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# DOE NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DOE SELECTS HANFORD GROUNDWATER/VADOSE ZONE  
EXPERT PANEL MEMBERS**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today released the names of eight technical experts who will form the Expert Panel to provide DOE with recommendations and advice on ways to reduce contamination of the vadose zone (the area from the ground surface down to groundwater) and groundwater at the department's Hanford site.

Expert panel members, their selected area of expertise, and affiliation, include:

- Prof. Randy L. Bassett, Geochemistry, Professor of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Arizona
- Dr. Edgar Berkey, Engineering Physics, Environmental Engineering, Concurrent Technologies Corporation
- Dr. John G. Conaway, Geophysics, Terradax Ltd.
- Prof. James R. Karr, Fish and Wildlife Biology, Professor of Fisheries and Zoology, University of Washington
- Dr. Michael C. Kavanaugh, Civil, Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Malcom Pirnie, Inc.
- Dr. John Matuszek, Geochemistry, JMM Consulting
- Mr. Ralph O. Patt, Hydrology, Oregon Water Resources Department, Retired
- Prof. Peter J. Wierenga, Vadose Zone Hydrology, Professor of Soil, Water and Environmental Science, University of Arizona

The Expert Panel will meet several times each year at DOE's Richland Operations to review

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technical areas including the water flow and contaminant transport through Hanford's saturated and unsaturated soils. Expert Panel members, who will draw on their extensive experience on groundwater/vadose zone issues at other DOE sites, will also be reviewing Hanford decisions affecting environmental, public health, and cultural consequences caused by contaminant movement.

The Expert Panel is a key component of Hanford's Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project. The Integration Project is developing a sitewide approach to managing the many Hanford projects that address soil, groundwater, and river impacts.

DOE selected the Expert Panel from an initial pool of 100 nominations. The final selection was based on a number of criteria such as education, experience and national peer recognition to ensure diversity of expertise and perspectives. Subpanels with additional experts may be established to review specific topics identified by DOE or the Expert Panel.

More information about Hanford's Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project is available on the Hanford Environmental Restoration Project's internet Home Page at <http://www.bhi-erc.com>

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