



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

3100 Port of Benton Blvd • Richland, WA 99354 • (509) 372-7950  
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

May 26, 2011

11-NWP-046

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #240, "U.S. Department of Energy's Open Government Plan and the Hanford Community Relations Plan"

Dear Ms. Leckband:

Thank you for your recent advice on improving public involvement at Hanford. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is also committed to the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration highlighted in this advice. We understand the importance of involving stakeholders early and often in Hanford cleanup decisions.

We appreciate the Hanford Advisory Board's (Board) dedication to cleanup, and we work closely with the Board to provide information and collect your input on many issues. We also use many communication tools to complement regular meetings with the Board, tribes, stakeholders, and interested public to help us share information quickly and efficiently. These tools include our website, blogs, a Hanford information hotline and email address, and a new Facebook page for education and outreach.

The Tri-Party Agreement Agencies Public Involvement Calendar, produced jointly with the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is another useful tool for sharing upcoming events and encouraging early involvement from stakeholders. The calendar is updated regularly and is just a click away on our website at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PI/pdf/TPA\\_PI\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PI/pdf/TPA_PI_Calendar.pdf).

As your advice states, the Board's interactions with the Tri-Party Agreement agencies provide "many examples of the benefits of meaningful participation and collaboration." Ecology believes a recent example of this is the State of the Hanford Site meetings. The agencies and stakeholders met several times before the meetings to discuss the format, materials, and agenda. Input from the Board was instrumental in creating meaningful discussions and increasing attendance at all three meetings. This collaboration and openness was key to their success.

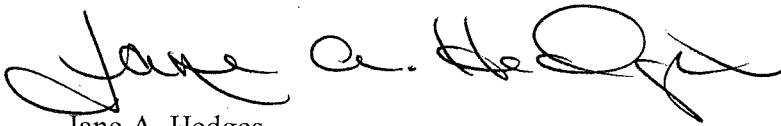


Ms. Susan Leckband  
May 26, 2011  
Page 2

11-NWP-046

The Hanford Community Relations Plan (CRP) also reflects the importance of transparency, participation, and collaboration in Hanford cleanup. The Tri-Party Agreement agencies recognize the importance of effective public notice and regular evaluation of public involvement activities to promote continuous improvement. The agencies had many discussions with the Board's Public Involvement and Communications Committee and have considered the Board's previous advice in updating the CRP. We welcome the Board's feedback when the CRP goes out for public comment later this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane A. Hedges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jane A. Hedges  
Program Manger  
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: Dennis Faulk, EPA  
Catherine Brennan, USDOE-HQ  
Stacy Charboneau, USDOE-ORP  
Matt McCormick, USDOE-RL  
Nick Ceto, USDOE-RL  
Stuart Harris, CTUIR  
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT  
Russell Jim, YN  
Ken Niles, ODOE