



2010 I-113

10-HAB-0003

MAR 5 2010

Ms. Susan L. Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (BOARD) CONSENSUS ADVICE #222, "STATE OF THE SITE MEETINGS"**

Thank you for the Board advice letter dated September 4, 2009, concerning the Hanford State-of-the-Site meetings. The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies appreciate your clearly expressed statements on the value, purpose, and desired format for the meetings. We agree the State-of-the-Site meetings provide a valuable forum for decision-makers to share information about Hanford cleanup progress and challenges, and to hear public values, issues, and concerns.

**Advice:** The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) supports the concept of the State-of-the-Site meetings and encourages senior managers from the TPA Agencies to continue to make themselves available to the public on at least an annual basis. The Board finds great value in these meetings.

**Response:** We value the State-of-the-Site meetings too, and believe having senior managers available is an important part of the meetings. In addition, we agree these meetings should be held on an annual basis so long as they meet the needs of the public and the agencies. Recently, we have discussed with the Board several decision-making processes requiring public involvement that are scheduled. We received feedback that we should not combine the public meetings associated with formal public comment periods with the State-of-the-Site meetings, as the meetings serve distinct needs for the public. We heard we should focus on the proposed Settlement Agreement and postpone the State-of-the-Site meetings. Consistent with that input, the agencies held five regional meetings on the proposed Consent Decree and TPA modifications this fall. We plan to continue State-of-the-Site meetings in 2010.

**Advice:** The Board recommends the following objectives for the State-of-the-Site meetings:

- To provide an overview of key/critical accomplishments, challenges, and future activities.
- To provide an overview of how the TPA Agencies used public input from the previous year's State-of-the-Site meetings.
- To receive and consider feedback from the public on the TPA Agencies' accomplishments, challenges and future activities.
- To provide an opportunity for all organizations and TPA Agencies involved with Hanford cleanup to share information and perspectives with the public.

**Response:** In addition to the Board's objectives for the State-of-the-Site meetings, we believe an important objective is to provide opportunities for the public to raise issues or concerns and engage in direct dialogue with decision-makers.

**Advice:** To support the meeting objectives stated above, the Board recommends the following:

- Conduct an open house one hour prior to each State of the Site meeting to provide organizations and Agencies with an opportunity to share information with the public. Ensure that agency senior managers are available for one-on-one conversations during the open house.
- Make presentations concise, with the goal of actively engaging the public and addressing their questions and comments no later than 45 minutes after the start of the meeting.
- After the TPA Agencies have made their presentations, the opportunity for a non-agency perspective should continue to be provided.
- The meetings should be held annually in four or five cities around the region.

**Response:** As you know, we have tried several different formats for State-of-the-Site meetings, and we appreciate your objectives and recommendations for these meetings. For the past two years we structured the meetings using a "town-hall" style format, preceded by an "open house" session with opportunities for the public to have informal conversations with senior managers and technical experts, and view displays related to Hanford Site cleanup. We plan to continue with this same general format so long as it meets the needs of the Agencies, and the public. We appreciate the Board's advice on the meeting structure and will consider your recommendations. We agree that there is value in hearing a non-agency perspective as it promotes dialogue between the public and agency decision-makers.

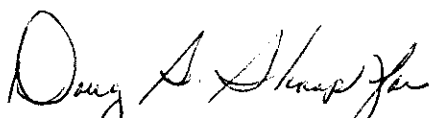
**Advice:** The TPA Agencies should work cooperatively with the Board and its member organizations to actively promote the meetings and also provide information to those who would not or cannot attend the meetings. The TPA Agencies are encouraged to increase use of:

- The news media (for example, radio talk shows and editorial boards)
- Educational networks (for example, classroom presentations and university networking)
- Social networking sites (for example, My Space, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube)

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**Response:** Your advice encourages us to use other methods for promoting the meetings and providing information to those who do not attend. We share the goal of making information about cleanup activities at Hanford more readily available to the public, as evidenced by the launching of agency-specific social networking websites. We will consider your recommendations to increase the use of radio talk shows, editorial boards, and educational networks as we prepare for the next State-of-the-Site meetings.

We appreciate the Board's input and advice as we work together to continue improving the State-of-the-Site meetings so that they best meet the needs of the agencies and the public.



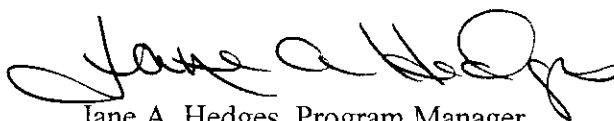
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Enclosures:

1. Ltr. from HAB – Advice #222
2. Ltr. from Ecology to HAB – Advice #222

cc w/encls: See page 4