

Values

- Groundwater is to be cleaned up and restored to the highest beneficial use.*
- Restoration should be within a reasonable time frame, commensurate with risk and Tri-Party Agreement timelines.
- Ongoing groundwater remediation activities and review processes should be fully funded.
- Technology development should continually be pursued to remediate and restore groundwater to highest beneficial use.*
- The public and tribes must have input to the remedy selection for groundwater, including the relevant timelines for remediation, and determination of the risk from foreseeable failures of institutional controls.
- Institutional controls are not an acceptable solution for contaminated plumes with the potential for migration.
- Remove, treat and dispose is the preferred action; natural attenuation as a remedy is not appropriate unless existing remedies are not technically practicable and relevant health and environment standards can be achieved in a reasonable time frame.
- The HAB expects DOE and its federal successors to retain control over long term stewardship and institutional controls of groundwater. This expectation should ensure that active measures to monitor and evaluate groundwater remediation will continue until it no longer poses a risk to human health and the environment.

* Highest beneficial use is protective of all human health, ecosystems and Native American treaty rights.

Hanford Advisory Board — Groundwater Values Flowchart

