

## **Hanford Advisory Board Draft Advice**

**Topic:** Independent Evaluation of Procedures and Industrial Hygiene Equipment Used to Monitor Tank Vapors and Flammable Gas

**Authors:** Becky Holland

**Originating Committee:** Health Safety & Environmental Protection

**Version #1: Color:** \_pink \_yellow \_green \_purple \_blue

### **Background**

In December 2012, Health Physics Technicians discovered that Industrial Hygiene (IH) monitoring equipment in use at the Hanford Tank Farms may produce unreliable results when used in high humidity environments.

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB or Board) is concerned that use of IH monitoring equipment in conditions outside of the manufacturer's technical operating specifications and procedures may result in unreliable test results, and may undermine employee confidence in the IH monitoring program and the validity of past monitoring data.

The Board appreciates efforts by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and their contractor to address instrument reliability issues when operated in high-humidity and extreme temperatures, especially by providing additional training to IH Technicians and contacting manufacturers to ensure that the future use of this equipment will produce reliable data used to protect the workforce. However, the Board believes that the credibility of the program and worker safety and trust in the program will be enhanced with an independent review by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

### **Advice**

- The Board advises the DOE to request that NIOSH conduct an independent evaluation of procedures and industrial hygiene equipment used to monitor tank vapors and flammable gas.