



July 15, 1996

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RE: Comments on the Draft Community Relations Plan (HAB Advice #50)

Dear Messrs. Clarke and Wagoner, and Ms. Riveland:

Background

Paragraph 148 (D) of the Tri Party Agreement requires the TPA agencies to consider the values of its stakeholders in determining the workscope, priorities and schedules in the process of formulating its annual budget request.

Paragraph 149 provides the means for communication and consultation on work scope, priorities, schedules/milestones, and cost/funding matters. Subparagraph M requires the three parties to "inform and involve the public and stakeholders at key stages of budget formulation and execution consistent with the Interim Report of the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee. The process for informing and involving the public and stakeholders will be developed and included in the TPA Community Relations Plan."

The Dollars and Sense Committee reviewed the draft Community Relations Plan (CRP) specifically in regard to this particular requirement. The draft CRP provides for semi-annual meetings for this purpose on page 14 of the draft. The full Hanford Advisory Board accepted the recommendations of its Committee and expanded some of them for broader application. The Board adopted the following advice for the Tri-Party agencies at its meeting on July 11-12, 1996.

Budget

The Community Relations Plan (CRP) should acknowledge that the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) is to be integrally involved in the budget development process as early and as continuously as possible. It

should also acknowledge that a wide range of methods may and should be used for providing the public with information about Hanford and seeking their input on budget priorities.

The HAB suggests that only one round of broader public meetings beyond the HAB meetings on the DOE budget development should be **required** in the CRP per year. This round of meetings should be held in the Spring at a time when DOE has sufficient information to inform the public of its initial priorities and budget planning levels, but early enough that the public may still influence those priorities and budget requests. The CRP should state that it is preferable to hold these meetings at a time when the views of the Hanford Advisory Board on the budget can also be shared with the public. The clearly stated purpose of this round of meetings should be to engage the public in the budget development process, and to gain public input on the clean up priorities.

A round of broader public meetings in the Fall of the year is encouraged. This is the opportunity to review expenditures in terms of issues and to access the public's concerns for building the next budget.

The following two principals apply to all Public Involvement

It is important that the agencies schedule formal public meetings only when public input is needed and when the information will be used to influence decisions or when public interest indicates a need.

The Tri-Parties should commit in the CRP to provide understandable and relevant presentations of information to the public and to make available all non-restricted information requested. The CRP should state that the Tri-Parties will provide a substantive response to the public input received from these public meetings.

The Tri-Parties have committed in the CRP to regular quarterly meetings with the public to plan upcoming public meetings and the ongoing interface with the public. They should also commit to the concept of jointly sponsoring meetings with local, state, and tribal governments and stakeholders.

The Board looks forward to your written response, as called for in our charter.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Al Alm
Alice Murphy
Cindy Kelly, Designated Federal Official
Linda Lingle, Site Representative
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

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For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov
HAB Consensus Advice #50
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