

Environmental
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Meeting Minutes

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SUBJECT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT WEEKLY MEETING - JUNE 29, 1998

TO Distribution

FROM Michael J. Graham, GW/VZ Project Manager

DATE July 1, 1998

ATTENDEES

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NEXT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT WEEKLY MEETING:

Date: July 6, 1998

Location: PNNL Columbia River Room in the Environmental Technology Building, 3200 Q Avenue

Local Call In Number: (509) 376-7411

Toll Free Call In Number: (800) 664-0771

MEETING MINUTES:

A Groundwater/Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project Weekly Meeting was held on June 29, 1998, in Richland, Washington, at PNNL's Columbia River Room.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

● **Expert Technical Panel**

We do not have the list of twelve candidates from the university based selection committee. This list of twelve candidates was due Friday, June 26. We hope to have the names no later than close of business today. Previously we had sent out the DOE Expert Panel Selection Criteria that will be used to determine the final five panel members. Discussion and comments on this document are as follows:

QUESTION: Do you expect to have some kind of roles, charter, mandate, or description of the Expert Panel function?

ANSWER: Yes, it is addressed in the Expert Panel Protocol document. The protocol has incorporated all the comments that were received on the previous document sent on May 28. What we are looking at today is the criteria section. This criteria describes how DOE will drive down from the list of twelve names to a group of five.

QUESTION: Is the Expert Panel being paid, and do they know that at the time they are being contacted?

ANSWER: Yes.

COMMENT: One of the items in this criteria is that panel members have relevant experience at Hanford. While we need to have some members that have experience here in Hanford, it would very beneficial if at least one member of the panel was someone who doesn't have a knowledge of Hanford, but with a broad base of knowledge that would infuse a fresh perspective to the panel.

The same criteria would be beneficial with regards to impact assessment. If we don't make sure we have this fresh perspective, we could lose that breath of fresh air.

RESPONSE: Given that the selection process (of twelve candidates) should be complete by close of business today, we can't guarantee that we will be able to have a member of the panel that doesn't have a specific experience or knowledge of Hanford. However, if there is a recommendation of a person who fulfills that criteria, we will definitely take a close look at the qualification of that individual.

QUESTION: Are you going to share with us the various cuts as they are being made?

ANSWER: The rationale is that we will use the criteria laid out in this document to determine the final five candidates from the list of twelve. We are discussing the criteria today so that we can apply any changes you feel are necessary to the selection process. We will share the list of twelve candidates we receive from the selection committee. If you have any concerns or additional knowledge about someone on that list, please let us know so that we can take that into consideration in the process (contact either Tom Page or Rich Holten).

QUESTION: In the criteria, what do you mean where you say "Familiarity with Public Policy issues relevant to cleanup of Federal sites....?"

ANSWER: What we are talking about here is familiarity with RCRA requirements, Tri-Party Agreement, etc.

COMMENT: If we don't have a broad mix of disciplines then we probably will not end up with what we want.

RESPONSE: That requirement was raised when we discussed this document after the first distribution and verbal direction was given to the selection committee.

QUESTION: What is the intent of the requirements on the second page? It is critical that every member have the following qualifications.

- Acceptance of the role of the stakeholder and Tribal involvement in Federal cleanup decisions
- Decision analytical techniques (e.g. value of information, use of models)
- Leadership and environmental stewardship
- Ability to work in a diverse team
- Ability to communicate technical ideas/issues to non-technical people.

ANSWER: Yes. Our intent is that each member of the panel will have all of the above. We will adjust the criteria to clarify this.

QUESTION: How are we going to determine that they have these characteristics? How do you judge from a resume someone's leadership capabilities?

ANSWER: We will determine if someone has these characteristics by looking at what they have done in the past. For example: If we are looking at problem solving, we will look at what kind of problems they have had experience in and how they were involved in that project.

COMMENT: It is extremely important that somebody within the Panel has hands-on experience working with a major complex project (i.e. The Apollo Project, Love Canal, Manhattan Project), because that is what we are dealing with at Hanford. It is easy for good scientists to work in a highly focused area but they may not have experience dealing with broadly based problems.

RESPONSE: Our intent is to select people who are capable of looking at the "big picture." People with more specific expertise will be utilized for the sub-panels.

QUESTION: What kind of process is going to be implemented to brief the Panel on Hanford issues? Are we going to throw five bookcases of documents at them or is there a more concise method that will be used?

ANSWER: Written material will be given for them to assimilate. However, at this time we haven't finalized the process that will be implemented to brief the panel.

QUESTION: Is conflict of interested addressed?

ANSWER: Yes, it is in the protocol document.

COMMENT: Oregon's overarching concern is the narrowness of the panel.

ANSWER: When we initially heard that concern we tried to cast a wide net to capture additional names. We included those names into the screening process.

Wrap Up:

We will consider the request that at least one member of the panel have a fresh perspective. We will ensure that the panel members have experience dealing with large, very complex problems. We will look for the candidates who have the attributes listed above, and we will add river contaminant issues as a criteria. The list of names will be attached to the meeting minutes, along with the revised criteria.

● **Project Specification**

We have updated the mission statement. The most recent draft incorporates the comments that were received from the May 21, 1998 Public Workshop. If you have comments please get them to Tony Knepp and we will incorporate them into our next revision. The mission statement will be included in the Project Specification document and we will continue to rework it until we have a final document.

QUESTION: What is the name of the project?

ANSWER: Officially the name is the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project. At this point in time it would take a lot of effort to add Columbia River to all the document control databases. Currently, we will keep the name as the GW/VZ Integration Project, but we have all embraced and agree that the Project includes the Columbia River.

QUESTION: Dirk Dunning sent in some comments, have they been included?

ANSWER: Dirk's comments were on the CRCIA White Paper, which will be addressed in our next workshop.

- **Public Involvement**

Our next Public Involvement Workshop is scheduled for July 14 and will be held in PNNL's Columbia River Room, in the Environmental Technology Building at 3200 Q Avenue, Richland, Washington. We are in the process of confirming whether or not Under Secretary Moniz will be attending. An agenda will be distributed at next Monday's meeting.

The draft Public Involvement Plan is being refined internally and will be distributed by July 6. There will be a 30-day comment period, followed by a responsiveness summary. The Plan will be treated as a living document and will change as comments are received and incorporated. It will be revised to reflect plans for FY99 when possible.

COMMENT: There is some concerns about the label of Public Involvement Plan, it brings to bear a mental snap that has associated baggage. This plan will not mean much until we understand how the program is going to be managed in order to provide meaningful involvement. You can't get to a credible product with a stereotypical Public Involvement Process. Where does the public get involvement? If it is up front in the decision making process it will be much more credible.

COMMENT: Some are not happy with the implication that this is the only project the government needs to call on the public to learn how to manage itself. Right or wrong, there are agencies tasked with managing this project. The public is entitled to have input, provide comments, raise objectives, petition the government; but they are not authorized to be a co-manager of the project.

ANSWER: This Project is about credibility. We have to lay out a plan on how we are going to work with the public and Tribal Nations, and this is the purpose of this Public Involvement Plan. One of the things we can do is describe how the public interaction affects the Project decision making process. The 30-day comment period will allow everyone to raise issues that are important. The issue of Appendix D will be addressed at future meetings (i.e. HAB-ER Committee).

- **National Lab Meetings**

There was a National Lab Meeting held on June 24-25 which was convened to address the development of the Science and Technology (S&T) Roadmap. During this meeting we looked at three activities: 1) Unsaturated hydrogeology, 2) vadose zone geochemistry, now designated to chemistry, and 3) kick-off of the river module. We identified in a high level fashion the project drivers that will lead decisions and actions that must be supported by the assessment program. We provided participants with a background of what we already know at Hanford, both with internal and external information. We discussed expectations on what we want for our next meeting (which will be held the week of July 20), project drivers, S&T issues for examination, and how we get to an estimate of what it might take to address these issues. There will not be formal written meeting minutes, but a list of the captured action items will be distributed the week of July 6. QUESTION: That meeting covered the fate and transport, it didn't cover impact. Will there be a separate meeting that will cover impact?

ANSWER: Yes, we expect the labs will be involved as we go forward. We will deal with inventory, Columbia River fate and transport, receptors, exposure and the results.

QUESTION: In the same time frame?

ANSWER: Yes, but it may be next year before we get there.

QUESTION: If you leave what you need to know and why you need to know it until the last, you may need to change your course later down the road. This seems like a backward way of doing things.

ANSWER: Please remember, this is just the planning effort. We need to have a basis to proceed on the assessment portion. The labs are focused on helping us with our S&T process and defining gaps and unmet S&T needs. It is not backwards, it is being done in parallel.

● **Schedule**

- July 6 Our meeting next week will be held without Michael Graham, Tom Page and Janice Williams. They will be at the INEEL to share information and to also look at setting up a Western Alliance.
- July 8 HAB-ER Committee Meeting - We have been asked to provide information on the Public Involvement Plan, the National Lab Meeting June 24-25, and discuss a resolution to Appendix D.
- July 10 Tentative meeting with Under Secretary Moniz's staff and the National Labs to better define roles in the GW/VZ Project.
- July 13 We won't have our regularly scheduled meeting because of the Public Involvement Workshop scheduled for July 14.
- July 14 Public Involvement Workshop at PNNL's Columbia River Room, ETB Building, 3200 Q Street in Richland, Washington.

QUESTION: Will we be discussing the Conceptual Model? Until we define the term and collectively think through how to slay the dragon, there are a lot of people who are anxious to see what this term "conceptual model" is. You can't write a Detailed Work Plan or Science and Technology Initiatives until you have that done. We need to get to that soon.

ANSWER: The intent of the public workshop is to work through some critical issues. The agenda for the July 14 Workshop is yet to be determined.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) List of twelve candidates provided the the universities for the GW/VZ Expert Panel
- 2) Revised DOE Expert Panel Selection Criteria
- 3) Revised Mission Statement

ATTENDEES:

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Dru Butler, BHI
Bob Bryce, PNNL
Bryan Foley, DOE-RL
Larry Gadbois, EPA
Dib Goswami, Ecology
Michael Graham, BHI
Mary Harmon, DOE-HQ
Barbara Harper, Yakama Indian Nation
Rich Holten, DOE-RL
Doug Huston, Oregon Office of Energy
Gary Jewell, BHI
Tony Knepp, BHI
Katy Makeig, SMS, Inc.
Tom Page, PNNL
Mike Pfister, DOE-HQ
Tom Post, EPA
Gordon Rogers, HAB
Casey Ruud, Ecology
Karen Strickland, BHI
Janice Williams, FDH
Tom Woods, Yakama Indian Nation

ATTACHMENT 1

**HANFORD GW/VZ/COLUMBIA RIVER PROJECT
Expert Technical Review Panel Candidates
30 June 1998**

Dr. Charles B. Andrews, Geology, Groundwater Hydrologist, SS Papadopoulos & Associates

Prof. Randy L. Bassett, Geochemistry, Prof. of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Arizona

Dr. Edgar Berkey, Engineering Physics, Environmental Engineering, Concurrent Technologies Corporation

Dr. John G. Conaway, Geophysics, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Mr. William C. Hoessel, Policy and Decision Analysis, Independent Consultant

Prof. James R. Karr, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Prof. of Fisheries and Zoology, Adj. Prof. of Civil Engineering, Environmental Health, and Public Affairs, University of Washington

Dr. Michael C. Kavanaugh, Civil and Environmental Engineering (P.E., DEE), Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Malcom Pirnie, Inc.

Dr. John Matuszek, Radiochemistry, JMM Consulting

Mr. Ralph O. Patt, Hydrologist (groundwater and vadose) Oregon Water Resources Department, Retired

Mr. Curt Soper, Earth Science, Biogeography, Public Land Use and Planning for conservation of ecologically important lands, The Nature Conservancy of Washington

Dr. John Till, Nuclear Engineering, Health Physics, Risk and Radiological Assessments, Risk Assessment Corporation

Dr. Peter J. Wierenga, Vadose Zone Hydrology, University of Arizona
Acting Director, Water Resources Research Institute, Professor and Department Head,
Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science.

ATTACHMENT 2

COMMENT DRAFT

**DOE Expert Panel Selection Criteria
Groundwater/Vadose Zone/Columbia River Integration Project
June 29, 1998**

Selection Process

This process described below is the methodology DOE-RL will use to narrow the field of expert panel candidates from the twelve provided by the Universities of Washington and Oregon screening committee to five final members.

- 1) The names of twelve candidates received from selection committee will be shared with the regulators, Tribal Nations, and interested stakeholders on 29 June 98 at the regularly scheduled Monday project team meeting.
- 2) The desire and availability to serve of the candidate members will be confirmed. It is expected that this will reduce the field of twelve candidates.
- 3) If more than five candidates are available, the expertise offered by the available candidates will be evaluated to determine if there is an overlap in expertise.

The mix of expertise will be compared to project needs to assure a diversity of discipline and expertise. If such an overlap is found, the individual (or individuals) with the highest level of directly applicable experience, based on the criteria below, including experience with Hanford or relevant Pacific Northwest regional issues will be selected.

Consideration will also be given to having at least one member who has not been involved with Hanford in the past to provide a fresh perspective.

In evaluating candidates, DOE will consider their previous experience with significant projects and their role in those projects.

- 4) The proposed list of five final members will be forwarded to the Under Secretary for concurrence prior to final notification of the individuals.
- 5) Following concurrence by the Under Secretary, the names of the five members will be announced.

Criteria

- Candidates will be evaluated and selected on the basis of:
 - Education
 - Experience in the appropriate area of expertise
 - Peer (national) recognition,
 - Contributions to the profession associated with their expertise.
 - Problem solving abilities as demonstrated by their role in large complex projects
 - Current Understanding of Hanford GW/VZ/river contamination issues
 - Desire and availability to serve

- As a group, the External Technical Review Panel will broadly embody the following expertise:
 - Application of and role of science and technology to characterization and cleanup of radiologically and chemically contaminated sites, including technology insertion into cleanup
 - Familiarity with Public Policy issues relevant to cleanup of Federal Sites, including regulatory and environmental requirements and realities
 - Knowledge of the DOE-complex cleanup issues
 - Funding
 - S&T capabilities
 - Remediation approaches
 - Strengths and weaknesses of Federal Contracting mechanisms
 - Ability to communicate technical ideas/issues to non-technical people
 - All of the members will reflect the following attributes:
 - Acceptance of the role of stakeholder and Tribal involvement in Federal cleanup decisions
 - Decision analytical techniques (e.g., value of information, use of models)
 - Use of the scientific method e.g.,
 - Mathematics and statistics,
 - Technical, scientific and programmatic uncertainty
 - Leadership and environmental stewardship
 - Ability to work in a diverse team

- All evaluations of candidates will be kept confidential. Any person or persons that the DOE-RL involves in the process shall also abide by this confidentiality requirement.

ATTACHMENT 3

**DRAFT
Groundwater/Vadose Zone Project
Mission Statement
June 29, 1998**

The mission of the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project is to protect human health and the environment throughout the Hanford Site and to protect the Columbia River environment, river-dependent life, and users of river resources.

The Project will integrate Hanford activities and actions. The Project will conduct cumulative assessments of the effects of Hanford-derived materials and contaminants on the Columbia River environment.

The Project approach will be open and inclusive, to enhance public involvement and build credibility. The Project will utilize peer reviews and oversight to be technically defensible.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Project are:

1. Develop assessment methods for human health and ecological risk that support near- and long-term clean-up decisions. Evaluate sustainability of the river ecosystem, cultural quality of life, and socioeconomic impacts over the period of time that Hanford derived contaminants remain intrinsically hazardous.
2. Instill a sound technical basis for Hanford clean-up decisions through an infusion of applied science and technology.
3. Provide a platform for making sound and consistent management decisions throughout all of Hanford's programs.
4. Be open and responsive to input provided by regulators, stakeholders, the public, and the Tribal Nations.

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