



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

2011I-253

May 5, 2011

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

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #240

Dear Ms. ~~Leckband~~: Susan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to thank the Board for your advice titled "U.S. Department of Energy's Open Government Plan and the Hanford Community Relations Plan." Although a majority of the advice is directed at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), we would like to address the points that pertain to the Tri-Party agencies.

We agree that an evaluation of public involvement activities is important. However, we believe those "measurable commitments" are a topic for further discussion. Your advice also states that the Tri-Party agencies should consult and work with the Board in developing the Hanford Public Involvement plan (still currently known as the Community Relations Plan [CRP]) and ensure that Open Government principles are reflected. Keep in mind that the Tri-Party agencies have been working with the Board to update the CRP and have considered previous advice on updating this document. As stated in previous responses (11-HAB-0037 and 10-HAB-0004), we agree that strategic planning for public involvement is important, but we do not agree that an annually updated strategic planning addendum be added to the CRP. The Tri-Party agencies are developing a strategic plan to assist with public involvement planning. We will share this tool with the HAB as it is developed and consider input at that time.

We agree that public comment notices can be improved to disclose how the proposed remedies will potentially restrict future site use. EPA will strive to make sure this is included on future TPA notices. Your advice states that the CRP should commit that decisionmakers will review all comments and engage in a dialogue with Site Specific Advisory Boards regarding proposed responses to comments before finalizing the response to public comments. As previously stated in 10-HAB-004, we do not agree that an additional discussion period should be added to the process. All public comments are considered and appropriate changes made before formal decisions are finalized.

We understand the importance of transparency, participation, and collaboration in public involvement and will continue to support improvements. Thank you for your time and dedication to Hanford public involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Faulk", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office

cc: Jane Hedges, Ecology
Matt McCormick, DOE