

# HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

*A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act*

**Advising:**

US Dept of Energy  
US Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Washington State Dept  
of Ecology

Dec 6, 2002

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Russell Jim  
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Subject: B/C Area Risk Assessment

*Public Health*  
Margery Swint  
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Dear Mssrs. Klein, Schepens, Fitzsimmons, and Iani,

*University*  
James A. Cochran  
Tim Takaro

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) is dedicated to ensuring full public participation in the Tri-Party Agencies' B/C Area Risk Assessment Pilot. This risk assessment process should serve as a model for all subsequent risk assessments done on the Hanford Site, including those currently being developed at N Area and the 200 Area. Because of the importance of the B/C Area Risk Assessment Pilot to the future cleanup of Hanford, it is crucial that the agencies involve a large, diverse group in developing the scope, model and sampling plan for targeted studies to evaluate the impact of soil and groundwater contamination on riparian and aquatic receptors for the 100 B/C Reactor area along the Columbia River.

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the Umatilla  
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In order to accomplish this, the Board recommends that the Tri-Parties reach out to the broader public as well as to specific individuals and organizations that are concerned with habitat management. The Department of Energy (DOE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested Board feedback on their 10-year draft public involvement plan.

HAB Consensus Advice #138  
Subject: B/C Area Risk Assessment  
Adopted: December 6, 2002

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For the next three years, the Board recommends the following:

- In the next year, the agencies should support a Board-hosted workshop where the agencies discuss both the findings of the Data Quality Objective (DQO) process and the sampling plan and exposure scenarios for the B/C Area risk assessment with members of the Board and invited individuals and organizations concerned with habitat management. The DQOs are the foundation layer of the B/C Area risk assessment. This is an opportunity for the more interested public to review and give input to the DQO process and the sampling plan early on and ensure the success of the next ten years of this pilot risk assessment.
- After incorporating the comments at the workshop, we advise the agencies to elicit comments on a draft sampling plan from a greater public audience through public information meetings and a draft fact sheet. To support this outreach, the Board will develop a fact sheet(s) to help explain to the general public the importance of risk assessments and this pilot.
- Additionally, the Board recommends involving both the greater public and very interested parties in an easy-to-access format by providing continually updated information on the B/C Area risk assessment on-line. For example, the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) is developing an online decision-mapping system, and employing such a system would expand and intensify the level of communication between the agencies doing the risk assessment and the public.
- The B/C Area Risk Assessment Pilot Draft Report, which will be issued late 2005, will also require a full public comment process, including meetings, fact sheets, advertisements, and a response to comments document. Although public involvement at that juncture is not a regulatory requirement, the Board strongly recommends allowing the public to give input before the final draft is released. The Board also recommends that the agencies come back to the Board for future advice when this draft report is being released.

The Board expects the agency representatives working closely on the B/C Area Risk Assessment Pilot to regularly update the River and Plateau and Public Involvement and Communication Committees with new information on ways to get involved. We are looking forward to working to assist you in educating and involving the public at every step in this process.

Sincerely,



Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

State Representatives (WA)  
Jerome Delvin  
Shirley Hankins

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*This advice represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.*

cc: Wade Ballard, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy  
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Martha Crosland, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
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