, and 32), the Board provided a roadmap of pitfalls of DOE's privatization plans for treating and disposing of Hanford's high level tank waste.

This advice was largely ignored, and the Board subsequently opposed DOE's privatization effort, stating that, "DOE runs a high risk of a very visible failure with political repercussions." (Advice #24.) When the privatization house of cards crumbled, that very public failure did indeed have political repercussions.

Completing its ninth year and moving into its tenth, the Board's body of work now includes more than 150 pieces of advice— a body of work that has had significant effects on Hanford cleanup decisions.



Leadership Retreat 2003

More recently, the Board has been involved in the important risk assessment discussions that will provide a basis for final cleanup decisions. Decisions on the risks ecological and human communities will be exposed to is, not surprisingly, very controversial. The Board has played a vital role in breaking the risk assessment controversy between DOE, the regulators and the stakeholder community. As an example, the agencies agreed on a risk framework for the Central Plateau that was based on advice provided by the Board.

In the last several years, the Board has also matured as an organization, instituting a structured, disciplined planning process. This process allows for agency input into the Board's workplan and, ultimately, provides a measuring stick to evaluate the Board's effectiveness.

Lastly, the Board has begun proactively assisting the agencies with outreach efforts. This year, the Board held public forums at Gonzaga University in Spokane and Lewis and Clark College in Portland outlining Hanford's history and current cleanup challenges. The Board is also represented during the agencies' annual State of the Site meetings that are focused on collecting general cleanup input from the public.

Even a cursory review of the Board's first decade reveals that Hanford's cleanup history is inextricably intertwined with the Board's operations. Through five DOE site managers, other numerous DOE senior personnel changes and contractor changes, the Board has remained a constant reminder of the vigilance and passion necessary to clean up Hanford.

The successes of the Board's last nine years are built firmly on the foundation of the Board's process. And I will be the first to acknowledge that this process is not always pretty. The analogies have all become clichés: sausage making, breaking eggs to make omelettes, and on and on. The fundamental truth in the clichés is, "it has to get messy before we can get it right."

It is worth noting that, for many of Hanford's achievements, the path cleanup is currently on is not the path cleanup was on prior to the Board's messy public process. DOE, Ecology and EPA deserve credit for the cleanup achievements. Likewise, they deserve credit for supporting both the Board and the difficult but essential public outreach that leads to sound cleanup solutions.

The Board remains committed to being both an instigator of, and repository for, Hanford's successful, messy decision-making. The end product is what matters most: passionate support for Hanford's mission and, occasionally, a few good ideas to speed cleanup along.

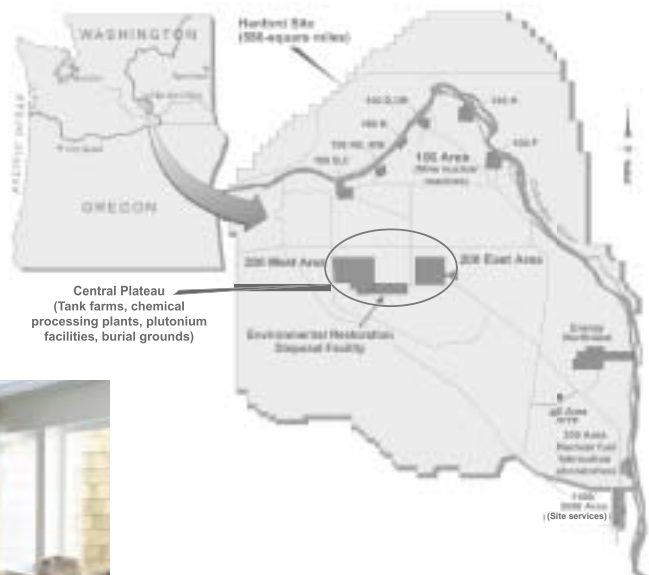
Todd Martin, Board Chair

Hanford Advisory Board

In addition to the cleanup milestones, the TPA also contains a Community Relations Plan outlining the public participation processes designed to ensure the agencies include the public as partners in Hanford cleanup decisions.

Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, DOE chartered the Hanford Advisory Board in 1994 to provide a forum for bringing together diverse local and regional interests to tackle the difficult issues associated with cleaning up the legacy of radioactive and chemical wastes left from 50 years of weapons production. The 31 seats on the Board include interests from the economic, environmental, tribal, public interest, local government, and health and safety communities. At Board and committee meetings, the Board works to define significant issues meriting public input and provide meaningful advice to the agencies on Hanford cleanup. Operating by consensus, the Board has produced over 150 individual pieces of advice in its 9-year history.

This ninth annual report of the Hanford Advisory Board highlights the work done in calendar year 2003 and outlines the issues the Board will focus on in 2004.



Leadership Retreat 2003

Board Work 2003

As promised in 2002, the Board concentrated its work on acceleration initiatives driven by the Hanford Performance Management Plan (DOE-RL-2002-47, Rev. D, August 2002). With more cleanup activity at the site and fewer Board meetings to address stakeholder concerns, the Board worked hard in 2003 to maximize its effectiveness and focus on specific areas highlighted by the agencies as critical to Hanford's cleanup mission. In spite of DOE staff changes, federal budget cuts, member retirements, and other upheavals, the Board continued its consensus building and public participation efforts on behalf of the communities affected by Hanford cleanup.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are structured to provide members with information and opportunities to ask questions about key Hanford activities prior to the consensus building that culminates in Board advice to the agencies. In 2003, along with deliberation and adoption of Board advice, Board meetings included tutorials and discussions on plans for waste disposition; accelerated stabilization and de-inventory of spent nuclear materials; cumulative impact assessment tools; DOE budget processes and priorities; and TPA change negotiations. At the end of each fiscal year, senior managers from the TPA agencies join the Board for a review of the previous year's cleanup activities and accomplishments. Standing agenda items at every Board meeting include agency updates on upcoming document releases and other site activities of interest to the public; reports on proceedings from the Board's five committees; and topics for inclusion in upcoming Board agendas.

Committee Meetings

The Board uses its five committees to delve into the details of technical and policy issues that matter to Hanford stakeholders. It is this detailed analysis that forms the foundation of the Board's advice on cleanup. Issue managers on each committee are assigned the task of working with agency liaisons and project managers to frame topics for committee discussions and possible consideration by the full Board. The committees are also responsible for reaching consensus on advice prior to Board discussions. This process ensures broad member participation and representation of interests in advice development and makes best use of the Board's limited time. Below is a brief description of the Board's committees and the issues they examined throughout the year.

River and Plateau Committee

Arguably the busiest of the Board's committees, the River and Plateau Committee tackled an array of technical issues for Board consideration in 2003. Over the course of the year, the committee looked carefully at the revised draft Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact

Statement (HSW-EIS), transuranic (TRU) waste disposition and importation, cleanup progress at the K Basins and the Plutonium Finishing Plant, groundwater protection plans, DOE's Risk-Based End States vision documents, and other Central Plateau cleanup activities. The committee heard from technical experts about risk assessments and technology development, and synthesized these issues for Board discussion. In September, committee members took a comprehensive site tour to view cleanup progress.

Tank Waste Committee

The Tank Waste Committee tracked a number of issues involving programmatic changes to the plans for tank waste retrieval, treatment, and disposal. These changes included: elimination of technetium removal capability from the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP); testing of supplemental technologies to vitrification; and the proposal to dispose of some tank waste in New Mexico as TRU waste. The committee also developed advice on the scope and alternatives in the draft Retrieval, Treatment and Disposal of Tank Waste and Closure of Single-Shell Tanks Environmental Impact Statement. In August, the committee toured the WTP construction site, the largest capital project in the federal government system.

Budgets and Contracts Committee

The Budgets and Contracts Committee had another challenging year as DOE shifted away from managing annual budgets and toward managing multi-year baselines and contracts. Throughout the year the committee continued to monitor the state of Hanford funding, provide input to DOE on budget priorities, and champion the need for stakeholder participation in near- and long-term Hanford funding decisions.

Public Involvement and Communication Committee

The Public Involvement and Communication Committee concentrated its efforts on public participation in Hanford cleanup decisions. The committee discussed security issues such as public site access and sensitive document management, and prepared the Board for a dialogue at the September Board meeting with senior DOE managers about public involvement commitments. In conjunction with two Board meetings, the committee also hosted public forums designed to inform local communities and encourage new interest in Hanford from the public around the region.

Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee

The Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee continued its focus on Hanford's Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS). The committee also tracked specific ongoing safety issues within ISMS implementation, such as vapor exposure in the tank farms and administrative controls during regular maintenance. The committee also hosted a panel of Hanford workers and contractors at the June Board meeting, giving Board members the opportunity to hear from Hanford's workers about the operational details of ISMS.

Board Leadership

In late May, Board leadership held a retreat to discuss how to respond to DOE's request for increased Board efficiency. The retreat led to several structural as well as operational revisions in the Board's processes, including: Board meetings will be reduced to five in the next fiscal year; joint committee meetings and committees of the whole will be employed when possible to increase efficiency; and the Board will strive to provide more clarity in requests for information, in order to eliminate duplicative requests of the agencies and use agency resources as economically as possible.

Board Advice 2003

In five meetings in 2003, the Board issued 12 pieces of advice on a variety of important topics, including TRU waste, tank waste treatment, groundwater, the budget process, the revised draft HSW-EIS, and Risk-Based End States. With the issuing of more than 150 pieces of advice, the Board has now amassed a broad, articulate library of stakeholder comment on Hanford cleanup issues.

"These actions should not set a precedent for accepting offsite waste or uncharacterized waste that has not met applicable Washington State and federal waste laws and regulations."

(Advice #142)

Transuranic Waste and the M-91 TPA Milestones

The Board's first advice of 2003 was issued after DOE shipped TRU wastes from Ohio and California to Hanford. In Advice #142, the Board expressed its "grave concern" and objected to additional waste being added to Hanford before the impacts of doing so had been analyzed thoroughly in an EIS. The advice also reflected Board disapproval of DOE making the decision to ship the waste to Hanford before the comment period for the draft HSW-EIS was completed.

The Board asked that Washington State require documentation on all wastes destined for Hanford to ensure proper storage and mitigation of impacts. The Board also asked for public access to information on TRU shipments and that stakeholders be involved in the decision-making process.

During the same meeting, the Board also issued Advice #143, which lists eight principles the Board suggested the TPA agencies use during negotiations for the construction and operation of facilities to manage TRU and low-level waste (Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-91). According to the Board's principles, waste must be characterized before shipment to Hanford and "waste importation impact considerations must include the long-term, fully burdened costs of storage and treatment, including considerations of the financial impacts on future cleanup activities at Hanford."



Leadership Retreat 2003

Tank Waste Treatment

Decisions regarding the future treatment of tank wastes received considerable Board attention in 2003. The year started with DOE-ORP requesting Board feedback on issues to be included in the scope of the Retrieval, Treatment and Disposal of Tank Waste and Closure of Single-Shell Tanks EIS. In Advice #144, the Board suggested items to be included in the EIS and further clarified for the public. Among the additional items the Board requested were an analysis of the impacts of removing technetium-99 (Tc-99) pretreatment; an analysis of disposal of Immobilized Low Activity Waste as well as disposal of other waste streams; remediation of the vadose zone; and the life-cycle cost for each alternative considered in the EIS.

To help readers of the EIS understand the types of waste, treatment methods, and disposal requirements for each waste classification, the Board suggested DOE-ORP provide a primer on tank waste issues to accompany the EIS. The Board also recommended clarifying the relationships between this EIS and other EIS documents guiding cleanup decisions at Hanford.

"Analyses [in the EIS] should be carried out in sufficient depth and detail to provide objective and quantitative comparisons of alternatives."

(Advice #144)



WTP Pretreatment Facility Tanks



WTP Low Activity Waste Facility

"The use of supplemental technologies represents a significant deviation from previously expressed public values which envisioned vitrification of all the tank wastes... This, and the fact that these immobilized low-activity wastes will be disposed of on-site, requires that the public be involved in an on-going basis in the evaluation and downselect process and that public values be a part of this process."

(Advice #150)

In April 2003, the Board issued Advice #146 in response to DOE-ORP's decision to eliminate Tc-99 pretreatment from the WTP. The Board objected to this decision because a detailed technical analysis had not been shared with the Board or the public. The Board requested DOE-ORP provide supporting data and rationale for the decision to eliminate Tc-99 pretreatment and that Ecology and EPA undertake a rigorous review of the decision.

Further advice related to tank waste treatment was triggered when DOE-ORP began characterization to determine whether some of the tanks contained transuranic mixed (TRU-M) waste instead of the previously assumed high-level wastes. DOE-ORP proposed to retrieve and treat such wastes through TRU-M processes, rather than vitrification. In September, the Board issued Advice #149, expressing general support for performing the characterization since it could result in some waste being sent to deep geologic disposal earlier than planned. However, the Board thought this approach would not work for all tanks, and shared Ecology's concern that the TRU-M waste might become a waste stream without a disposal pathway.

Another tank waste issue the Board addressed in 2003 was DOE-ORP's process to select supplemental technology to vitrification for tank waste treatment. In Advice #150, the Board requested DOE-ORP and Ecology move decision dates back to allow time for the Board to provide input and allow DOE-ORP additional time for testing technologies. The Board also provided a list of overarching principles for DOE-ORP to consider when choosing supplemental waste technologies: the waste form performance must be at least as good as borosilicate glass; only the lowest-risk wastes should be immobilized by supplemental technologies; secondary waste stream impacts should be minimized; no delays in the WTP schedule should result from the pursuit of supplemental technologies; and the testing and decision processes should be fair, transparent, and objective.

Groundwater

In 2003 the Board issued two pieces of advice that addressed groundwater issues. In late 2002, the agencies asked the Board for feedback on a draft of the Hanford Site Groundwater Strategy and Groundwater Implementation Plan. With Advice

#145, the Board pointed out its specific concerns with the draft document, stating that: the strategy should include sufficient funding for groundwater technology; vadose zone monitoring is needed; a specific standard of contamination should trigger action when detected; and a plan for accelerated remediation of the 618-10 and -11 burial grounds is needed. The advice also restated groundwater values from previous advice.

"The [Board] is encouraged by the recent focus on groundwater and cleanup issues consistent with the Board's long-standing and repeated advice. Activities must do no further harm to groundwater and groundwater should be cleaned up to its highest beneficial use."

(Advice #145)

The Board issued Advice #152 to provide feedback on the TPA agencies' proposed change package for milestone M-24, which addresses the site's groundwater monitoring system. While the Board was pleased that the change package had been negotiated, it did not believe the changes in the well-drilling milestone would "assure creation of a compliant monitoring network." The Board recommended DOE fully fund drilling of all 67 wells; that a compliant monitoring network be



Columbia River, Hanford Reach

defined for all waste sites and facilities; and that the monitoring plan include the complete soil column to allow for early detection and characterization.

Budget Process

In Advice #147, the Board expressed concern that budget information was being withheld from the public, resulting in a deterioration of DOE's relationship with stakeholders. Reiterating previous advice, the Board stated that DOE should comply with the TPA requirement to provide budget information. The Board also expressed concern that DOE contracting decisions made without public or regulatory review were pre-empting TPA budget prioritization decision processes. The advice detailed examples of management decisions and project scope changes made with little or no public input.

"It is important that DOE regain the confidence of the Board and the public and reestablish trust and credibility by immediately initiating open discussion on budget rationale and activities at the appropriate level of detail necessary for meaningful public input."

(Advice #147)

Revised Draft Hanford Solid Waste EIS

In 2002, the Board produced three pieces of advice on aspects of the draft HSW-EIS (Advice #127, #133, and #136). This EIS was undertaken to evaluate the impacts of Hanford receiving low-level and mixed waste from other DOE sites for disposal. When DOE released a revised draft in April 2003, the Board convened a Committee of the Whole to prepare comments on the document and ensure that consensus Board advice was issued during the document's public comment period.



Cocooned reactor near the Columbia River

“Only if we understand the cumulative risk from Hanford’s waste can we consider whether adding more waste creates unacceptable risks and impacts.”

(Advice #153)

The Board’s Advice #148 stated that, while the revised draft HSW-EIS included more information, it was “still insufficient in terms of scope and detail.” The Board advised DOE-RL to first perform a site-wide EIS and only after that to analyze the impacts of receiving, treating, and disposing of offsite wastes at Hanford. The advice listed the deficiencies of the document, including the fact that not all Hanford wastes were considered. Throughout the advice, emphasis was placed on the need for a comprehensive EIS that integrates all impacts from both Hanford-origin and offsite waste.

The Board cautioned DOE-RL that this advice should not be construed as a request or expectation for cleanup work at Hanford to be slowed or stopped pending these changes.

EPA responded to Advice #148 by stating that a site-wide cumulative impact analysis could be initiated by 2008, when the CERCLA and RCRA facility investigations for M-15 and M-45 milestones are complete. Subsequently, the Board issued Advice #153 to request that the TPA include a milestone ensuring that such a site-wide cumulative impact analysis is undertaken. In the meantime, the Board advised DOE not to add offsite wastes to Hanford until an analysis has assessed the cumulative impacts of offsite as well as onsite waste.

Risk-Based End States

In late 2002, DOE-Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (DOE-HQ) asked each site to prepare a Risk-Based End States (RBES) vision document. Prior to the November Board meeting, DOE-ORP and DOE-RL shared the planned content of a draft of this document with the Board’s River and Plateau Committee. Based on this information, the Board provided initial advice (#151) to be used as guiding principles in preparing the final document.

The Board held that, although the guidance for the RBES document calls for DOE to develop the end state vision in consultation with stakeholders, such a process had not occurred. The Board requested that DOE engage in “meaningful dialogue” with the Tribes, stakeholders, public, and affected local and state governments before issuing the final document.

The RBES guidance also instructs sites to identify areas of divergence between CERCLA RODs and local Comprehensive Land Use Plans. In Advice #151, the Board stated its support of the existing CERCLA RODs for the 100 Area, and referenced previously issued advice regarding “unrestricted use” designation for areas outside the 300 Area fence.

The Board also did not agree with the RBES vision that groundwater in the 100, 200 and 300 Areas will not be used in the foreseeable future. Citing several previous pieces of advice, the Board reiterated its position that the Columbia River, and all of its users, must be protected.

Summary of Board Advice in 2003

Advice #	Date Adopted	Subject	Committee of Origin
142	Feb. 7, 2003	Acceptance of Offsite TRU Waste	River and Plateau
143	Feb. 7, 2003	Principles for M-91 Negotiations	River and Plateau
144	Feb. 7, 2003	Tank Waste Retrieval and Closure EIS Scoping	Tank Waste
145	Apr. 4, 2003	Groundwater Strategy and Groundwater Protection	River and Plateau
146	Apr. 4, 2003	Technetium Removal at WTP	Tank Waste
147	Apr. 4, 2003	Hanford Budget Process	Budgets and Contracts
148	June 6, 2003	Revised Draft Hanford Solid Waste EIS	Committee of the Whole
149	Sept. 5, 2003	Transuranic (TRU) Waste in the Tanks	Tank Waste
150	Sept. 5, 2003	Supplemental Technology Testing Downselect Decision	Tank Waste
151	Nov. 7, 2003	Risk-Based End States	River and Plateau
152	Nov. 7, 2003	M-24 Change Package	River and Plateau
153	Nov. 7, 2003	Site-wide Cumulative Impact Analysis	River and Plateau

An index and links to all of the Board's advice and agency responses can be found at www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/advice/adviceindex.htm

Other Board Products

In addition to providing formal advice on how to improve cleanup strategies, the Board produced letters acknowledging progress on cleanup by the TPA agencies and efforts to inform and engage regional stakeholders in important decisions.

The Board assisted DOE in its public education efforts through sponsoring two public forums on university campuses in conjunction with Board meetings. The Board also produced a public education fact sheet on the HSW-EIS.



Workers repackaging plutonium residues at the Plutonium Finishing Plant

"The [Board] has recently been informed of the progress that has been made to accelerate the stabilization and reduce the inventory of nuclear materials on site... The Board is pleased to see years of stakeholder, DOE, regulator, and contractor effort result in real cleanup progress. We want to express our appreciation to all of the people who have worked hard to achieve these important results. In particular, we would like to commend the Hanford workforce. These people have worked safely and have made a significant contribution that benefits the region and future generations."

From HAB Letter #2003O-05,
June 6, 2003

Cleaning Up Hanford:

A Public Forum on the Environmental Cleanup at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation

Thursday, November 13, 7:30pm
Templeton Student Council Chamber
Lewis & Clark College

Sponsored by the Hanford Advisory Board and Lewis & Clark College

Panelists:
Todd Martin, Chair, Hanford Advisory Board
Karen Mills, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Dennis Bracken, Hanford Nuclear Reservation
Rogge Knight, Hanford Nuclear Reservation

Moderator: William Kinsella, Assistant Professor, Lewis & Clark College

Representatives from the US Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of Idaho will also participate.

Nuclear Legacy: Hanford History and Current Cleanup Challenges

A public forum sponsored by the Hanford Advisory Board, Gonzaga University College of Arts and Sciences, and the Gonzaga Environmental Law Caucus

Come join in a panel discussion about the history and future of Hanford, the largest and most contaminated nuclear production site in the country. Hear about current efforts to clean up Hanford and learn how you can get involved!

Thursday, April 3rd 7:00pm
Jepson Hall
Gonzaga University Campus

Moderator:
Todd Martin, Chair, Hanford Advisory Board

Panelists:
Karen Dorn-Steele, Spokesman Review
William Kinsella, Professor of Communications, Lewis and Clark College
Ken Bracken, vice-chair of the Hanford Advisory Board
Mike Schlender, United States Department of Energy
Dennis Faulk, Environmental Protection Agency.

Any questions? Please contact Amber Waldorf, Chair of the HAB Public Involvement and Communication Committee at 206-382-1014 or amber@boardamericawest.org.

Refreshments will be provided.

Perspective of the Hanford Advisory Board

What are the implications of bringing more waste to Hanford?
SPEAK UP! SPEAK UP!

As the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) continues its work, it is important to consider the implications of bringing more waste to Hanford. This document provides a perspective on this issue.

Background: The Hanford Nuclear Reservation (HNR) is a large industrial site in Washington state. It has been the site of nuclear production since the 1940s. The site is now being cleaned up by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE).

Implications: Bringing more waste to Hanford could have several implications. It could increase the cost of cleanup, delay the completion of the site, and increase the risk of contamination. It could also have an impact on the local environment and the health of the community.

Conclusion: The Hanford Advisory Board is committed to providing a perspective on this issue. We believe that bringing more waste to Hanford is not in the best interests of the community or the environment.

See the website at <http://www.hanford.gov/hanfordpublicinvolvement/>

Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) is a public forum for the community to provide input on the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Board is composed of representatives from the community, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Board's mission is to provide a perspective on the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The Board is committed to providing a perspective on this issue.

Board Members:
Todd Martin, Chair
Karen Mills, Vice-Chair
Dennis Bracken, Vice-Chair
Rogge Knight, Vice-Chair
William Kinsella, Vice-Chair
Mike Schlender, Vice-Chair
Dennis Faulk, Vice-Chair

Board Meetings:
The Board meets on a regular basis. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 3rd, 7:00pm at Jepson Hall, Gonzaga University Campus.

Contact:
Amber Waldorf, Chair of the HAB Public Involvement and Communication Committee
206-382-1014
amber@boardamericawest.org

Messages from the Tri-Party Agencies



U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office

I want to join my colleagues at the DOE Office of River Protection, Environmental Protection Agency and Washington State Department of Ecology in congratulating the Board on another successful year.

Your hard work, good questions, and commitment to Hanford cleanup paid off in the form of solid and thoughtful advice to the agencies, and an appropriate spotlight on the critical public policy issues of the year. In fact, you were able to tackle the challenging list of topics we asked you to weigh in on, even as you became more efficient by reducing the number of meetings and calls held.

To those who say there is no real public involvement when it comes to Department of Energy cleanup, I say - you haven't seen our Hanford Advisory Board in action! Your dialogue and impact are testament to the fact that the public process is alive and working well. On behalf of the Department of Energy, I'm looking forward to continuing that success next year.

Keith A. Klein
Manager



U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection

This past year was filled with many positive successes for both the Office of River Protection and the Hanford Advisory Board. We successfully removed 98% of the pumpable liquids in Hanford's single-shell tanks. This was accomplished one month ahead of a Tri-Party Agreement milestone. We also finished the installation of the piping from the waste storage tanks to the boundary of the Waste Treatment Plant Construction Site. When waste transfer begins, this will enable us to feed the waste directly to the Pretreatment Facility.

Work continues on the Waste Treatment Plant Construction Site. To date, over one million cubic yards of earthwork is complete, 84,000 cubic yards of concrete poured, 94,600 feet of piping placed, more than 1.5 million feet of electrical raceway placed, and 72,500 pounds of HVAC ductwork installed. And we continue to be right on schedule.

During 2003 the Office of River Protection received advice from the Hanford Advisory Board on issues dealing with the Tank Closure Environmental Impact Statement, the evaluation of Supplemental Technologies, Transuranic waste in the tanks, Hanford's budget process, Technetium removal at the Waste Treatment Plant, groundwater protection, and public involvement.

We are pleased with the Board's interest and the effort put into the consensus advice, and look forward to receiving continued support on key activities such as the Tank Closure Environmental Impact Statement and Tank C-106 closure demonstration.

Because of the work that is underway, we were especially pleased that the Hanford Advisory Board's Tank Waste Committee members visited the Waste Treatment Plant construction site to see the progress firsthand. We believe this type of firsthand observation is extremely valuable and will work to get other site visits for the Hanford Advisory Board in the coming year.

Roy Schepens
Manager



WTP Low Activity Waste Facility



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

It's hard to believe we are close to celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Hanford Advisory Board. The idea of site-specific advisory boards was a great experiment in democracy. In the case of Hanford, this experiment worked better than anyone could have ever expected. In my opinion, one of the strongest assets of this Board is that this is a board of interests, not just people. Having all interests represented at the table has resulted in sustained decisions for Hanford cleanup.

My first interaction with the Board was when I was the director of the RCRA Branch and we had been asked to help develop the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). ERDF was to be a state-of-the-art disposal facility to handle Hanford cleanup waste. Your values, those of the public, gave us simple but strong marching orders: build it for Hanford waste only and expand it only as you need capacity. These values have endured over the past 10 years.

This year has been a challenging one to the Board. I realize the Department of Energy has challenged you to become more efficient. I think you have stepped up to this and are operating in a streamlined manner. You are important to the success of the cleanup of this site. I encourage you to stay the course and I look forward to many more years of productivity.

Mike Gearheard
Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup



Washington State Department of Ecology

The Washington Department of Ecology has welcomed the work of the Hanford Advisory Board throughout 2003. We have been impressed with the Board's willingness to focus on key issues that emerged from the Cleanup Constraints and Challenges process and the Performance Management Plan. The Board has also made significant strides in streamlining its procedures and improving communications with the Tri-Party agencies.

Three areas of the Board's 2003 activities deserve special recognition:

- Careful and thoughtful responses to significant changes in the tank waste retrieval and treatment projects. The Board has managed to be the keeper of basic, long-established principles and expectations, while remaining open to change and improvement.
- Continuing and well-informed engagement with the Tri-Party agencies in developing a unified groundwater strategy for Hanford. The Board has been closely tracking implementation of the strategy, and providing both valuable criticism and strong support for much more focused groundwater remediation efforts. (The Board strongly encouraged this agency focus during 2002.)
- The Board remains a resilient and persuasive voice for public involvement and openness in decision-making. During the past year, the Department of Energy's focus nationally has been more on getting cleanup work done, and less on the process of working with stakeholders and the public about what the work is. The Board has grappled with the issue of how to support "getting on with it" while still maintaining core openness and participation values that are key to sustainable decisions.

Mike Wilson

Nuclear Waste Program Manager



Columbia River, White Bluffs

Board Work 2004

The Board's workload for 2004 is especially challenging. Under pressure from DOE, the Board has instituted several efficiency measures, including a reduced number of Board meetings; however, the critical issues facing Hanford cleanup remain pressing. Therefore, in 2004, the Board will be attempting to do more with less.

In 2004, Hanford will be producing a number of documents important to future decisions about cleanup:

- A Risk-Based strategy for DOE Headquarters;
- An Environmental Impact Statement on the treatment, storage and disposal of solid wastes at Hanford;
- An Environmental Impact Statement on the retrieval, treatment, disposal and closure of Hanford's tanks and tank wastes;
- New iterations of Hanford's groundwater and waste management strategies.

The above issues are only the tip of the iceberg for the Board's 2004 work. And, despite reduced resources, the Board will continue to review Hanford cleanup activities with an eye toward: (1) potential impacts on public, environmental and worker health and safety; (2) potential impacts to the Tri Party Agreement; (3) tradeoffs at Hanford and throughout the DOE system; and, (4) broader public involvement on important cleanup decisions.

The Hanford Advisory Board, throughout its upcoming tenth anniversary year, will continue to pursue its mission to keep stakeholders informed and meaningfully involved in Hanford cleanup decisions.

Board Meetings 2004

<i>February 5-6</i>	<i>Richland</i>
<i>April 1-2</i>	<i>Richland</i>
<i>June 3-4</i>	<i>Richland</i>
<i>September 2-3</i>	<i>Seattle</i>
<i>November 4-5</i>	<i>Portland</i>

History of Hanford

The 586-square mile Hanford Nuclear Site was the first and primary plutonium production facility for the United States' nuclear weapons program. The site, which began operations in 1944, includes nine reactors, four chemical separations plants, plutonium processing facilities, and 177 underground high-level nuclear waste tanks containing 53 million gallons of highly radioactive waste and 190 million curies of radioactivity. Between the start of operations in 1944 and the shutdown of the last reactor in the late 1980's, Hanford produced over two thirds of the nation's estimated 111 metric tons of plutonium.

The production of plutonium generated large amounts of radioactive and chemically hazardous wastes. Hanford has 60 percent of the volume of the nation's military high-level radioactive wastes and over 1,400 waste sites containing liquid and solid waste.

Currently, Hanford is engaged in the world's largest environmental cleanup project. The shift in mission from operations to cleanup became complete in 1989 when the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology signed the landmark Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, commonly known as the Tri-Party Agreement. The TPA outlines legally enforceable milestones for Hanford cleanup over the next several decades.

DOE's Richland Operations Office is responsible for environmental restoration and waste management activities at Hanford. DOE's Office of River Protection was established by Congress in 1998 to manage the complex project of retrieval, treatment, and disposal of Hanford tank wastes.

Major Milestones in the Life of Hanford

- 1942** Hanford is chosen by the Manhattan Project as a site for a plutonium factory.
- 1944** B Reactor, the world's first industrial-size nuclear reactor, goes on line.
- 1987** The last of Hanford's nine original plutonium reactors, N Reactor, is shut down.
- 1989** DOE, EPA, and Ecology sign the Tri-Party Agreement to govern Hanford cleanup.
- 1994** The Hanford Advisory Board is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to bring broad stakeholder perspective into the cleanup decision-making.

Meet the Hanford Advisory Board

Current HAB Members & Alternates

Seat	Member	Alternate
Local Government Interests		
Benton County	Kenneth Bracken	Adam Fyall
Benton-Franklin Council of Governments	Robert Larson	Wanda Munn
City of Kennewick	Bob Parks	Dick Smith
City of Pasco	<i>vacant</i>	Joe Jackson
City of Richland	Pam Brown	Maynard Plahuta
City of West Richland	Patrick Conley	Jerry Peltier
Grant & Franklin Counties	Jim Curdy	Art Tackett
Local Business Interests		
Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council	Harold Heacock	David Watrous
Hanford Work Force		
Central Washington Building Trades Council	Richard Berglund	Dave Smith
Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council	Thomas Schaffer	Becky Holland
Non-Union, Non-Management Employees (2)	Jeffrey Luke Susan Leckband	Gariann Gelston
Government Accountability Project	Tom Carpenter	Clare Gilbert Allyn Boldt
Local Environmental Interests		
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society & Columbia River Conservation League	Rick Leaumont	Sky Bradley
Regional Citizen, Environmental and Public Interest Organizations		
Columbia Riverkeeper	Greg deBruler	Steve Roney Steve White
Hanford Watch	Paige Knight	Robin Klein William Kinsella
Heart of America Northwest	Gerald Pollet	Dr. David Johnson Amber Waldref
Washington League of Women Voters	Betty Tabbutt	Madeleine Brown
Citizens for a Clean Eastern Washington	Todd Martin	Dr. Mark Beck Dr. Susan Babilon Cindy Meyer
Local and Regional Public Health		
Benton-Franklin Public Health	Dr. Margery Swint	Dr. Ross Ronish Dr. Larry Jecha
Physicians for Social Responsibility	Dr. Jim Trombold	Dr. Charles Weems

Seat

Member

Alternate

Tribal Governments

Nez Perce Tribe

Patrick Sobotta

John Stanfill
Kristie Baptiste-Eke
Sandra Lilligren

Yakama Nation

Russell Jim

Wade Riggsbee
David Rowland

State of Oregon

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board
Oregon Department of Energy

Shelley Cimon
Doug Huston

Norm Dyer
Ken Niles
Sue Safford
Dirk Dunning
Susan Coburn Hughes
Deanna Henry
Tom Stoops

University

University of Washington

Dr. Tim Takaro

Dr. David Stensel
Dr. Joel Massman

Washington State University

vacant

Antone Brooks

Public At Large

Norma Jean Germond
Keith Smith
Leon Swenson

Martin Yanez

Nancy Murray
George Jansen, Jr.
Daniel Simpson
Martin Bensky

Ex-officio Representatives

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Washington State Department of Health

Michael Farrow
Earl Fordham

Jeff Van Pelt
Debra McBaugh
Allen Conklin
Susan May

U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington State Department of Ecology

Marla Marvin
Greg Jones
Michael Gearheard
Michael Wilson

Beth Bilson
Steve Wiegman
Nick Ceto
Max Power

Members and Alternates Who Left the Board in 2003

Dr. James Cochran
David Cortinas

Jim Hagar
John Erickson

Dennis Rhodes

In Memoriam

Dr. Richard Belsey

Tom Walker

Jon Yerxa

For More Information

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Additional Written Information

Additional information about the Hanford Advisory Board is available. If you would like to receive additional copies of this report, you can contact Tammie Holm, EnviroIssues, (509) 942-1906. You can also find information on the Board on its Internet Web page:

<http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/index.htm>

Hanford Public Information Repositories

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
934 SW Harrison and Park
Portland, OR 97202-1151
(503) 725-4126
Attention: Judy Andrews

Richland

DOE Public Reading Room
2700 University Drive
CIC, Room 101 L
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 372-7443
Attention: Janice Parthree

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-4664
Attention: Eleanor Chase

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 232-6548
Attention: Linda Pierce

This report was compiled and designed by the staff at