



Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Chair's Message	1
Hanford History	3
Cleanup Focus Topic Hanford's Central Plateau	4
HAB Focus 2008 Workshops and Public Involvement	6
HAB Governance Changes.....	8
Board Work and Advice 2008	9
Board Work in 2009	16
Board and Committee Structure	17
Board Leadership	20
Other Board Work Workshops and Site Tours	21
Other Board Products	21
National Involvement	22
Hanford Advisory Board Membership New HAB Members and Alternates	23
Current HAB Members and Alternates	24
Acknowledgements	25
Acronyms and Glossary	29

There is a common saying that the one constant in life is change, and that was certainly true for the Hanford Site and the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) in 2008. Three major site cleanup contracts were awarded: Two were implemented, one was under protest and the Department of Energy (DOE) is working on resolving issues at the time this report was published. The national election results may have some impacts on Hanford cleanup – changes can certainly be expected as we move into 2009. ---*Susan Leckband, Board chair.*

Looking Back

The HAB Charter was replaced by two documents: the Hanford Advisory Board Operating and Ground Rules and a Memorandum of Understanding. This particular change was very difficult for the HAB and it was one of the few times a decision was reached without consensus. The HAB was assured by the two local DOE offices, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the work of the HAB will continue in form and process as before. To date, this has been true. The HAB looks forward to continuing to provide independent advice to DOE, EPA and Ecology, the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies.

Advice and Workshops

In 2008, the HAB issued eight pieces of consensus advice to the TPA agencies. HAB advice is developed in one or more of the five committees. Typically, members of more than one committee work together to craft advice, which must have committee consensus before it comes to the full Board for consideration. Advice produced in 2008 addresses many topics, including Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 and 2010 cleanup budgets, reinstatement of site coordination technology groups, and system plans for tank waste.

The HAB recognizes the value of workshops that are focused and well-planned. Board members participated in several workshops in 2008. Three workshops especially underscore the value of diverse participation that results in excellent dialogue exchange, knowledge gain and consensus advice.

- Advice “Criteria for Development of the Proposed Plan for 200-PW-1, 3, and 6” (Advice #207) stands out as a marked success for the HAB and

the TPA agencies. It was developed following a workshop designed to get very early input for the development of criteria for the proposed plan for 200-PW-1, 3 and 6 waste sites. Along with encouragement to the TPA agencies to continue this type of early involvement in the future, the HAB provided some values-based considerations for the agencies to review and apply to the criteria for the proposed plan.

- A baseline workshop coordinated by DOE provided some real insights into how baselines are developed, how priorities are identified and where the HAB can be useful in providing input to policies and priorities. “Baseline Workshop Appreciation” advice (Advice #211) was sent to DOE following the workshop, thanking DOE for its openness and looking forward to continued interaction and dialogue. A Committee of the Whole was convened following the baseline workshop to identify additional information needed and to begin discussing how the HAB can help the agencies with priorities and budget advice.
- The Public Involvement and Communications Committee (PIC) convened a workshop in early December to examine public involvement activities and efforts performed by various HAB members. The discussion included potential ways to incorporate and replicate successful public activities into HAB work and coordinating agency efforts. During the workshop, PIC also began developing a path forward for the committee to help the agencies design upcoming public meetings for gathering input to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Site-Wide (RCRA) Permit and the Tank Closure & Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (TC&WM EIS).

actions that impact the environment. NEPA requires the preparation of an EIS on all major Federal actions significantly affecting the human environment.

PIC: Public Involvement and Communications Committee (HAB).

PFP: The Plutonium Finishing Plant was used for stabilizing and repackaging plutonium and plutonium-contaminated material at Hanford. PFP was used extensively during WW II and the Cold War to purify and convert plutonium-laced solutions into a solid form to be used by nuclear weapons facilities.

Pre-1970s TRU: Transuranic waste disposed of prior to 1970.

RAP: River and Plateau Committee (HAB).

RCRA: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.

River Corridor or Columbia River Corridor: Hanford facilities and waste sites along the Columbia River.

ROD: Record of Decision; a required document administered by EPA under the CERCLA.

Sounding Board: A discussion tool that gives each participant an uninterrupted opportunity to share his or her opinion.

STCG: Site Technology Coordination Group.

TC&WM EIS: The Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement EIS intended to provide a comprehensive and integrated look at near-term waste management and tank waste cleanup actions at Hanford.

Tank farms: Underground Waste storage tanks at Hanford are grouped into “farms.” Hanford has eighteen tank farms with anywhere from two to sixteen tanks per farm.

TPA: Tri-Party Agreement, the informal name for the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order

signed by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology in 1989. Cleanup milestones are identified in the TPA through numbered series, such as M-91 for transuranic waste disposal and M-24 for groundwater monitoring.

TPA agencies: Agencies party to the TPA: DOE, EPA, and Ecology (see above).

TRU: Transuranic waste.

Vadose zone: Region of aeration above the water table; water in this area is called vadose water.

Vitrification: A process that mixes radioactive waste with other materials to form glass. The glass reduces the potential for radioactive and hazardous contamination leaching into the environment.

WTP: Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, the facility where tank waste will be vitrified.

WIPP: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the world's first underground repository licensed to safely and permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons.

100 Area: 26 square miles of land along the Columbia River where the nine nuclear reactors are located.

200 Area: The location on the Central Plateau of the 177 underground tanks, principal nuclear chemical processing facilities, and defense waste management activities.

200 PW – 1, 3 and 6: Waste sites near PFP.

300 Area: An area three miles north of the city of Richland, location of former research and development laboratories and reactor fuel manufacturing facilities.

400 Area: FFTF is located in the 400 Area and currently is undergoing deactivation (i.e., shutdown or transition).

618-7, 10 and 11 burial grounds: Burial grounds in the 300 Area.

BCC: Budgets and Contracts Committee (HAB).

BC Area: An area of the Hanford Site along the Columbia River where B and C reactors are located.

Central Plateau: The location of the 200 East and 200 West Areas and waste management facilities situated in those areas.

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, also known as Superfund, providing statutory authority for cleanup of hazardous substances.

DBVS: The Demonstration Bulk Vitrification System is a treatment technology currently under consideration to treat low-activity tank waste as a supplement to work at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

DOE : U.S. Department of Energy.

DOE-HQ: Department of Energy Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Hanford cleanup is overseen by DOE's Office of Environmental Management.

DOE-ORP: U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection.

DOE-RL: U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office.

Ecology: Washington State Department of Ecology.

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement, a document prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (see below).

EM: Environmental Management.

EM-SSAB: U.S. DOE Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board, a board that provides advice and recommendations to the DOE's environmental restoration and waste management activities. Nine local community boards are chartered under the EM-SSAB Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Charter.

ERDF: Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility, a massive landfill where low-level radioactive waste and mixed low-level wastes from Hanford cleanup are disposed.

EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

FACA: The Federal Advisory Committee Act is a US law (Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972) which governs the behavior of advisory committees. DOE chartered the Board in 1994 under FACA.

FFTF: Fast Flux Test Facility, a fast neutron flux nuclear test reactor owned by the DOE. The facility is located in the 400 Area of the Hanford Site and is currently undergoing deactivation (i.e., shutdown or transition).

FS: Feasibility Study.

FY: Fiscal Year.

HAB or Board: The Hanford Advisory Board.

HSEP: Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee (HAB).

IPL: Integrated Priority List.

ISMS: Integrated Safety Management Systems.

K Basins: Water-filled basins located less than 1,000 feet from the Columbia River that were used to store spent nuclear fuel from reactor operations.

LAW: Low Activity Waste facility (WTP complex).

MTCA: The Model Toxics Control Act (1989) is Washington's state Superfund cleanup law, which establishes a process to identify cleanup sites, cleanup standards and management, and cleanup enforcement.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requiring federal agencies to use an interdisciplinary approach in planning and decision making for



Board chair Susan Leckband leads a discussion at the 2008 leadership retreat.

2008 Hanford Cleanup Progress

The 105 K East Basin was drained and grouted and the superstructure was demolished. This basin is being prepared for demolition and removal. The HAB continues to follow the progress of the 100 Area cleanup. Plutonium shipments off the Hanford Site continued successfully and the HAB looks forward to the day when the final shipment leaves Hanford.

A site-wide lock-out/tag-out program was implemented and noted by DOE's Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) Site Manager as "making the entire site much safer for workers...an especially notable process because it was an employee-led initiative." Advice #208 "Uniform Site-Wide Safety Standards" addressed this issue, and called for site-wide standardization for several programs, including lock-out/tag-out, radiological worker training, beryllium program, uniform safety training, Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) implementation, and others.

Other progress includes soil site cleanup along the Columbia River, decontamination and demolition of buildings in the 300 Area and across the site, solid waste retrieval and disposition, and much more. DOE's Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) progress is anchored by the resumption of construction on the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP). The HAB has consistently supported completion and operation of WTP to treat the millions of gallons of high-level and low-activity waste contained in the underground tank farms on the Central Plateau of Hanford.

Looking Ahead

I expect that 2009 will be packed with important work for the HAB. Major issues the HAB will consider include Records of Decision (ROD) for waste site cleanup on the Central Plateau and near the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP); the draft TC&WM EIS; TPA milestone changes; groundwater remediation; institutional controls; and disposition of K Basin sludge. The Board will also track the complete excavation and soil removal at K East Basin, as well as the resolution of remaining WTP technical issues and construction progress.

The Board committees will continue to refine their work plans and develop advice to bring forward to the full Board. Work plans help guide and focus committee efforts but remain flexible to respond to emerging cleanup issues. HAB committees will meet jointly or a Committee of the Whole will be convened when issues overlap. This helps ensure all members have equal access to information and the opportunity to participate in discussions.

Working together with the TPA agencies, the HAB's goals are to provide useful consensus policy advice that reflects the values of HAB members and their constituencies. We will continue to follow and support Hanford cleanup progress. On a personal note, I am grateful for the dedication of HAB members and look forward to another productive year.

Susan Leckband,
Chair



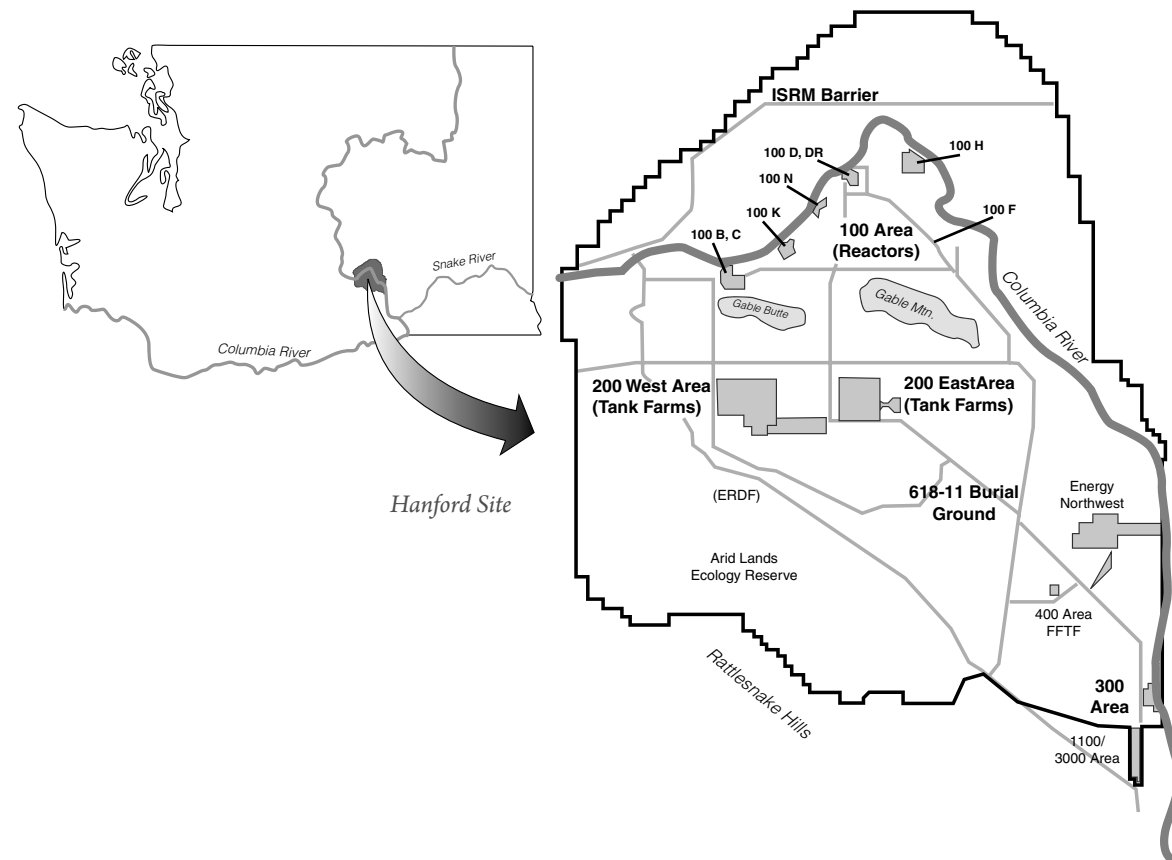
Susan Leckband, Board chair.

The 586-square-mile Hanford Site was the first and primary plutonium production facility for the United States' nuclear weapons program. The site, which began operations in 1944, includes nine reactors, five chemical separations plants, plutonium processing facilities, and 177 underground high-level nuclear waste tanks containing 56 million gallons of highly radioactive waste and 190 million curies of radioactivity. Between the start of operations in 1944 and the shutdown of the last reactor in the late 1980s, Hanford produced over two thirds of the nation's estimated 111 metric tons of plutonium.

The production of plutonium generated large amounts of radioactive and chemically hazardous waste. Hanford has 60 percent of the volume of the nation's military high-level radioactive wastes and over 1,400 waste sites containing liquid and solid waste.

Currently, Hanford is engaged in the world's largest environmental cleanup project. The site mission shifted from operations to cleanup in 1989 when DOE, EPA, and Ecology signed the landmark Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, commonly known as the Tri-Party Agreement or TPA. The TPA outlines legally enforceable milestones for Hanford cleanup over the next several decades.

DOE-RL is responsible for environmental restoration and waste management activities at Hanford. DOE-ORP was established by Congress in 1998 to manage the complex project of retrieval, treatment, and disposal of Hanford tank wastes and construction of the WTP.



Organization/Group	Primary Member	Alternate
U.S. Department of Energy-RL	Dave Brockman Doug Shoop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official	Paula Call
U.S. Department of Energy-ORP	Shirley Olinger Steve Pfaff, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official	Lori Gamache
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Nick Ceto*	Dennis Faulk
Washington State Department of Ecology	Jane Hedges	Nolan Curtis

*left EPA in 2008

Members or Alternates who left the Board in 2008

- Jerri Main
- Jim Curdy
- Dave Smith
- Larry Clucas
- John Gear
- Michael Silverstein

Acknowledgements

The Hanford Advisory Board would like to acknowledge the following resources used for the content of the Board's Annual Report:

- DOE Press Releases
- Washington State Department of Ecology Web site
- The U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site Web site
- Hanford Site Groundwater Remediation Project
- Agency representatives and Board Chair

Hanford's Central Plateau

History

The Central Plateau is a 75-square-mile area located near the center of the Hanford Site. It includes the 200 East and 200 West Areas that contain approximately 900 facilities formerly used to support fuel processing for plutonium production. Today, the area contains 177 tanks, 337 wells, and 884 waste sites.

In the heart of the 200 West Area, the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) was used to process plutonium nitrate for shipment to weapons production facilities around the nation. PFP operated from 1949 until 1989 when it was shut down at the end of the Cold War era. PFP was made up of several buildings, support facilities, and waste sites. When the plant was shut down, the remaining processing material was left in various states. Workers had to dispose of the material inside the buildings before they could begin decommissioning activities. Crews have been working to dismantle the PFP buildings to a slab-on-grade condition. After the buildings are dismantled, only the concrete foundations on which the buildings once stood will remain. DOE plans to complete this work, which includes decommissioning 58 buildings, by 2019 as required by the TPA.

Waste produced by PFP operations and activities was buried in soils, released to groundwater, and stored in underground tanks. Waste sites located around PFP mainly received carbon tetrachloride and plutonium contamination. The carbon tetrachloride leached into the groundwater beneath the 200 Area, while the plutonium largely remains in the soil. The waste sites around PFP are particularly challenging because they present a high environmental and security risk due to the transuranic material that is present.

Central Plateau Cleanup Decision Process

DOE-RL's objective on the Central Plateau is to "remediate waste sites and to decommission and demolish excess facilities in a manner that is protective of the environment, safe for the workers, and mindful of taxpayer dollars." This objective drives cleanup to make the area available for future and long-term industrial use. To get there, DOE-RL works with its regulators (Ecology and EPA) to reduce the environmental risk from the Central Plateau's large disposition facilities and clean up the surrounding waste sites. DOE's current cleanup strategy groups



Workers load a glovebox into a waste container for eventual shipment to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).

Organization/Group	Primary Member	Alternate
STATE OF OREGON (2)		
Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board	Larry Clucas*	Maxine Hines Wayne Lei Barry Beyeler Robert McFarlane
Oregon Department of Energy	Ken Niles	Dirk Dunning Tom Stoops Paul Shaffer
<i>*left the Board in 2008</i>		
UNIVERSITY (2)		
University of Washington	Doug Mercer	Mark Oberle
Washington State University	Gene Schreckhise	Emmett Moore
PUBLIC AT LARGE (4)		
	Norma Jean Germond	Nancy Murray
	Keith Smith	George Jansen, Jr. Shelley Cimon
	Bob Parazin	Samuel Dechter
	Bob Suyama	Mike Korenko
EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES		
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Armand Minthorn	
Washington State Department of Health	Earl Fordham	Debra McBaugh John Martell

areas on the Central Plateau into 22 zones. Each zone will have an integrated cleanup plan that addresses its waste sites, structures, groundwater, vadose zone, infrastructure, and tank farms.

DOE-RL's first priority is to address the high risk waste sites that threaten groundwater. DOE-RL is currently working with EPA and Ecology towards developing RODs, which will include justification for the remedial action. The ROD is a required document published by EPA under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law that provides statutory authority for cleanup of hazardous substances.

Board's Involvement

Before EPA will issue a ROD, DOE-RL must develop a proposed plan for cleanup that involves conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. In September 2007, DOE-RL completed a draft feasibility study for 200-PW-1, 200-PW-3, and 200-PW-6 (PW-1, 3, and 6) waste sites near PFP. The Board had the opportunity to learn more about and comment on the feasibility study during a workshop conducted last spring. To date, there have been no final RODs issued for a waste site on the Central Plateau that contains plutonium. The Board recognizes that the decision on PW-1, 3, and 6 will set a precedent for other RODs on the Central Plateau. In order to develop consensus and provide input on this important decision, the Board got involved early. The collaborative process used for the PW-1, 3 and 6 workshop was commended by the TPA agencies and Board members and has been proposed as a model for future involvement.

In 2005, the HAB developed a Central Plateau Remedial Action Values Flowchart as a part of Advice #173. The flowchart was intended to collectively present a decision process for remedial decision-making for waste sites, and outline HAB values and principles. The three primary values the HAB identified in the values flowchart were:

1. The ideal remedial action at all Central Plateau waste sites is to first characterize, then retrieve, treat and dispose of all wastes.

2. Hanford waste that remains on-site must be left in a facility or configuration that will be protective of human health and the environment for generations to come. If there is any risk of contamination migrating to the groundwater, the Board has a bias to remove, treat and dispose.
3. Barriers should be a last resort remedy.

This past year, the Board issued additional advice relevant to waste site cleanup on the Central Plateau, specifically regarding the proposed plan for PW-1, 3, and 6 (Advice #207). The advice asked the TPA agencies to:

- Continue to engage the Board, tribes, and public early through an iterative process in future decision-making.
- Commit to adequate characterization of the PW waste sites and remove, treat, and dispose of any plutonium contaminated material whenever possible.
- Determine a disposal pathway for all transuranic elements, including those disposed of prior to 1970, after 1970, and mixed transuranic waste destined for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The advice also included considerations for the agencies in developing the decision process, analysis and data quality, and decision criteria for the PW-1, 3, and 6 proposed plan. The Board will continue to follow the development of the proposed plan and will consider further advice as the agencies confirm cleanup plans.

"Several of the waste sites in the PW-1, 3 and 6 operable units contain large quantities of transuranic elements otherwise known as pre-1970 transuranic waste (TRU). Making a cleanup decision on how to deal with pre-1970 TRU waste material is a huge public policy issue and the Board's identification of major issues early in the process that the feasibility study needs to address should help the TPA agencies make a sound decision."

Dennis Faulk, Project Manager
Environmental Protection Agency

Organization/Group	Primary Member	Alternate
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS (1)		
Richland Rod & Gun Club	Gene Van Liew	Paul Kison
REGIONAL CITIZEN, ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS (5)		
Columbia Riverkeeper	Greg deBruler	Steve White Steve Roney
Hanford Watch	Paige Knight	Robin Klein Steve Hudson
Heart of America Northwest	Gerald Pollet	Helen Wheatley Amber Waldref
Washington League of Women Voters	Susan Kreid	Betty Tabbutt
Citizens for a Clean Eastern Washington	Todd Martin	Phil Brick Dr. Floyd Hodges Dr. Mark Beck Dr. Susan Babilon Cindy Meyer
LOCAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH (2)		
Benton-Franklin Public Health	Dr. Margery Swint	Dr. Gerry Dagle Dr. Tony James
Physicians for Social Responsibility	Dr. Jim Trombold	Dr. Charles Weems Karen Bowman
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT (2)		
Nez Perce Tribe	Gabriel Bohnee	John Stanfill Sandra Lilligren Kristie Baptiste-Eke Stan Sobczyk
Yakama Nation	Russell Jim	Wade Riggsbee David Rowland

Current HAB Members and Alternates

Organization/Group	Primary Member	Alternate
LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERESTS (7)		
Benton County	Maynard Plahuta	Kenneth Gasper
Benton-Franklin Council of Governments	Rick Jansons	Gwen Luper
City of Kennewick	Bob Parks	Dick Smith
City of Pasco	Robert Davis	Joe Jackson
City of Richland	Pam Larsen	Vince Panesko
City of West Richland	Julie Jones	Donna Noski
Grant & Franklin Counties	Richard Leitz	Bob Adler Art Tackett
LOCAL BUSINESS INTERESTS (1)		
Tri-Cities Industrial Development Council	Harold Heacock	Gary Petersen
HANFORD WORK FORCE (5)		
Central Washington Building Trades Council	Mike Keizer	
Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council	Becky Holland	David Molnaa
"Non-Union, Non-Management" Employees (2)	Jeffrey Luke Susan Leckband	Laura Mueller Larry Lockrem
Hanford Challenge*	Tom Carpenter	Allyn Boldt Meredith Crafton Mason Lowe Liz Mattson

* The Government Accountability Project was renamed Hanford Challenge in 2008.

Workshops and Public Involvement

The HAB uses workshops, tours and Committee of the Whole meetings to delve into issues a committee or the Board would like to learn more about and possibly respond to with advice. This past year, the Board participated in a number of these events [see page 21 for complete list]. The following highlight good examples of the Board's process.

Hanford Cleanup Priorities Workshop: Development of the FY 2010 Budget

DOE-RL and DOE-ORP's final fiscal year (FY) 2010 budget requests were due by April 10 to DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ). Both DOE offices scheduled a budget workshop on March 26 to allow the Board to provide input prior to their budget submission. The Board provided input on how to prioritize work across the site given the budget shortfalls in recent years. The Board also expressed its desire for the budget to, at a minimum, cover TPA required commitments. The workshop was a success,

and Board members felt the budget process was inclusive, transparent, and allowed for collaboration between the TPA agencies and the public.

TPA Workshop on Cleanup Alternatives for Waste Sites near PFP

The Board participated in a workshop on the cleanup alternatives identified for the PW-1, 3, and 6 operable units. Both Board members and agency representatives felt the workshop was a positive and productive way for the Board to provide input on an important cleanup decision. Board members had the opportunity to make suggestions for improving the feasibility study, and DOE-RL made a commitment to work with EPA and Ecology to modify the feasibility study and consider the Board's input. Following the workshop, the Board prepared advice to reiterate its input provided during the workshop.

(continued on next page...)



The Board uses workshops to delve more deeply into particular Hanford cleanup issues.

Committee of the Whole Baseline Workshop

The Board convened a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss DOE-RL's and DOE-ORP's baselines. The Board wanted to gain a better understanding of how both DOE offices develop their baselines and makes assumptions about what work will be included in contractor work scopes each year. The Board learned how DOE's integrated priority lists inform baselines and fiscal year budgets. Board members discussed how they might develop a process for reviewing baselines and contractor work scopes and provide input on out-year budgets.

PIC Strategic Planning Workshop

PIC held a strategic planning workshop to identify agency goals for HAB public involvement and how PIC helps meet those goals, and to identify activities that energize PIC and meet agency needs. The workshop reviewed responses to an informal public involvement survey the committee distributed to the TPA agencies, Board members, and their organizations. The workshop provided a good starting point for better collaboration with the TPA agencies and helped refine the committee's 2009 work plan.

"Thank you for your advice on the Criteria for Development of the Proposed Plan for 200-PW-1, 3 and 6 Operable Units [Advice #207]. DOE also found the April 15, 2008 workshop discussions very beneficial and plans to incorporate several of the criteria provided in HAB Advice #207 in the revised feasibility study and proposed plan."

Dave Brockman, Manager
Department of Energy, Richland
Operations Office

"For cross-cutting issues, EPA finds the workshop format and Committees of the Whole to be an effective means to identify key questions that need to be addressed to move Hanford cleanup forward. We would encourage the Board to explore the possible use of the workshop format at the formal Board meetings."

Dennis Faulk, Project Manager
Environmental Protection Agency

New HAB Members and Alternates

Name	Seat	Appointment date
Mason Lowe	Hanford Workforce	June 19, 2008
Mason is a lifelong Washington resident with family roots in the east and west sides of the state. He joined Hanford Challenge after six years of advocacy work at the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and is excited to be focusing on issues in his home state. His years of experience on the national level provide perspective on the impact of activities at Hanford on the U.S. nuclear complex and vice versa.		
Liz Mattson	Hanford Workforce	June 19, 2008
Doug Mercer	University	February 11, 2008
Doug teaches, conducts research, and consults in the area of environmental risk management. His involvement with Hanford issues dates to 1996 with his participation in a multi-disciplinary research consortium aimed at advancing risk-based decision making across the DOE complex. To the Board he brings expertise in economic and land use analysis, natural resource valuation, risk characterization, and risk communication.		
Donna Noski	Local Government	February 26, 2008
Stan Sobczyk	Tribal Government	March 25, 2008
Stan has a Ph.D. in Geology from Washington State University and over 25 years of experience in various aspects of geology, geophysics, and hydrogeology. He has represented the Nez Perce Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program for nine years on Hanford vadose zone/groundwater issues. He is a licensed Professional Geologist and Hydrogeologist in Washington State.		



DOE provides information to the Board, participates in workshops and responds to Board advice. Pictured above are DOE representatives Kim Ballinger, Doug Shoop, Steve Weigman and Erik Olds.

New HAB Members and Alternates

Name	Seat	Appointment date
Bob Adler	Local Government	March 17, 2008
Karen Bowman	Local and Regional Public Health	July 21, 2008
<p>Karen is a native of Seattle and has been advocating for human and environmental health in the Pacific Northwest for over three decades. She's a graduate of the University of Washington's (UW) School of Nursing and has an Advanced Practice Community Health Nursing Masters degree with a special focus in occupational and environmental health. Karen is an occupational health nurse specialist and owns her own corporation that assists clients with health and safety compliance, regulatory and wellness education, and onsite health care services, along with environmental health advocacy for the global community. Karen teaches at UW-Bothell's School of Nursing, where she uses her company and clients as educational platforms for occupational and environmental health nursing students to gain critical "hands-on" experience in multiple occupational settings, tribal communities, city municipalities and environmental health advocacy organizations.</p>		
Meredith Crafton	Hanford Workforce	June 19, 2008
Sam Dechter	Public at Large	July 21, 2008
<p>Sam brings over 37 years experience in nuclear energy and environmental restoration and remediation to the HAB. He earned his degrees in Physics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Sam spent 20 years with the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory performing a variety of assignments in the Naval Nuclear Program and five years at the Fernald Site near Cincinnati, OH where he managed site operations. In 1992, he moved to Hanford where he gained experience in the tank farms, K-Basins Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, Conduct of Operations group, and Facility Evaluation Board. Sam retired from Fluor Hanford in 2004. He is interested in ensuring that the public is aware of and involved in DOE decisions regarding Hanford cleanup progress and direction.</p>		
Julie Jones	Local Government	February 26, 2008
<p>Julie has been on the West Richland City Council for 16 years. Previous to the council, she was a staff member for Congressman Sid Morrison, 4th Congressional District, Washington State, for 10 years. Julie wanted to be on the Hanford Advisory Board to help represent West Richland and to learn and provide information about Hanford issues and cleanup activities.</p>		
Richard Leitz	Local Government	March 17, 2008
<p>Richard is a small-business owner involved in the wholesale manufacture of sustainable agricultural fertilizers. He has been a commissioner for the Port of Mattawa for 16 years and has resided in Mattawa for over 40 years. Richard also farms cherries, apples and wine grapes, and spends his spare time coaching high school football.</p>		

HAB Governance Changes

At the June meeting, the Board accepted a proposal from DOE-HQ to replace the Hanford Advisory Board Charter and Operating Ground Rules with two separate documents: 1) Memorandum of Understanding among U.S. DOE, U.S. EPA, and Ecology regarding the Hanford Advisory Board, and 2) Operating Ground Rules for the Hanford Advisory Board.

This was a difficult decision by the Board, following more than two years of discussions with DOE on issues related to the Charter, including its consistency with the FACA. In a letter to DOE-RL and DOE-ORP, Board chair Susan Leckband wrote, "With serious reservations the Board adopted the DOE proposal by majority vote. This process was not the norm for a Board that has dedicated itself to reaching decisions through a consensus process."

Leckband closed her letter saying "With this decision behind us, the Board looks forward to continuing its mission to engage in ongoing dialogue and provide advice to the TPA agencies regarding cleanup of the Hanford Site. We expect to continue our productive relationship with you in that effort."

HAB letter to DOE,
September 2008

"The Board looks forward to continuing its mission to engage in ongoing dialogue and provide advice to the Tri-Party agencies regarding cleanup of the Hanford Site. We expect to continue our productive relationship with you in that effort."

Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

"This was an interesting year working with the Board. As we revisited the HAB Charter this year, it gave us a great opportunity to reflect on the history of the Board, the origins of how and why it was set up in the way that it was, and why the Board has been so effective in its institutional memory for the cleanup of Hanford."

Dennis Faulk, Project Manager
Environmental Protection Agency

One of the Board's primary activities is to provide informed recommendations and advice to the TPA agencies on selected policy issues related to Hanford cleanup. Advice is developed through a consensus process and is the Board's best tool to communicate its principles and values on specific policy issues to the TPA agencies. The Board often recommends specific actions in advice. The TPA agencies are required to respond formally to Board advice, which the Board regularly reviews as a means of tracking how its advice is taken into consideration in decision-making.

Advice development begins at the committee level, where policy issues are identified and discussed. Once a committee reaches consensus on draft advice, it is brought to the full Board for consideration and further development. The Board decides through consensus whether to proceed with and adopt the advice.

At five meetings in 2008, the Board produced eight pieces of advice on Hanford cleanup addressing the following topics:

- Communicating technology issues on and between DOE sites, DOE Environmental Management (DOE-EM), and technology providers (Advice #204)
- Hanford cleanup funding (Advice #205 and #206)
- Criteria for developing a proposed plan for Central Plateau waste sites (Advice #207)
- Uniform site-wide safety standards at Hanford (Advice # 208)
- Tank waste system planning (Advice # 209)
- FY 2009 funding and missed TPA milestones (Advice #210)
- Baseline workshop appreciation and future work (Advice #211)

An index and links to all of the Board's advice and agency responses can be found at: www.hanford.gov/public/boards/hab/.

"Ecology firmly believes in the value of this Board and its work in advising all three of the TPA agencies on your values and concerns. We depend on you to thoughtfully consider your advice and recommendations, and to work with us to keep cleanup on track."

Polly Zehm, Deputy Director
Washington State Department of Ecology



Board members review draft advice at HAB meetings and reach agreement through a consensus process.

For years, the Board has supported activities that focus on preventing the migration of contaminants and reducing the contaminant mass available for migration. In a letter to DOE regarding the carbon tetrachloride plume near PFP (see Focus: Central Plateau on page 4), the Board strongly supported the commitment that the DOE made to provide for appropriate treatment and monitoring of the plume, moving from a strategy of containment to one of expanded characterization and treatment. The Board looks forward to reviewing the feasibility study and proposed plan that support the selection of a final cleanup remedy when they are released for public comment in spring 2009.

National Involvement

The Board continued to be involved on a national level in 2008 as a member of the national board called the U.S. DOE Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM-SSAB). The EM-SSAB is composed of DOE cleanup site advisory board chairs and vice-chairs, and is tasked with advising DOE-EM. In April 2008, the HAB hosted the EM-SSAB biannual meeting in Richland. The HAB chair, vice-chair, national liaison and other HAB members attended the meeting where the EM-SSAB had the opportunity to take a tour of the Hanford Site and B Reactor. A second SSAB meeting was held in Washington D.C. in September. In 2008, the EM-SSAB produced three letters to DOE-EM, which are available at: <http://www.em.doe.gov/stakepages/ssabrecommendations.aspx>.



Susan Leckband, Board chair, Shelley Cimon, Board national liaison, and other EM-SSAB representatives attended the EM-SSAB meeting that was held in April in Richland, WA. Jim Rispoli, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, also attended.

The Board's national liaison and some members of the Board attended the 2008 Joint Intergovernmental Conference. This conference creates a forum for dialogue and educational opportunities about international and national nuclear material management challenges. The national liaison also attended the Second Annual Rad Waste Summit in Nevada that focuses on improving radiological waste management.

The Board's continued involvement with other advisory boards, industry and national DOE offices is important in fostering communication across the DOE complex as well as for sharing innovative ideas for nuclear waste cleanup and public participation. Maintaining its national involvement also gives the Board a chance to share its rich institutional memory with other DOE sites.

Workshops and Site Tours

Board members continued to be involved in a number of DOE-sponsored workshops and tours in 2008. Workshops and tours in 2008 included:

- 100 Area and 300 Area Component of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment workshop
- 200-PW-1, 3 and 6 workshop
- 618-7 and 618-1 burial ground and 300 Area tour
- Baseline workshop
- Columbia River Comprehensive Risk Assessment workshop
- Deep Vadose Zone Treatability Test Plan workshop
- Hanford Cleanup Priorities Workshop: Development of the FY 2010 Budget
- Pretreatment Engineering Platform tour
- Public Involvement Strategic Planning Workshop
- State of the Site meetings
- TPA Quarterly Public Involvement Planning meetings
- TPA Workshop on Cleanup Alternatives for Waste Sites Near the PFP
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant meeting

Other Board Products

Advice is the most common and powerful means by which the Board presents its values and suggestions on policy issues to the TPA agencies. At times, the Board chooses to communicate with the TPA agencies by letter. Typically the Board uses letters when a response is not required or when the issue is not necessarily at a policy level. Frequently, the Board uses letters to congratulate DOE, EPA and Ecology for work well done.

The Board's most important letter of 2008 was sent in response to proposed charter changes (see HAB Governance Changes on page 8). A cover letter describing the struggle leading to the Board's acceptance of the changes was sent to DOE along with a Sounding Board summary.

In a letter regarding Hanford cleanup baselines and the lifecycle cost and schedule report, the Board said it was happy with DOE's "approach to develop a collaborative shared vision for Hanford cleanup." The Board stated it looks forward to receiving validated and certified Hanford cleanup baselines and engaging in a dialogue with DOE, EPA and Ecology. The Board believes the next step is to develop a lifecycle cost and schedule report that the agencies discussed during TPA negotiations. The Board also used the letter as an opportunity to notify the agencies of upcoming advice on FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets.



The Tank Waste Committee worked with the Budgets and Contracts Committee on advice in 2008.

Site Technology Coordination Groups: Forums for technology sharing, coordination and discussion

Advice # 204

In 2008, the Board emphasized the need for sharing and advancing technologies among and between DOE sites. In Advice #204, the Board advised the reinstatement of the Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG) at Hanford and recommended reinstating STCGs at all DOE sites where there is significant cleanup and remediation work in progress. Historically, STCGs were "an important forum for regulators, contractors, the public, stakeholders, states, and tribes to participate in the evaluation and possible implementation of technologies." An increased focus on vadose zone remediation technologies for groundwater protection and Columbia River resources is an example of successful STCG advocacy. When STCGs were eliminated in 2003, the Board saw a loss of momentum and coordination for addressing technology needs at Hanford and a loss of the only forum for stakeholders to learn about and comment on technology needs and priorities. Among other advice points, the Board believes the benefits gained from these forums will result in cost savings and/or improved remediation performance for federal cleanup activities.

Hanford cleanup funding in FY 2009 and FY 2010

Advice #205

The Board issued two pieces of budget advice in 2008. Advice #205 describes recommendations for action in FY 2008 and priorities for Hanford cleanup funding in FY 2009.

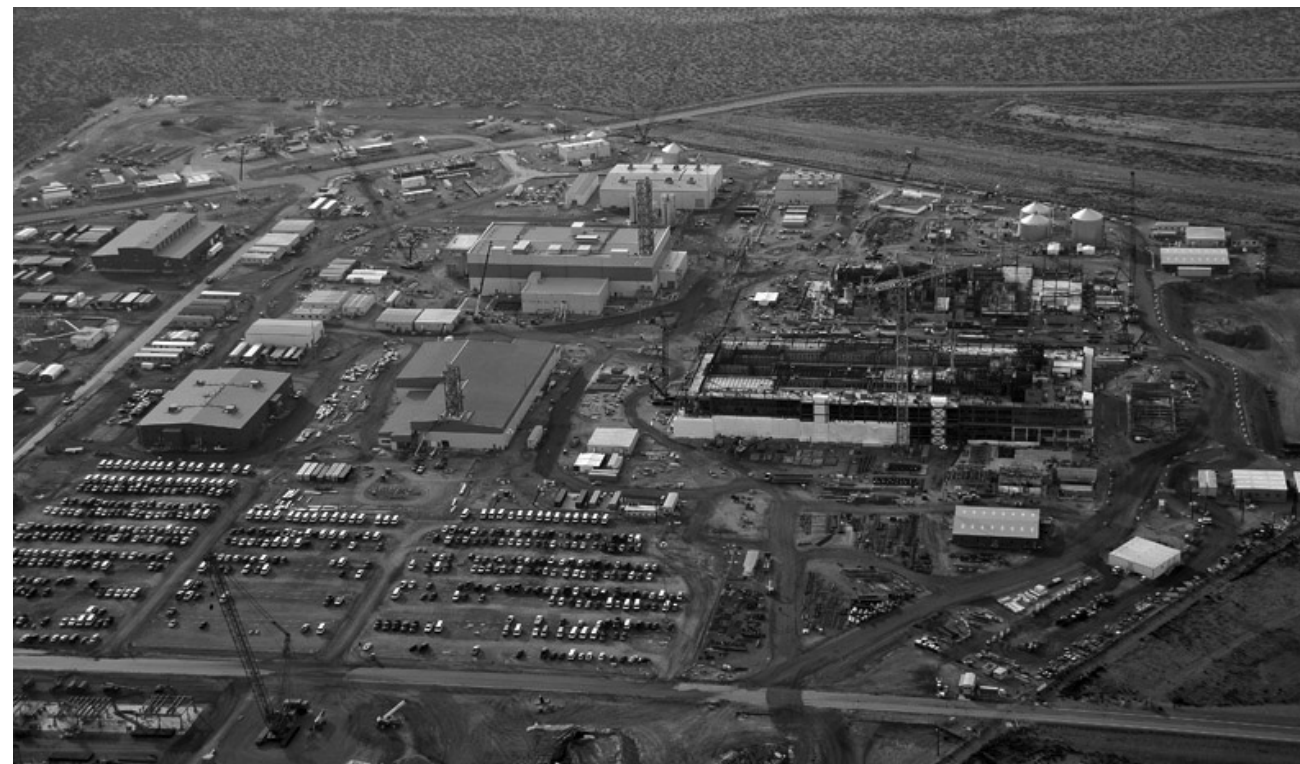
The Board continued to be concerned about funding for Hanford cleanup and impacts to tank waste retrieval and treatment, TRU and mixed waste retrieval and treatment, Central Plateau soil and groundwater remediation, and River Corridor cleanup. The Board felt DOE's request for funding in FY 2009 was insufficient. The Board advised DOE to request additional funding for the following cleanup activities in 2009 and identified specific funding requests for each activity. In Advice #205, the Board:

- Advised additional funding for treating mixed waste, retrieving TRU waste disposed of after 1970, and moving forward on facilities for supporting characterization and packaging of remote-handled TRU waste and remote-handled mixed waste.



Board members tour the 300 Area and learn about the 618-7 burial ground.

- Recommended additional funding to keep River Corridor cleanup on track to allow re-opening some areas along the Columbia River for public use in 2012.
- Believes viable technologies and additional funding are needed to control and remediate uranium and other contaminant plumes in the Central Plateau and along the Columbia River.
- Believes nuclear material stabilization and disposition cost savings could occur if “Congress requires DOE to fund movement of special nuclear material/plutonium for mixed oxide nuclear fuel and other programs using the appropriations for those nuclear energy or defense programs.”
- Believes DOE should increase funding for Central Plateau soil, vadose zone/nuclear facility decontamination and decommissioning, and the remainder of the Hanford Site.
- Asked DOE to ensure full Board operation and requested funding to proceed with Natural Resource Damage Assessment activities.
- Recommended DOE address requirements to make WTP’s low activity waste (LAW) facility operational as early as possible. This is consistent with past Board advice regarding early LAW facility operations (Advice #192).
- Recommended DOE provide funding to support interim pretreatment system analysis and not divert the additional funding to work on bulk vitrification. An interim pretreatment system is needed to use the LAW facility early.
- Advised DOE to provide additional funding for single-shell tank integrity analysis because tanks will need to store waste for longer periods of time. The Board advised DOE to retrieve waste from multiple tanks per year.
- Recommended additional funding to upgrade the tank farm system to ensure safety of the workforce and minimize risk to the environment.
- Advised the characterization, retrieval, treatment and disposal of all tank wastes, and advised additional funding to initiate characterization efforts associated with contaminated soils at tank farms.



Aerial view of Hanford's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP).

Board Leadership

Board leadership is composed of Board and committee chairs and vice-chairs, and a national liaison. Once a year, the leadership holds a retreat to evaluate the previous year's work and identify priorities for Board work in the coming year.

In addition to reviewing the status of 2008 priorities and developing draft 2009 priorities, Board leadership focused on DOE's proposed changes to the Board's charter and operating ground rules. It also reviewed Board budget challenges and how the Board fits into the overall Hanford budget. The TPA agencies attended a portion of the leadership retreat and offered their draft priorities for the following year. HAB leadership drafted a Board meeting schedule for the following year and determined methods for improving operating procedures and cultivating new members and issue managers.

Board leadership

Chair: Susan Leckband
Vice Chair: Rick Jansons

National liaison

Shelley Cimon

Committee leadership

Budgets and Contracts Committee

Chair: Gerry Pollet
Vice Chair: Harold Heacock

Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee

Chair: Keith Smith
Vice Chair: Jim Trombold

Public Involvement and Communications Committee

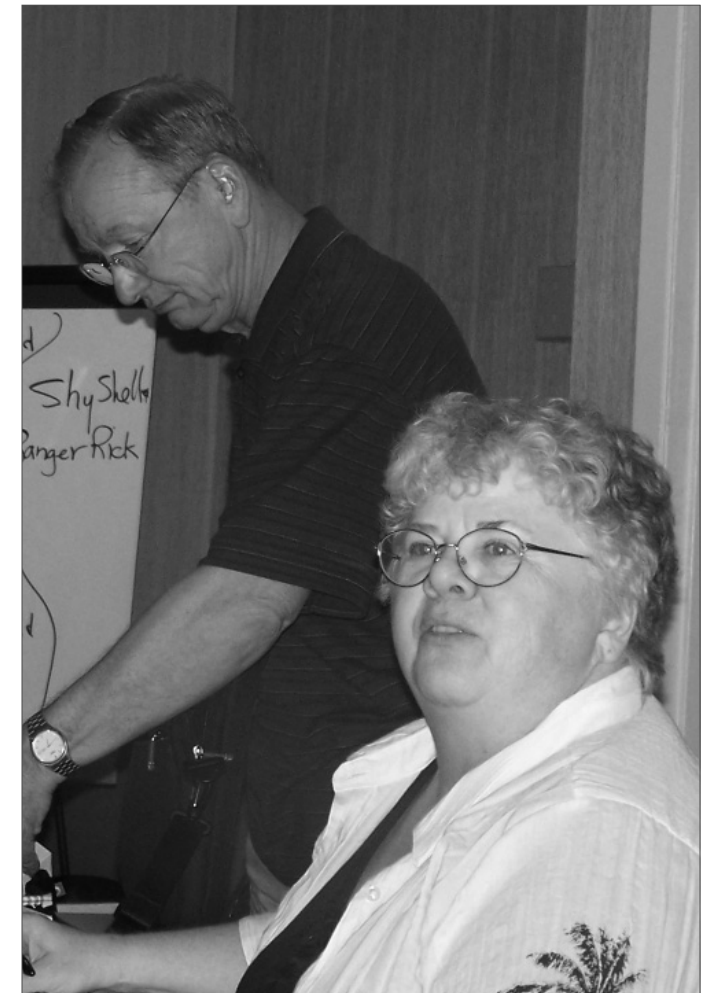
Chair: Steve Hudson
Vice Chair: Helen Wheatley

River and Plateau Committee

Chair: Maynard Plahuta
Vice Chair: Bob Suyama

Tank Waste Committee

Chair: Larry Lockrem
Vice Chair: Pam Larsen



Board chair Susan Leckband and Board member Ken Gasper participated in the 2008 leadership retreat.



Work at the BC controlled area included soil shipments to ERDF. In October, the area was seeded with a mix of predominantly native grass species as an interim soil stabilizer prior to full revegetation.

River and Plateau Committee

The River and Plateau Committee (RAP) examines cleanup issues in the River Corridor, Central Plateau (excluding tank farms), and 300 Area portions of the Hanford site. The committee focused on several topics in 2008:

- Site technology coordination groups: The committee produced advice on reinstating site technology coordination groups across the DOE complex (Advice #204).
- Criteria development for the proposed plan for waste sites 200-PW-1, 3 and 6: The committee developed advice on waste sites around PFP (Advice #207) and assisted the agencies in developing content and goals of the PW-1, 3 and 6 workshop.
- Central Plateau: The committee continued its work on the Central Plateau, tracking issues including pre-1970s TRU waste, PFP and the BC controlled area.
- River Corridor: The committee focused on the 300 Area, including burial grounds 618-7, 10 and 11, and K Basin sludge removal and disposition.



The River and Plateau Committee tracked K Basin cleanup progress in 2008, including K East Basin demolition (shown above).

Tank Waste Committee

The Tank Waste Committee (TWC) is responsible for following technical issues related to tank waste storage and retrieval, treatment, and disposal. In 2008, the committee focused primarily on the following:

- Tank waste system planning: The committee developed advice on tank waste system planning (Advice #209), consistent with past Board advice (Advice #192), encouraging DOE to provide a publicly available annual report showing baseline assumptions.
- Supplemental treatment: The committee continued to track supplemental treatment alternatives, follow construction developments at WTP, and discuss what constitutes “clean” tank closure.
- TC&WM EIS: The committee continued to track progress and issues related to the TC&WM EIS that is currently under development.

“The views of the Hanford Advisory Board, Tribal Nations, stakeholders, and others are important to the Program and provide valuable information for annual cleanup site budgets. Your recommendations will be given careful consideration. The challenge during the time of tight budgets across the entire Federal Government is to provide the maximum cleanup while reducing risks given our limited resources. We appreciate the HAB’s continued input on priorities to help us accomplish that.”

Inés R. Triay
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental
Management

“Ecology strongly supports early involvement in developing the remediation and closure decisions for PW-1, 3, 6. We believe all cleanup decisions need to be based on adequate characterization and early stakeholder involvement. While EPA is the lead regulator, Ecology does evaluate all decisions against state requirements.”

Jane Hedges, Program Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology

Advice #206

In Advice #206, the Board made recommendations for DOE-RL and DOE-ORP FY 2010 budget requests. The advice asked DOE to consider specific recommendations about tank waste treatment and retrieval, groundwater and vadose zone remediation, Central Plateau soil and waste management, and River Corridor cleanup.

Consistent with Advice #205, the Board asked DOE-ORP to keep the safe storage and monitoring of high-level tank waste a high priority, and advised that every possible effort be taken to begin WTP operations early. The Board also advised DOE-ORP to increase the current single-shell tank retrieval rate, and recommended increased characterization of soils contaminated by leaks.

The Board advised DOE-RL to provide additional funding for characterization and remediation of shallow and deep vadose zone contamination in the Central Plateau, waste sites adjacent to the Columbia River and in the 300 Area, an area just north of the city of Richland. The Board recommended sufficient funding for the groundwater program be provided without a reduction in facilities decontamination and decommissioning and soil remediation programs.

Regarding cleanup work on the Central Plateau, the Board advised planning for retrieval and disposal of TRU waste should include TRU waste disposed of prior to 1970. Funding should be provided for retrieval, treatment and certification of TRU wastes for offsite disposal. The Board asked DOE-RL to not defer the treatment of mixed wastes, and recommended that the remaining cleanup work in the River Corridor be completed by 2024 to comply with TPA milestones and protect regional water resources.

Cleanup alternatives for waste sites near the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP)

Advice # 207

The TPA agencies asked the Board to comment on their approach and criteria for developing a cleanup plan for plutonium waste sites near PFP (see Focus: Central Plateau on page 4). In “Criteria for Development of the Proposed Plan for 200-PW-1, 3 and 6” (Advice #207), the Board states the waste sites are particularly important because of their unique environmental and security risks. The Board referred to the Central Plateau remedial action values flowchart (Advice #173) and the groundwater values flowchart (Advice # 197), which outline Board values and provide direction for remedial decision-making applicable to the waste sites.

The Board commended the TPA agencies on its workshop and stated that the “early, iterative process that engaged the Board, tribes and public should be a model for future decision-making” (see Workshops and Public Involvement, page 6). The Board advised the characterization of the 200-PW-1, 3 and 6 sites, and the removal, treatment and disposal to the extent practicable of all plutonium-rich waste (see Focus: Central Plateau on page 4).

Uniform site-wide safety standards

Advice #208

In Advice #208, the Board advised both DOE-RL and DOE-ORP and their contractors to “make a special effort to ensure that a carefully formulated uniform safety policy and safety training policy is fully implemented and demonstrated by its effectiveness in the workplace.”

The Board agrees that Hanford has a good safety record when compared to similar industrial activity in the United States. However, the Board believes that the mobility of the Hanford workforce as it moves from project to project creates a particularly vital need for uniform safety rules and procedures. The Board noted that allowing each contractor to develop separate safety training, respiratory protection programs, and Integrated Safety Management Systems (ISMS), even when meeting DOE requirements, results in enough difference to foster significant uncertainty and increased risk for workers.

Advice #208 recommended some specific changes and programs, including uniform ISMS training for all employees, a uniform respiratory protection program, maintenance of the uniform lockout/tagout program, a uniform radiation worker training program, and a uniform site-wide beryllium safety program. In addition to other advice points, the Board felt it would be beneficial to implement a centralized, site-wide database to track all worker safety and qualifications training.

In keeping with its tradition of recommending worker involvement in safety program development, the Board asked DOE to involve workers in the creation and implementation of procedures and safety programs, including worker-led, management-supported, safety councils.

“The U.S. Department of Energy appreciates and agrees with the Hanford Advisory Board’s advice on uniform site-wide safety standards. DOE previously incorporated requirements for the development and use of common safety processes and training into the awarded Tank Operations Contract and Plateau Remediation Contract.”

DOE continues to look for ways to integrate our safety policies and processes. Worker safety and effective cleanup of the Hanford Site continues to be our top priorities.”

Shirley Olinger, Manager
Department of Energy, Office of River Protection

Dave Brockman, Manager
Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office

“The Integrated Safety Management System is an essential program at Hanford. It must be integrated into workforce activities and be a requirement for all site contractors.”

Jane Hedges, Program Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology

Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee

The Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee (HSEP) analyzes how cleanup activities affect worker safety, public health and the environment. The committee worked on the following in 2008:

- Uniform site-wide safety standards: The committee developed advice on uniform site-wide safety standards, which was especially relevant with new site contractors operating at Hanford (Advice #208).
- Workers compensation: HSEP tracked and reviewed DOE’s response to its workers compensation advice issued in 2007 (Advice #196).
- Environmental monitoring: The committee continued to follow environmental monitoring programs, reviewed the site-wide emergency preparedness program, and tracked tank vapor issues and their implications on safety standards for tank farm workers.

Public Involvement and Communications Committee

The Public Involvement and Communications Committee (PIC) helps DOE, EPA and Ecology in their efforts to provide opportunities to the public and the Board to participate in Hanford cleanup decisions. In 2008, the committee worked on the following:

- Strategic planning workshop: The bulk of the committee’s efforts resulted in a strategic planning workshop in December that focused on the goals and mission of PIC, as well as developed a path forward for outreach efforts for the TC&WM EIS and RCRA Site-Wide Permit.
- TPA Communications/Public Involvement Strategic Plan: The committee conducted thorough reviews of the strategic public involvement matrix that outlines agency public involvement goals and key public policy questions.
- General public involvement: The committee assisted the TPA agencies by providing input and feedback to Hanford-related public involvement efforts, including State of the Site meetings that were held around the region in fall 2008.



Board members tour the 300 Area and 618-7 burial ground.

Committee work is vital and comprises the bulk of the Board's activities. The Board's five committees typically meet on a monthly basis to examine complex technical and policy issues, identify how such issues relate to Board principles and values, and prepare draft advice for Board meetings.

Within a committee, members volunteer to serve as "issue managers" for a particular topic. Issue managers typically have an interest and/or expertise in a specific topic, and coordinate with the TPA agencies to research and frame technical issues. Like the Board, committees operate under a consensus process for bringing forward issues of interest and developing draft advice. This process helps create stronger advice.

The Board has two technical committees that learn about and track cleanup work: the Tank Waste Committee and the River and Plateau Committee. The three other committees work on broader issues: the Public Involvement and Communications Committee, the Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Committee, and the Budgets and Contracts Committee.

Sometimes cleanup issues are relevant to more than one committee; therefore, committees have the freedom to meet jointly to address such cross-cutting issues. The full Board may also meet as a Committee of the Whole when an issue has implications affecting all committees or the Board itself. For example, a Committee of the Whole was convened in 2008 to review and discuss DOE budgets and baselines.

Budgets and Contracts Committee

The Budgets and Contracts Committee (BCC) focuses on funding and contracting topics at the Hanford Site. The committee continued to be very active in 2008 and dedicated its time to the following issues:

- TPA negotiations: The committee continued to track TPA milestone negotiations between DOE, EPA and Ecology.
- Hanford cleanup funding: The committee crafted advice identifying priorities for Hanford cleanup funding in FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010 (Advice #205, #206 and #210).
- Budgets and baselines: BCC convened the Committee of the Whole to discuss Hanford budgets and baselines.
- Contractor work scopes: BCC received a presentation on the new site contractor work plan transition and will continue to track this into the next year.



Gerry Pollet chaired the Budgets and Contracts Committee in 2008.

"The HAB's recent recommendation on the River Protection Project System Plan demonstrates their level of understanding regarding the complex technical nature of our mission. The dialogue and recommendations from the Board will help us improve future system plans needed throughout the mission of the project."

Shirley Olinger, Manager
Department of Energy, Office of River Protection

"Ecology agrees that an updated system plan should be issued annually and made available to the public. A system plan is vitally important to support key decisions necessary for tank waste retrieval, treatment, disposal, tank farm closure, and for gaining regional and national support."

Jane Hedges, Program Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology

Planning for retrieval, treatment and disposal of tank waste and closing tank farms

Advice #209

Tank waste retrieval, treatment and immobilization at Hanford continues to be the Board's top cleanup priority. In Advice #209, the Board thanked DOE for generating planning documents such as the River Protection Project System Plan Revision 3. Since this last revision, there have been a number of delays, funding shortfalls and emerging technical issues. Similar to past advice (Advice #192), the Board restated the need for a clear, credible and integrated path forward for tank waste retrieval, treatment and disposal. The Board advised DOE to annually prepare and issue an updated system plan to retrieve, treat and dispose of tank waste and close tank farms.

The Board said the system plan should provide a basis for identifying and mitigating potential negative impacts to human health and safety; identify the basis of programmatic costs and schedule issues associated with tank leaks and contaminant spread; include an analysis of the interconnectedness of the entire tank farm and WTP system; and provide criteria that guide the option selection process and disposal options for all waste streams. The Board suggested the plan be available for public review and a tool for garnering support for continued Hanford cleanup funding.



A worker welds rebar ties on the WTP pretreatment facility.

FY 2009 funding and missed milestones
Advice #210

In Advice #210, the Board revisited the FY 2009 budget priorities it presented in Advice #205. In November 2008, DOE-RL notified Ecology that an additional 23 TPA milestones will not be met due to funding limitations. The Board believes funding for Hanford cleanup is not enough to meet TPA requirements and urged DOE to seek additional funding.

The Board believes additional funding should be provided to Hanford in the FY 2009 budget allocations. Building on Advice #205 that identified how additional funds should be allocated, the Board advised that an additional \$144 million be allocated to DOE-RL to fund work like solid waste stabilization, groundwater cleanup and community support. The Board recommended an additional \$90 million go to DOE-ORP for underfunded activities, including early low activity waste treatment and single-shell tank retrieval.

Baseline workshop appreciation and next steps
Advice #211

The Board thanked DOE for hosting a successful workshop on cleanup cost and schedule planning baselines. It was a new effort for the entire DOE complex and the Board encouraged DOE to share these materials and lessons-learned with other sites.

The Board believes it is essential to understand how DOE sets its cost and schedule plans and finds it necessary for the Board and regulators to regularly review and provide input on the assumptions behind the baselines. The Board advised DOE to present major assumptions and priorities to regulators and the Board prior to adopting a baseline. The Board also advised DOE and regulators that milestones for Central Plateau cleanup need to meet the overall 2024 schedule based on what work must be done by 2024, rather than delay TPA negotiations until contractor work plans are adopted. In addition, the Board asked for a mechanism and agreed-upon timeline for regulatory and public review of baselines and their assumptions.

“Under the proposed budget, only one tank at Hanford will be emptied in 2009. At that rate, it will take 140 years to empty the remaining 142 single-shell tanks and process the highly radioactive and hazardous waste.”

“The proposed federal budget for 2009 falls \$600 million short of what DOE says it needs for cleanup at Hanford in 2009.”

Jane Hedges, Program Manager
 Washington State Department of Ecology

“We urge you, the Board, to continue talking about Hanford Site cleanup with your organizations, your congress, your friends and family. We need to make Hanford cleanup a national priority to ensure adequate and continued funding until the site is fully restored.”

Jane Hedges, Program Manager
 Washington State Department of Ecology

Board work in 2009, as addressed in the Chair’s Message on page 1, will focus on reviewing the TC&WM EIS and helping DOE develop a robust public involvement process for public review and comment. The Board will continue to track the status of the TPA and negotiations for its revision and provide advice as necessary, as well as track and provide advice on Hanford cleanup and HAB budgets for FY 2010 and FY 2011.

In 2009, the Board plans to become more proactive in public involvement, clarifying goals, identifying new approaches to public involvement, reaching more diverse audiences, and ensuring public involvement meets the needs of stakeholders and agencies. Public involvement efforts will focus on the TC&WM EIS, RCRA Site-Wide Permit, cleanup baselines, and integrated priority lists.

The Board will continue to track and provide advice as needed on tank waste retrieval and closure, groundwater integration, waste site remediation and cleanup, and stakeholder input for technology use and development. It will also work with DOE to identify ways to accelerate risk reduction and optimize resources.

Board meetings are open to the public and serve as a useful forum for interested members of the public to learn more and provide comments on Hanford cleanup. The Board functions as a major pathway for public input to the TPA agencies and Hanford cleanup decision-making. The Board encourages any and all members of the public to listen and learn how to participate in shaping cleanup at Hanford. Please visit the Board’s Web site at www.hanford.gov/hab and see the back of this report for more information.

Share your thoughts on Hanford Cleanup at a HAB meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule 2009

February 5-6, 2009
 Kennewick, Washington

April 2-3, 2009
 Portland, Oregon

June 4-5, 2009
 Tri-Cities, Washington

September 3-4, 2009
 Seattle, Washington

November 5-6, 2009
 Tri-Cities, Washington