



Tri-Party Agreement

2010J- 126

10-HAB-0004

MAR 24 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 #225, UPDATING
THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN**

Thank you for your advice on updating the Community Relations Plan (CRP). The U.S. Department of Energy, the State of Washington Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appreciate your input. The Tri-Parties are editing the CRP to make the document easier to read and understand, update site and contact information, and provide information on relevant websites and programs. We appreciate the Board's input during this process.

We understand your interest in a strategic plan for public involvement; however, we do not agree that such a plan should be added to the CRP. Due to the frequent updating required for a strategic plan, we believe that if one is undertaken, it should be a stand-alone document that identifies public involvement activities for upcoming projects.

As you know, the Tri-Parties conduct public involvement activities in accordance with legal requirements and direction (i.e., National Environmental Policy Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, our respective policies, and the Tri-Party Agreement). We also conduct public involvement activities beyond what is legally required; for example: State-of-the Site meetings, topical workshops, and comment periods on non-regulatory documents such as the Hanford Site Cleanup Completion Framework. We have several tools in place to provide information on upcoming public involvement activities and are always working to improve them. The Tri-Parties will consider adding a commitment to develop a strategic plan to the CRP. We encourage Board members to continue to reach out in innovative ways to inform their constituents on Board activities and Hanford cleanup.

The Tri-Parties agree that it is desirable to provide public notice and engagement beyond the legal requirements where possible. Regarding your advice on conducting public meetings

Washington State Department of Ecology – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – U.S. Department of Energy

Response to HAB advice #225
HAB Consensus Advice: Updating the Community Relations Plan
Letter from David Brockman, Shirley Olinger, Dennis Faulk & Jane Hedges dated 3/24/10

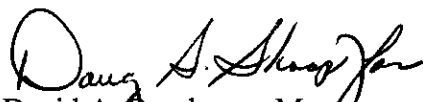
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when ten or more people submit a request, we believe that the current language which reads, "If significant interest is demonstrated, the Tri-Parties will conduct a formal public process" is sufficient. We will continue to provide information on how public meetings can be requested and encourage members of the public to submit requests for meetings as they see necessary. The Tri-Parties will continue to strive to notify stakeholders 30 to 45 days before the start of a public comment period or a public meeting.

Public comment periods are an important way the public can participate in the Hanford decision-making process. The Tri-Parties acknowledge the Board's advice to provide responses to public comments two weeks prior to formal decisions; however, we do not agree with the need to add an additional review period. We carefully weigh all comments received before formal decisions are finalized.

The Tri-Parties will consider adding information in the CRP on evaluating public involvement activities, the Science and Technology Roadmap, and EPA's Environmental Justice Program. These topics merit further discussion between the agencies to determine how they can be used to enhance the CRP.

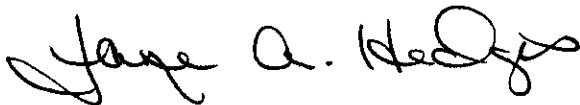
We would like to thank you for the detailed advice provided to help us improve the CRP.



David A. Brockman, Manager
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U.S. Department of Energy



Shirley J. Olinger, Manager
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U.S. Department of Energy



Jane A. Hedges, Manager
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Washington State Department of Ecology



Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
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cc w/encl: See page 3

cc w/encl:

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