



United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

[Advice # 92](#) From: Michael F. Gearheard

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
723 The Parkway, Suite 200
Richland, Washington 99352

May 24, 1999

Re: EPA Response to Consensus Advice #92

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for the advice on the Tri-Parties Response to Public Comments. In the spirit of your advice, I want to start by saying we agree with the points you raised. In addition, I want to know I have taken the liberty of distributing the advice to all the managers within the Environmental Cleanup Office. The Board's advice clearly articulates goals that EPA shares regarding our communications with the public, be it at Hanford, or elsewhere in Region 10.

EPA agrees with the Board's recommendation to assure that we inform the public of how their comments influence decisions. EPA believes that the Hanford Update has been underutilized in this regard and we commit to use it to inform the public how they influenced the decision. Also, on Superfund projects, the EPA Hanford Project staff routinely send individual responses to citizens who have submitted comments as well as issuing a response summary with the decision document.

Your advice also reminds the agencies to use clear, simple language and answer the questions directly. Sometimes we tend to get caught up in our bureaucracy and forget the rest of the world does not speak the Hanford vocabulary of acronyms. It is our intention to make all our correspondence easy to understand.

Your advice encourages the agencies to make greater use of the Internet. Currently, we have a link from our EPA website to Hanford. I have asked my staff to look into the issue and see if we can provide more Hanford information on the EPA website.

Your advice also encourages the agencies to offer commentors their choice of response methods. We routinely receive comments over the Internet as well as via the phone. EPA expects to continue this practice.

Again, I want to thank you for the advice. The Board provides a valuable asset to the cleanup by

focusing the agencies on what is important to the citizens and ultimately to the cleanup of Hanford.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael F. Gearheard, Acting Director
Environmental Cleanup Office

[Hanford Home Page](#) | [HAB](#) | [Advice Index](#)

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

Response to HAB Consensus Advice #92 (March 26, 1999)

Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on Tri-Parties Response to Public Comments

Letter from Michael Gearheard, dated May 24, 1999

URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/response/092b.htm>

Last Updated: 08/04/2003 14:37:41