

# Notes from HAB Issue Manager Meeting on Public Involvement for the Permit

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*Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011; Richland City Hall Boardroom*

## **Key messages for Ecology**

### **General feedback/comments on Public Involvement approach**

- Discussion on why more Tri-Citians don't attend Hanford public meetings
  - People here have many more opportunities to get information. It's not that they aren't interested. They just don't have to come to public meetings to get information. They have other ways to get info: friends, family, neighbors, church, etc. That's why Hanford Communities creates the TV programs.
  - Also, they aren't "outraged." Outrage brings people to meetings. That's why meetings on worker health & safety often bring people out.
  - It's also because public meetings aren't fun to go to. It's not because of the topic. Need to make it more "fun".
- A lot of communication is going to have to be one-on-one engagement. Go to schools. The permit is not exciting, but what the permit does is exciting. Give examples of what it does (one example could be protection of animals, e.g. under SEPA you can't do work if birds are nesting).
- For the public, you can't rely on just one meeting to get quality comments. HAB members who aren't engaged also will need more time to digest info and comment.

### **Ideas for sharing/explaining permit**

- Have poster session with "gallery of operable units"
- Could repackage some of the Q&A (from FAQ document) into posters.
- Consider setting up a gallery of units in each of the communities you plan to visit a month ahead of public meetings. Contact universities to see if you could set it up there. The exhibit would include posters of the "baseball cards"; a timeline; explanation of what the permit does (how it is used). This would make it more accessible to public before meetings.
- Produce a document on "How Hanford is getting cleaned up." Show how the permit fits in the overall cleanup. Take a big picture look at Hanford. Don't get too narrowly focused. Show the context. A tool like this could be used repeatedly to show where different decisions fit into Hanford cleanup. (Jean provided graphics on Hanford decision-making process. Encouraged to get the PIC's input on this.)
- Overlay regulated units on map of Hanford Site to show where things are.
- Get input from PIC on a "jargon key" to make sure technical terms are clearly defined.
- To explain the permit, you need new language. "Units" don't mean anything. Don't ever assume that people understand terminology. What is a "trench," "tank farm"? Give people words that evoke a concrete image, then link it to the unknown or unclear term.

## **Suggestions for Ecology's permit presentation to public**

- Explain what authority the State has to make DOE do something. What are the consequences if they don't? (Fines? Penalties? Work stoppages?, etc.)
- Explain how the agency is making a difference in cleanup. This is an opportunity to give Ecology a separate identity than just being lumped into the TPA.
- Explain the value of even having a permit.
- Explain how it protects water, ground, air at Hanford
- Tell people what's NOT in the permit?
- Explain where CERCLA (and other regs) comes in, since permit doesn't cover everything.
- Explain why the local public needs to know what this permit does in terms of context.
- Give examples of how permit makes a difference, how RCRA makes a difference.
- Show real life examples of what could have happened if there were no regulations. (e.g. regs put limits on how long to store stuff, what you can store, etc.) Goes back to showing why the permit matters.
- Appropriate to show how work is done under RCRA and how it was done w/o RCRA. What would life be like if there were no permit. Storytelling is vital for building public interest.
- Could use story about Roger Stanley being denied entry to the site. (Madeleine wrote blog about this). Ecology was not allowed onsite to review hazardous waste. Now here we are years later and a lot has changed. Really shows the role of the State and how far State has come in being able to regulate waste.
- Tell a story to connect with people: You need a permit to build a house, dig a well, drive a car – these are things people relate to. Makes it easier to explain that – on a larger scale – DOE also needs a permit to do work at Hanford, and the State is in charge of that.
- It helps to have simple example just to start the conversation. Don't focus on the document. Focus on what the document does. Remember, you only have an hour to explain a 14,000-page document!
- Would be nice if you addressed risk. Public is going to want to know what the risk is if waste is left at site.
- Show the give-and-take of the TPA. In negotiations, Ecology gives a little to get a little.

## **Most creative idea for sharing permit!**

- Have an "Environmental Superhero" costume party at permit meetings. (HAB should create annual award for "Best Public Meeting.")

## **Feedback on draft public meeting agenda**

- 20 minutes is not enough time for people to look at "gallery of units" time too short
- Tell people story of how Ecology is fighting to get the best cleanup possible to ensure people are protected and that the river is safe.
- All people need to know is that Ecology has this tool (the permit) and how you are using it.
- Don't think we need anything about the "structure" of the permit in a public meeting (this could be a handout).

- Could divide agenda based on things like: protecting groundwater; protecting air; protecting the river (then provide references on where to find that info in the permit). This could also be a way to divide a Reader's Guide on the permit.
- Bring revised draft agenda to the PIC for input.

### **Feedback on draft public workshop agenda (not necessarily COTW)**

- Issue Managers and the Board should be working on this agenda.
- Move "special topics" (SEPA, corrective action, emergency response) items up in the agenda. This is your opportunity to really engage people.
- Consider other "special topics", such as characterization, institutional controls
- Also drop "permit overview" discussion for the Board (use handout)
- Issue Managers should redefine the "workshop objectives" and goals. The objectives should lead to meeting structure. Outcome of COTW process should get Board to advice.
- Bring draft agenda to the RAP and TWC (others?) for input.
- COTW should pull out "burial grounds" as separate topic and explain how they are proposed to be regulated for closure, corrective action, permitting. The Board follows subject closely. That tracks into Lifecycle Cost report & how BGs fit in there.

### **Feedback on "baseball cards"**

- Would be nice to make set of hard copies to hand out at meetings (in addition to posters).
- It would be a good idea to make these into posters and present a "gallery of units" for public review.
- Cards should include info on risk.
- Could hyperlink undefined acronyms on the cards (if they are going to live online).
- Don't rely on DOE's official names for "units" and expect people will understand. Some of the areas/units at Hanford aren't accurately named. For example, NRDWL received some radioactive material.
- What do you want people to know when they read these? Structure the cards that way. Include quick explanation after each header.
- "Green Islands" is terrible name. They are not islands and not green in any way.
- Explain where each facility is in closure process; how is the permit ensuring that closure will be done that will be protective.
- What are the contaminants of concern? What is risk? Apply Ecology's perspective.
- Color code cards and include note at bottom: e.g. red for closing units; blue for operating units, etc.
- Show where the units are on a site map.
- Have a standard, consistent format for each card.
- Find a place on cards for Ecology "tagline" or something that helps "brand" the cards as Ecology's.
- Want to emphasize that these "cards" are really great and have a lot of applications.
- Ideas for proposed structure/language of baseball cards:

- “The permit reduces the risk by ...” (List some examples of permit conditions)
- “Ecology is concerned about this site, because ...”
- “Ecology is requiring DOE to clean up this site by (list examples of conditions) to ensure that cleanup is protective ...”
- Explain “how” Ecology is protecting health & environment

### **Q&A/clarification**

- **Q:** Why are you starting the comment period in the middle of winter?
  - **A:** Ecology will start the comment period May 1, 2012 and run it through September (120 days). Meetings/workshops will be held in May/June. This will also allow the HAB time to provide advice at the September meeting, if they so choose.
- **Q:** Is the HAB going to get to look at the draft permit before it goes out for public comment?
  - **A:** The draft permit will be released to the HAB and the public at the same time. We have been working to brief the Board on the basics of the permit over the past few years, so that you can be more informed when the comment period begins. But the public comment period is your opportunity to offer formal comment.
- **Q:** How soon can we see permit conditions?
  - **A:** We are working on getting those on the web. We are in process of actively editing. We want people to be able to see the draft permit (not just the conditions) on the web before the comment period begins.
- **Q:** What’s the process for meeting with the tribes?
  - **A:** We have regular meetings with the tribes and have asked them if there are particular issues they want to hear about. There is nothing we’ve heard about at this time.

### **Next steps/action items**

- Ecology will revise PI plan/agendas/meeting outline/outreach ideas based on this discussion.
- Ecology will revise baseball cards based on discussion.
- Ecology will share revisions at the Nov. 2 PIC meeting (plan for 2 hours of presentation/discussion)
- Discuss permit public workshop agenda, structure, timing at the December RAP meeting.
- Review tank waste-related baseball cards at January TWC meeting
- Madeleine will send draft public workshop agenda to issue managers to work on. (DONE)
- Madeleine will send the concise unit summaries (for mouse rollovers on permit web page to the issue managers. (DONE)
- Confirm issue manager meeting on CAD/ROD with John Price on Nov. 1 (DONE)
- Schedule time to discuss emergency/contingency plans and how they fit in permit (DONE)
- Plan IM meeting in January to discuss public workshop and timing & structure of Hanford Communities Issue Briefing on permit
  - IM/PIC discussions will help frame how we explain the permit to public on TV program
  - Filming tentatively planned for March