

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

September 7, 2012

CHAIR:

Susan Leckband

VICE CHAIR:

Steve Hudson

David Huizenga

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

EM-1/Forestral Building

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Avenue

Washington, D.C. 20585

BOARD MEMBERS:

Local Business

Harold Heacock

Labor/Work Force

Mark Reavis
Thomas Carpenter
Jeff Luke
Lynn Davison
Rebecca Holland

Local Environment

Gene Van Liew

Local Government

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Jerry Peltier
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University

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Gerald Pollet
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State of Oregon

Ken Niles

Ex-Officio

Confederated Tribes
of the Umatilla
Washington State
Department of Health

Re: Term Limits

Dear Mr. Huizenga,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) advises the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to reconsider its policy of implementing term limits for the Public-at-Large and Non-Union Non-Management seats on the Board. The Board advises DOE to allow the Board to function with flexibility from the DOE Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Charter as it has since the Operating Ground Rules and Memorandum of Understanding, agreed to by the Tri-Party Agencies, were implemented four years ago.

The Board does not believe the plan to impose term limits as a means of increasing diversity amongst members of the Board has a guarantee of success. We believe diversity of viewpoints was attained with the inception of the Board and that continued age, gender, ethnic, and racial diversity can be attained by normal attrition. We believe that applying term limits will undermine the ability of the Board to provide relevant and meaningful advice to the Tri-Party Agencies, and will result in eliminating current Board members who fall within demographics that DOE headquarters has stated they are trying to strengthen. The Board recognizes that DOE's goal of balancing diversity on the Board is important. The goal of the Board is to provide advice to the agencies until cleanup is complete. We believe that the Board also requires diversity of view point, expertise, institutional knowledge, and continuity in order to fulfill that goal.

We request that DOE works with the Board to help meet additional diversity goals or any other changes identified in DOE policy. We believe that the Board will be able to leverage the good relationships between Board members and the larger community each seat reaches, to increase the age, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity of the board without imposing term-limits.

Envirolssues

Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin, Suite 3
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HAB Consensus Advice # 259

Subject: Term Limits

Adopted: September 7, 2012

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Solutions could include:

- Looking at attendance to see where there may be empty spots that interested members of the public may be able to fill;
- Adding one or more additional Public-at Large seats to the Board, working with schools and universities;
- Reaching out to local clubs and associations; and/or
- Finding internal mechanisms that would encourage interest groups on the Board to appoint representatives that will further balance the Board's diversity.

Building relationships and trust among Board members enriches our process and our advice. It takes time to build relationships and trust amongst diverse viewpoints, backgrounds, and perspectives before the strength garnered by this hard work pays off with relevant, meaningful advice and policy recommendations.

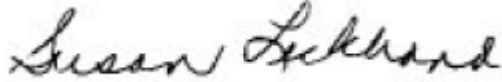
The Board asks for the opportunity to work with DOE to craft solutions that will help meet the Department of Energy's objectives and will not harm the strength and integrity of this hard-working volunteer Board.

In summary, the Board offers these points of advice.

Advice:

- The Board advises that DOE to reconsider its policy of implementing term limits for the Public-at-Large and Non-Union Non-Management seats on the Board.
- The Board advises DOE to allow the Board to function with flexibility from the DOE SSAB Charter as it has since the Operating Ground Rules and Memorandum of Understanding, agreed to by the Tri-Party Agencies, were implemented four years ago.
- The Board advises DOE to work with the Board to help meet additional diversity goals or any other changes identified in DOE policy.

Sincerely,



Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

The following Board members do not oppose the content of this advice, but chose to abstain from voting because they objected to the process used to develop the advice:

Emmett Moore, Washington State University

Jerry Peltier, City of West Richland (Local Government)

Rob Davis, City of Pasco (Local Government)

Mark Reavis, Central Washington Building Trades Council (Hanford Work Force)

cc: Steven Chu, Secretary, U. S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Thomas D'Agostino, U. S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Paul Seidler, U. S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Matt McCormick, Manger, U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations
Scott Samuelson, Manger, U. S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Dana Bryson, Deputy Designated Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
Dennis Faulk, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology
Catherine Alexander, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington State Congressional Delegations