

Environmental
Restoration
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ERC Team

Meeting Minutes

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SUBJECT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT OPEN MEETING – MAY 3, 1999

TO Distribution

FROM Michael J. Graham, GW/VZ Project Manager

DATE May 12, 1999

ATTENDEES
See Attached List

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NEXT GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT OPEN MEETING:

Next Meeting: Monday, May 17, 1999
Location: Bechtel Hanford, Inc., Assembly Room (Badging Required)
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 Open Meeting was held on May 3, 1999 in Richland, Washington at the Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) Assembly Room.

PROJECT REPORT:

POLICY WORK GROUP (Dru Butler):

The Policy Work Group meeting scheduled for today was canceled due to lack of agenda items. The previous meeting of the Policy Work Group was canceled for the same reason. That should be changing in the near future. We anticipate issues coming before the Policy Work Group from the other work groups and possibly from the Expert Panel.

REGULATORY PATH FORWARD WORK GROUP (Tom Wintczak):

There is a dialogue ongoing between us and the Hanford Strategic Planning effort to reconcile issues. We're working with them on disconnects before going further. The next Work Group meeting is scheduled for May 20.

SYSTEM ASSESSMENT CAPABILITY (SAC) WORK GROUP UPDATE (Bob Bryce):

There was a System Assessment Capability (SAC) Workshop held on April 29. We will cover that a little later in the agenda. At this workshop, we committed to reenergize the SAC Work Group and meet every other week. We're proposing May 26 for the first meeting, due to the Expert Panel being here next week. We will work out the scheduling and get a notice out to the members of the SAC Work Group as to when and where the meeting will be. We plan to focus on the technical aspects of the SAC and keep moving

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forward. (Note: Since the meeting, a SAC Work Group meeting has been scheduled for June 7 from 2-4 p.m. in the BHI Assembly Room. For more information, contact Bob Bryce at 509-372-9443.)

SYSTEM ASSESSMENT CAPABILITY (SAC) WORKSHOP (Bob Bryce):

Feedback from the workshop has been generally positive. There were a few action items to come out of the workshop. There was a lot of discussion on stakeholder interaction and funding for stakeholder participation. The Project has committed to drafting a scope statement to try to deal with the communication and related funding questions. Steve Liedle of BHI and Linda Bauer of the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) said they would explore the funding options, and Katie Makeig said she would take the issue back to Washington D.C. and discuss it with Mary Harmon at DOE Headquarters (HQ). There was a discussion about doing a descriptive assessment in addition to a quantitative assessment. We'll try to have a scope for that by the end of May. There were several people concerned that issues weren't being tracked adequately, and we agreed to develop an issue tracking system. Currently we are working on finalizing a date for a meeting in June on risk and the dependency webs. Amoret Bunn is organizing that.

RESPONSE: Based on discussions at the Risk Sub-Panel meeting on Friday, the date will be Monday June 7.

COMMENT: It was an interesting discussion session. One thing asked for at the meeting was an endorsement to move forward. There is still a lot of concern on stakeholder involvement, but the general response was that we should keep moving. We'll try to keep moving forward while working to enhance involvement.

COMMENT: I (Gordon Rogers) have a thought on stakeholder involvement. It seemed to be primarily an issue of funding for involvement by the State of Oregon and the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) Team. Do you really need all the interested ex-CRCIA members involved on an ongoing basis? Why not select a single delegate that doesn't require additional funding to be involved? The views of the various members are pretty well understood within their group.

RESPONSE: That's something that should be taken to Linda Bauer as an option.

COMMENT: I (Mary Harmon) have one comment from DOE-HQ on the funding issue. This was addressed before and was rejected then, but there is a new Site Manager. I have a meeting in the Forrestal Building on Friday, and we'll revisit it then.

COMMENT: Another topic was areas of impact. There are cultural, and other more esoteric impacts, that will require people outside of the technical areas to put together plans for the decision makers. It requires a whole different set of disciplines than normal. They will need to determine perceived risk and make recommendations to the decision makers on how to proceed. There are "spin" issues as well. There may be areas that should be cleaned up that are already below the levels for end-use, simply because of public perception issues.

COMMENT: Socioeconomic sounds like one of those esoteric issues.

QUESTION: Do you plan to take socioeconomic impacts into account?

ANSWER: Yes.

COMMENT: The meeting overall seemed to be constructive rather than destructive.

RISK SUB-PANEL MEETING REPORT (Amoret Bunn):

Jim Karr and Ralph Patt were here on April 30 representing the GW/VZ Expert Panel on the topic of risk. They both felt that it was a productive meeting. It gave them a chance to get a flavor for what the stakeholders, regulators, Tribal Nations, and CRCIA people feel is important about risk. There is a desire to continue to work the risk effort. The only action to come out of the meeting was to schedule a public meeting on dependency webs. The date that seemed to be most acceptable to the interested participants was June 7. (Note: Since the meeting, a Risk and Impact Dependency Webs Workshop has been scheduled for June 7 from 9 a.m. to Noon in the BHI Assembly Room. For more information, contact Amoret Bunn at 509-372-9237.)

QUESTION: Is the meeting on the webs a sub-panel effort?

ANSWER: No. The Project needs to get more input on the webs, and this is the forum we chose to get that input.

QUESTION: When will you be distributing a copy of the closing comments?

ANSWER: The sub-panel's report will be issued as an appendix to GW/VZ Expert Panel Closeout Report from this upcoming May meeting. Jim Karr did have some summary comments, but those were his individual preliminary comments. They did not necessarily reflect the views of the Panel as a whole. We won't see anything official until the Closeout Report for the May meeting is released, probably in June.

EXPERT PANEL MEETING UPDATE (Virginia Rohay):

The Expert Panel will be here at BHI on May 13-15 and an agenda is attached (Attachment 1). I would like to call particular attention to the first day. There is an hour scheduled from 10-11 a.m. for stakeholder and Tribal input and comments. This input can be about anything on the agenda, or it could be other things about the Project. It's not limited strictly to the agenda topics.

You'll also notice on the first day that the Hanford Advisory Board Environmental Restoration (HAB-ER) Committee will be with us. Several HAB-ER members are planning to attend the Expert Panel meeting in the morning. The Expert Panel will officially adjourn at 11 a.m., and there will be a lunch break from 11 to noon. After lunch, everyone returns to the Assembly Room, but the room will belong to the HAB-ER Committee at that point. The Panel will attend the HAB-ER Committee meeting for an hour, and then have internal working sessions the rest of that day.

HANFORD SITE DISPOSITION ASSUMPTIONS (Tom Wintczak):

Apparently there was a misunderstanding from a presentation I gave last week. It comes from using words and not clarifying meaning. I mentioned the Hanford Site Disposition Baseline at the SAC Workshop on Thursday, and there was a request to provide the document made during the Risk Sub-Panel meeting on Friday. I need to clarify that this is a document that doesn't currently exist.

The word disposition was used to indicate that there are assumptions that the projects are using at the current time in long range planning and estimating, that these assumptions may or may not constitute

acceptable closure, and that these projects require regulatory decisions that may change these assumptions. These disposition assumptions have not been consolidated in any single document at this moment.

Right now, we're working with the Strategic Planning Group for the site. We're taking the Hanford Strategic Plan, Multi-Year Work Plans, Technical Issues Management List, and GW/VZ Regulatory Path Table, and trying to get them consolidated. We're trying to get the assumptions from all those on one page and sorted by waste category. The idea is to reconcile those assumptions, determine what is out of whack, and then update the Hanford Strategic Plan.

QUESTION: Are the regulators attending these meetings? Are they indicating a willingness to say what is acceptable for planning?

ANSWER: The regulators are not involved to this point. Right now we're just taking all the previously existing assumptions, lining them up, and handing them out.

COMMENT: If we clarify now what we are doing, it might save some time later in arguments.

QUESTION: Are you planning to identify who owns the assumption in addition to just identifying what the assumption is?

ANSWER: The way it is being set-up should point to at least a program level ownership, but that's a good point. We'll try to do that. We may not know where some of the assumptions came from originally though.

COMMENT: It would also be nice to have a second track on validation. Does somebody know how to validate a particular assumption? Has it been validated already? If it's been validated, it would be nice to know where to find a report on the validation. It's important that the assumptions should be able to be validated, or if unable to be validated, the assumptions should change.

LOW-LEVEL WASTE FEDERAL REVIEW GROUP (Doug Hildebrand):

The Low Level Waste Federal Review Group (LFRG) will be here at Hanford on May 10. This is the same group that did peer review of the Immobilized Low Activity Waste (ILAW) Performance Assessment (PA) and Composite Analysis (CA). Most of the day will be devoted to ILAW PA. There are a number of issues there for them to work on.

QUESTION: When is the Groundwater Peer Review Panel coming back?

ANSWER: They'll be back June 22 and 23, and will be here mostly to talk to stakeholders.

SURFACE BARRIER INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY REMEDIATION DEMONSTRATION (ITRD) WORKSHOP (Rob Yasek):

The ITRD forum on reducing water infiltration around the Hanford tanks kicks off tomorrow. We've had the word out for a while and hopefully this isn't a surprise to anyone. It will start at 8 a.m. at the Hills Street Conference Center. Tuesday morning will be background with the vendors, and Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday will be presentations. Thursday will be one-on-one presentations with specific vendors for them to show us technology they didn't want to demonstrate in front of their competitors.

OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION (ORP) UPDATE (David Olson):

For those that didn't know, the program is no longer known as the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS). It is now the Office of River Protection (ORP) River Protection Project (RPP). We submitted the preliminary S/SX Work Plan to Ecology. We met the milestone of April 30 for delivery. Oregon DOE and the Tribes were copied on the distribution. We're asking for a phased approval of specific portions as soon as possible. We would like to start work on the decommissioning of 09-39 borehole by the end of June.

Also, there is a meeting to be held on May 12 in Hood River, Oregon regarding the interim stabilization agreement on pumping of Single-Shelled Tanks. It is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. at the Hood River Hotel, with sign in starting at 6 p.m. Comments from the meeting will be incorporated into the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Change Package, even though the public comment period for the package officially ended April 1. We've already completed two of the milestones listed in the agreement, but it's still not officially approved.

WASHINGTON ADVISORY GROUP (Michael Graham):

The Washington Advisory Group (WAG) will be here on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (May 11-12). It will basically be a series of interviews with DOE and contractor staff concerning utilization of science and technology (S&T) in cleanup. This is something that has been commissioned by DOE-HQ. They will be looking at the S&T Roadmapping process and possible applications on a national scale.

COMMENT: They are out here to gather information. This isn't so much for our benefit, but rather for Gerald Boyd at DOE-HQ to help shape the national program. One of the things Mr. Boyd wants is a roadmap from Idaho for SubCon work at all of the sites.

QUESTION: This is a group of consultants rather than a group from DOE?

ANSWER: Yes, but this group has some heavy hitters in it. The head of the National Academy of Science (NAS) is one of the members.

COMMENT: This group will be using us as a resource to look at the rest of the programs. This isn't just for Mr. Boyd. There are applications above and beyond that.

COMMENT: One point of interest is that the priority of characterization and assessment work has risen across all of the DOE sites. Why? The thought is that work at the sites has focused on remediation for years, and sites have been asked by Congress for results of S&T with remediation. The general finding has been that we seem to be tackling the easier problems at the sites and having the tougher problems sitting. The finding has been that additional information is needed to make decisions on the tougher problems. Going back to do modeling and characterization has risen above even remediation on the priority list for a short time.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

(See attached Look Ahead Calendar)

NOTES:

GW/VZ Web Site location: <http://www.bhi-erc.com/vadose>

If you have questions or comments please contact Dru Butler (509-375-4669), Gary Jewell (509-372-9192), or Karen Strickland (509-372-9236)

ACTION:

- Finalize date, time, and location for next SAC Work Group meeting and notify Work Group members.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) May 13-15 GW/VZ Expert Panel Agenda
- 2) 6-Week Look Ahead Calendar

ATTENDEES:

Martin Bensky - Tri-Cities Caucus
Bob Bryce - PNNL
Amoret Bunn - PNNL
Dru Butler - BHI
Don Clark - JAI Corp.
Owen Goodman - BHI
Dib Goswami - Ecology
Michael Graham - BHI
Jim Hanson - DOE-RL
Mary Harmon - DOE-HQ
Doug Hildebrand - DOE-RL
Michael Hughes - BHI
Gary Jewell - BHI
Gordon Rogers - Tri-Cities Caucus
Virginia Rohay - BHI
Bob Speed - Ecology
John Williams - FDH
Tom Wintczak - BHI
Rob Yasek - DOE-RL

ATTACHMENT 1

Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Expert Panel Meeting
May 13-15, 1999 Meeting
 3350 George Washington Way Richland, Washington

BECHTEL BUILDING ASSEMBLY ROOM
THURSDAY, May 13

Moderator

7:30 – 8:00 am	On Your Own Coffee From Columbia River Deli	
8:00 – 8:15 am	Welcome	E Berkey, K Klein
8:15 – 9:45 am	Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Update	L Bauer, R Holten, J Poppiti, M Graham, J Williams, T Wintczak
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hanford Site Organizational Changes (new Site Manager, Office of River Protection)</i> • <i>Overview of Hanford Baseline (key decisions and uncertainties)</i> • <i>Applied Science and Technology Update</i> • <i>Overview of Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project - FY 1999 Scope, Schedule, Deliverables</i> • <i>Budget (Detailed Work Plans)</i> • <i>Regulatory Framework Update (results of working group)</i> • <i>Systems Engineering and Integrated Planning Effort</i> • <i>Results of Mission Analysis</i> 	L Bauer R Holten, J Poppiti M Graham T Wintczak, J Williams, M deLamare, J Davis
9:45 – 10:00 am	Break	
10:00 – 11:00 am	Opportunity for Stakeholder and Tribal Nation Input and Comments	E Berkey
11:00 – 12:00 noon	Lunch – Box Lunches Available at Cost	
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Hanford Advisory Board Environmental Restoration Committee	S Cimon
	[Groundwater/Vadose Zone Expert Panel attends Hanford Advisory Board Environmental Restoration Committee meeting in the Assembly Room. The agenda for this period will be set by the HAB ER committee.]	
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Panel Only: Working Session #1	
2:00 – Evening	Panel Only: Working Session #2	

Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Expert Panel Meeting
May 13-15, 1999 Meeting
3350 George Washington Way Richland, Washington

BECHTEL BUILDING ASSEMBLY ROOM
FRIDAY, May 14

Moderator

7:30 – 8:00 am	On Your Own Coffee From Columbia River Deli	
8:00 – 11:00 am	Dialogue on System Assessment Capability and Core Modeling Projects	E Berkey, R. Bryce, R Boutin, P Doctor, C Kincaid, B Napier, G McNair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Strategic and Long Range Plan</i>• <i>Replan</i>• <i>General Assessment Concepts</i>• <i>Historical and Core Modeling Activities</i>• <i>Inventory Scoping Study</i>• <i>Dependency Webs/Approach to Risk</i>	R Bryce R Bryce R Bryce R Bryce B Napier P Doctor
11:00 – 12:00 noon	Lunch—Box Lunches Available at Cost	
12:00 – 3:00 pm	Dialogue on Core Assessment Projects	E Berkey, A Knepp, C Henderson, R Smith, G Henckel, J Williams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>200 Area Cribs, Ponds, Ditches</i>• <i>Office of River Projection Tank Farm Assessments</i>• <i>Borehole Geophysical Logging</i>	A Knepp C Henderson A Knepp
3:00 – Evening	Panel Only: Working Session #3	

Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Expert Panel Meeting
May 13-15, 1999 Meeting
3350 George Washington Way Richland, Washington

BECHTEL BUILDING ASSEMBLY ROOM
SATURDAY, May 15

Moderator

7:30 – 8:00 am	On Your Own Coffee (Columbia River Deli closed)	
8:00 – 8:45 am	Project Specification and Long Range Plan	R Holten, M Graham, D Butler, J Williams, B Ford
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Overview of Comments</i>• <i>Proposed Resolution and Path Forward (including February closeout report)</i>	
8:45 – 10:15 am	Expert Panel Subpanels	E Berkey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Direction and Plans</i>• <i>Status Report: Field Investigations and Data Gathering Subpanel</i>• <i>Status Report: Peer Review Process Subpanel</i>• <i>Status Report: Interaction with Stakeholder and Tribal Nations (Hazard/Risk) Subpanel</i>	E Berkey J Matuszek J Conaway J Karr
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 – 11:30 am	Comments from the Panel	E Berkey
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Closing remarks	E Berkey, L Bauer

ATTACHMENT 2

GW/VZ INTEGRATION PROJECT
MAY 13, 1999 – JULY 22, 1999
TWO MONTH LOOK AHEAD CALENDAR

May 13	HAB-ER Committee Meeting (BHI Assembly Room – 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
May 13	Natural Resource Trustee Council (BHI Room 1B45 - 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m.)
May 13-15	GW/VZ Expert Panel Meetings (BHI Assembly Room)
May 17	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (Richland – BHI Assembly Room – 1 p.m.)
May 20	Regulatory Path Forward Work Group Meeting (BHI Room 1B40 – 1-2:00 p.m.)
May 27	Regulatory Path Forward Work Group Meeting (BHI Room 1B40 – 1-2:00 p.m.)
June 3-4	Hanford Advisory Board Meeting (Ridpath Hotel, Spokane)
June 7	GW/VZ Risk and Impact Dependency Webs Workshop (BHI Assembly Room – 9 a.m.-12 p.m.)
June 7	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (BHI Assembly Room – 1-2 p.m.)
June 7	GW/VZ SAC Work Group Meeting - Conceptual Models (BHI Assembly Room – 2-4 p.m.)
June 10	HAB-ER Committee Meeting (BHI Assembly Room – 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)
June 17	Regulatory Path Forward Work Group Meeting (BHI Room 1B40 – 1-2:00 p.m.)
June 21	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m.)
June 22-23	Groundwater Model Peer Review Meeting (Richland - Time/Location TBD)
June 24	Regulatory Path Forward Work Group Meeting (BHI Room 1B40 – 1-2:00 p.m.)
July 15-16	Hanford Advisory Board Meeting (Richland - Doubletree Inn)
July 19	GW/VZ Open Project Team Meeting (BHI Assembly Room – 1-3 p.m.)
July 22	HAB-ER Committee Meeting (BHI Assembly Room – 9 a.m.-4 p.m.)