



Hanford Advisory Board 2016

## The Hanford Advisory Board

(also known as the HAB or Board) is a non-partisan, broadly representative body consisting of 32 members interested in the cleanup of Washington’s Hanford Site, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex that produced plutonium for national defense during World War II and the Cold War. The Board works to provide consensus advice to DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology, collectively known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies, on select, major policy issues related to the cleanup of hazardous chemical and radioactive wastes. The Board was chartered in 1994 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. In the past 22 years, Board members have collectively developed 290 pieces of consensus advice, as well as many white papers and letters, advising TPA agencies on Hanford cleanup.

### “Protect the Columbia River”

In 2012, HAB members adopted a set of 13 [core values](#) that members felt were fundamental to the effective, safe cleanup of Hanford. One value that the Board identified as a vital consideration and goal of cleanup was the protection of the Columbia River, which flows directly to the north and east of the site and serves as a lifeline for much of the Pacific Northwest.

Board members recognize that the Columbia River is an important regional and national resource that directly affects many diverse environments and communities downstream from the Hanford Site. Committee and Board discussions centered on prioritization of cleanup of those wastes and structures that were near and are closest to the river. Moving forward, the Board remains steadfast in its support of all future cleanup decisions to protect the river and the ecosystems and individuals that depend on it.



## Chair's Message: 2016



Steve Hudson, Board Chair

At 22 years, the HAB continues to demonstrate its ability to create quality consensus advice, thoughtful white papers, and persuasive letters on topics of interest to stakeholders, the general public, and the Tri-Party Agreement agencies.

As in the past, critical Hanford cleanup issues have not changed dramatically. In 2016, the Board continued to debate vigorously how to produce mature advice addressing the health and safety of the Hanford community, how to capture the complexities associated with the management

of leaking tanks, and how to sustain and improve active interest in ground water contamination.

Of course, these discussions take place in an environment dominated by extended cleanup completion dates, shrinking budgets, and doubts about Hanford's infrastructure, safety culture, and aging work force. Still the HAB thrives as we add new members, improve the efficiency of Board operations, and continue to find better ways to engage those to whom we are responsible.

And finally, as I retire from my tenure as the HAB chair, I want to extend my thanks to the members of the Board, to our facilitators from EnviroIssues, and to the DOE, Ecology, and EPA staff who always made the job stimulating and rewarding, if not always easy.

It was a pleasure.

## Spotlight on the Board: Cleaning up the Columbia River Corridor

The Columbia River was critical to the production of plutonium when Hanford's reactors were still in operation. Each of the nine reactors was located next to the Columbia River so that water from the river could cool them during operation. In addition to the reactors, a complex of research and development buildings is situated near the river at the southern end of the site. These areas, collectively known as the River Corridor, contained around 1,000 waste sites and over 500 facilities that needed to be addressed during cleanup of the Hanford Site.

When cleanup began at the Hanford Site in the 1990s, TPA agencies conceptualized that Hanford remediation would prioritize areas within the River Corridor to ensure the continued protection of the Columbia River and those living downstream. After decades of work, cleanup in the River Corridor is beginning to wrap up.

Susan Leckband, Board vice chair, was a member of the Board during the height of River Corridor cleanup. She noted that the Board has been a strong and consistent voice in advocating for effective cleanup of the River Corridor. Susan highlighted that Board [Advice #115](#) and [Advice #135](#) were particularly influential in ensuring that cleanup along the Columbia met the Board's high standards. Both pieces of advice also recognized the importance of involving the public in cleanup decisions affecting the Columbia River.

"For more than 20 years the Board has remained a constant and consistent voice, advocating a safe and effective cleanup of the Hanford Site and in particular the work in the River Corridor."

Dennis Faulk, EPA

# HAB Products in 2016

ADVICE

#286

**Transportation Infrastructure Updates Safety Considerations**  
**Date submitted: 2/4/2016**

Advised DOE to continue considering and implementing traffic infrastructure improvements to enhance safety and lessen environmental impact.

# 287

**Central Plateau Milestone Series Change Package** **Date submitted: 2/4/2016**

In response to proposed schedule delays for some cleanup in Hanford's Central Plateau area, advised TPA agencies to negotiate aggressive remediation schedules, protect vital resources, address pressing cleanup needs, and secure sufficient funding for all future cleanup needs.

# 288

**FY 2017 Budget and FY 2018 Input Request** **Date submitted: 4/14/2016**

Advised DOE to request adequate funding for all cleanup in upcoming fiscal years and highlighted near- and long-term Board budget priorities.

# 289

**Master Acquisition Plan** **Date submitted: 6/9/2016**

Advised DOE on a number of considerations associated with planning for future support contracts across the Hanford Site and selecting new contractors to perform work.

# 290

**Proposed Plan for Remediation of the 100 D/H Area** **Date submitted: 9/15/2016**

Advised TPA agencies on selecting a final cleanup strategy in the 100 D/H Area.

WHITE PAPERS

**Waste Treatment Plant Communications Approach** **6/17/2016**

Board members worked with DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) to explore strategies and practices for communicating progress at the Waste Treatment Plant to various audiences throughout the region, specifically for the High-Level Waste Treatment Facility and the Low-Activity Waste Pretreatment System.

**Cesium Management and Disposition Alternatives for the Low-Activity Waste Pretreatment System** **6/17/2016**

Board members worked with ORP staff to outline potential strategies for managing cesium removed from liquid tank wastes through LAWPS prior to waste treatment via the Direct Feed Low-Activity Waste process.

To read Board advice as well as responses from the TPA agencies, visit: [Hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab/adviceandresponses](http://Hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab/adviceandresponses)

## Upcoming Board Work in 2017

In the coming fiscal year, Board members plan to hold discussions and author potential advice on several important Hanford policy issues including River Corridor cleanup, some Central Plateau waste sites, tank waste treatment, contract procurement and re-bidding, Site-wide regulatory and permitting strategies, Site infrastructure, and DOE budget priorities.

## Did you know...?

In the 2016 fiscal year, HAB members met for 5 Board meetings, 27 committee meetings, and 36 committee calls?

Check out the events calendar at [Hanford.gov](http://Hanford.gov) for a full list of upcoming HAB events. Remember: all Board meetings are open to the public!

# 2016 Board and Committee Leadership

## Board Leadership:

Steve Hudson, chair  
Susan Leckband, vice chair

## National liaison:

Shelley Cimon

## Committee Leadership: Budgets and Contracts Committee

Jerry Peltier, chair  
Don Bouchey, vice chair

## Public Involvement and Communications Committee

Liz Mattson, chair  
Shannon Cram, vice chair

## Tank Waste Committee:

Bob Suyama, chair  
Melanie Myers-Magnuson, vice chair

## Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee

Becky Holland, chair  
Richard Bloom, vice chair

## River and Plateau Committee

Pam Larsen, chair  
Jan Catrell, vice chair

## Contacts

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**For more information, visit**  
[hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab](http://hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab)



HAB committee meetings provide Board members with the opportunity to discuss policy issues, receive in-depth briefings and updates from TPA agencies, and collaborate on advice and other Board products.