

FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

*September 8, 2015
Richland, WA*

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This is only a summary of issues and actions in this meeting. It may not represent the fullness of ideas discussed or opinions given, and it should not be used as a substitute for actual public involvement or public comment on any particular topic unless specifically identified as such.

Opening

Liz Mattson, PIC Chair, welcomed everyone to the Public Involvement and Communications Committee (PIC) meeting and led a round of introductions. Cathy McCague, EnviroIssues facilitator, reviewed meeting logistics.

The committee adopted the June 9 meeting summary. Meeting flip-chart notes are provided as Attachment 1.

TPA Public Involvement

Introduction

Dieter Bohrmann, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), provided an overview of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Agencies Public Involvement Calendar (Attachment 2), which is updated quarterly and before each Board meeting. It is available on Ecology’s website (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/public.htm>).

Dieter reviewed upcoming public comment periods and issues to track, as well as holding bin items.

Committee Discussion

Committee members noted the following key points during discussion:

- The upcoming TPA milestone (M) change packages M-015, M-016, and M-085 will be released simultaneously.
- The Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB or Board) formal adoption of their fiscal year (FY) 2016 calendar will inform the TPA Agencies Public Involvement Calendar.
- One committee member asked how to ensure TPA meetings adequately record comments and questions made at public meetings, as recent meetings have not had the capabilities to record the public's concerns. Dieter said there is a difference between public meetings and public hearings. The TPA agencies are not required to record comments at public meetings, but they need to be clearer beforehand about which kind of meeting is being held. In addition to the requirements, the TPA agencies determine the need for a court reporter at public meetings based on the level of public interest and comment period association. Emy Laija, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said not all public meetings can be turned into public hearings, but she hears the concerns of the PIC that feedback be recorded. A committee member noted that the recent public meeting on the M-091 change package was not recorded, and those participating by phone were not given the opportunity to comment. He said there needs to be distinction about what kind of meeting is taking place in the public notice. Emy said the meeting facilitator was clear about the format and encouraged participants to provide written comments. Comments received via the webinar were recorded verbatim.
- The TPA agencies are holding discussions on potentially hosting State of the Site (SOS) meetings in 2016, though the timing will be complicated with major change packages and documents also coming out for public comment in early 2016. One committee member asked the TPA agencies to select a timeframe soon so the public interest groups have time to organize and encourage participation. He said he hopes PIC can be involved in SOS meeting planning and material preparation. The committee will track the topic in their work plan. Emy noted it will be January or February before a determination is made and ensured the committee they will be involved in the process. Dieter spoke to timing considerations for meeting series, including weather and the budget cycle. He said the spring is perfect timing for public involvement.
- One committee member noted the online calendar link to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) YouTube page does not work. Rich Marshall, DOE-ORP/North Wind will follow up.

TPA Proposed Milestone Changes

Introduction

Emy said the M-015, M-016, and M-085 change packages address remediation on the Central Plateau and 300 Area. The TPA agencies have completed their discussions and hope to have the change packages drafted and through the review process by the end of October, making them ready for the public in mid-November. There will be a 45-day comment period because of the packages' importance. Emy said the nature of this set of milestones would be easier for the public to understand because the changes are only to the schedules.

Liz said the committee has already provided some input on the change packages, including:

- Ensuring appropriate background and context, including how the TPA determines cleanup goals, how they are changed, and whether or not the public has influence on the changes.
- Meeting location recommendations include Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Hood River, and the Tri-Cities.
- Ample preparation time is preferable to allow differing perspectives to provide materials and public turnout; there should be considerable time between the release of the packages and the public meetings.
- If it appears the packages will not be ready for the public by early November, the public comment period should be pushed to the next calendar year, if there are not any compliance issues.

Emy noted that the TPA agencies would not hold public meetings any later than mid-November.

Committee Discussion

The following key points were noted during committee discussion:

- The Board/PIC will receive access to the change packages at the same time as the public, and there will be an opportunity to extend the comment period if it is requested and deemed necessary. The public comment period for the M-091 change package was extended without the Board having to officially request it.
- One committee member asked if a broader public conversation about activities on the Central Plateau would be appropriate given how the upcoming milestones relate to delays on the Central Plateau. Meeting materials should be broad to provide context, rather than focus on the nuts and bolts of the change package. Emy said the change packages will provide a broader Central Plateau picture relating to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, but not tank activities.
- One committee member said public policy should be changed to address timing for public comment periods and meetings, as it is always an issue. There should be institutionalized, appropriate timeframes outlined, rather than negotiated individually. Contractors issuing their documents at the end of a FY also poses a problem for members who want to provide comments. The Board could write a letter encouraging appropriate timing for public involvement to bring

before the November Board meeting. TPA agency management needs to hear public involvement requests, in addition to the public involvement leads.

- One committee member suggested regional public meetings be hosted in conjunction with regional Board meetings, should the Board have funding to host regional meetings in the future. Joining the costs of the two meetings could save money, and the associated meeting could be general like SOS meetings, or specific like for public comment periods.
- The committee discussed providing a letter to request policy level change to public involvement timeframes, conjoining regional meetings and Board meetings, due date changes for contractor documents, and a reaffirmation of the need for regional Board meetings. One committee member said cost savings should not be used as an argument for regional Board meetings, as it is significantly cheaper to host meetings in the Tri-Cities. She noted that a separate budget line item funds Board meetings; it is not from the same funding stream as other public meetings. Emy said the TPA agencies host meetings where there is interest; there is not a quota to be filled, and no assumptions are made. Public meetings are paid for from cleanup funding, so the appropriate use of cleanup dollars is always a major consideration.
- One committee member asked if timing the change packages to be released at the same time is as important to the TPA agencies as it is for PIC. Emy said it is important, but there are other considerations as well.
- The committee reviewed the background and advice points five and six for the TPA M-091 change package draft advice being brought before the Board and made textual edits to provide for Board review. Changes include:
 - Ensuring the Board charter quote in the background is accurate and appropriately quoted. Quotation marks should be removed if it is not an actual quote, and a footnote reference should be added if it is accurate.
 - Addition of language to encourage the M-015, M-016, and M-085 change packages public comment periods run concurrently to provide for more informed public comment.
- Liz encouraged the committee to raise their concerns on the change packages in front of TPA agency management at the Board meeting. Emy noted that the timing for the Central Plateau change packages is necessary in order to influence the next budget cycle. She said it may also not be possible to provide public materials for PIC's review prior to public meetings because the TPA agencies need as much time as possible to work on them. She asked the committee to consider their timing requests, as the needs sometimes conflict. One committee member said the public meetings will not receive good turnout, and the public interest organizations will not have enough time to provide adequate materials, if the TPA agencies do not commit to adequate advance notice. Emy will take PIC's concerns to Dennis Faulk, EPA, but is not sure how much information can be shared, in terms of what is informing timing decisions for the change packages.

- Cathy said the committee would track the ideas in case they decide to issue policy-level advice for November, but otherwise the committee will plan to ask Steve Hudson, Board Chair and Hanford Watch of Oregon, to write a letter on the specific change package needs if needed. The committee will also track how to ensure public comment at meetings is adequately recorded and tracked.

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Communications Approach

Introduction

Liz said the issue managers for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Communications Strategy held a conference call in August and determined to simplify the attempt to provide clear and concise feedback. The Strategy has been renamed as an approach, and it will provide targeted input based on specific questions from DOE-ORP. The next discussion will take place at the September 23 Tank Waste Committee meeting, and PIC members are encouraged to attend.

HAB Member Self-Assessments

HAB Member Self-Assessments

John Howieson, Physicians for Social Responsibility, spoke to the short presentation he gave at the World Uranium Conference in Quebec City, Canada. The conference hosted impressive speakers from around the world, including Michael Schneider, the co-author of the World Nuclear Industry Status Report. The report says the future of the worldwide nuclear industry is very much in doubt. Another speaker was an expert on health risks of the nuclear industry and spoke to the controversy over whether there are increased cancer risks for those who live within shorter distances of power plants. John named a number of other speakers, including the founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility. John gave his presentation to a smaller work group (15-20 people) for military site contamination and depleted uranium issues. He noted the conference was strongly anti-nuclear, and not many attendees were familiar with Hanford.

Dirk Dunning, Oregon DOE (ODOE), said he and Tom Carpenter, Hanford Challenge and Abigail Cermak, Columbia Riverkeeper, recently spoke about Hanford cleanup at “Science on Tap” in Vancouver, Washington. It was well received and attended by over 300 people. He noted that Dale Engstrom, ODOE, recently spoke with Oregon Water Resources staff about groundwater issues at Hanford.

Gary Garnant, Franklin and Grant Counties, said he wrote a four-page summary of the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation Report that he would be happy to share with the Board to help delineate the information for Board member’s review of the report. It will be distributed to the River and Plateau Committee and PIC.

Shannon Cram, Citizens for a Clean Eastern Washington, said she is happy to be back after taking a year of absence from the Board. She recently helped with a Hanford Challenge social event attended by 80 people. Shannon was recently hired at the University of Washington, Bothell campus, where she hopes to work closely with students interested in Hanford and to raise awareness on campus. Part of her tenure track is working with students on public involvement outside of campus. The Bothell campus is growing exponentially, so the Board should engage with students there, as well as in Seattle.

Dieter said Ginger Wireman, Ecology, was invited to speak with local inmates as a part of their continuing education program. Though the appointment fell through due to a revocation of prisoner privileges, they have invited Ecology back in September, as they welcome the opportunity to learn more about Hanford.

Jan Catrell, Public at Large, said she recently attended a Western Washington University luncheon to hear about the jet propulsion lab. She spoke to a retired physics professor who was interested to hear about the HAB. She, along with Dieter and Dan McDonald, Ecology, taught a community class on nuclear issues for the Academy of Lifelong Learning in Bellingham, and they hope to do it again in the spring.

Kris Skopeck, DOE-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL), said she answers questions about Hanford and the Board every day, so she is continuously learning in order to be a good resource. She recently got to meet with other federal site coordinators at the DOE Environmental Management Site-specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Rich said DOE-ORP has recently presented to a number of Rotary and Kiwanis groups in Pendleton, Seattle, and other regional locations. They have also recently spoken with local tribes and participated in the Reactor Factor at the Reach Museum.

Becky Holland, Hanford Atomic Metals Trade Council, said she talks about Hanford every day as a part of her job and cleans up the site 150 milliliters at a time.

Rachel Baron, Heart of America Northwest (HoANW) intern, said she recently helped distribute an e-newsletter on M-091 revisions and suggested comments. She said that, so far, seven to eight people have sent in comments.

Gerry Pollet, HoANW, said the regional meetings in the spring were well attended in Vancouver, Walla Walla, and Spokane, Washington. HoANW had two legal interns over the summer who worked on documentation for the single-shell tank leaks, along with presentation materials. Gerry said HoANW has had difficulty getting documents on the leaking tanks from DOE, even though Ecology complies with requests for information. DOE's reasoning for not providing documentation is that they did not understand the request. Gerry said Ecology's documentation proves the leaks to be bigger than what has been presented to the public, and there should be specific public involvement to address the issues.

Liz said the Hanford Challenge summer interns recently went back to school but are interested in maintaining their outreach with other students. Jackie, a high school intern, will be working to incorporate Hanford into high school service learning projects, which has become a final requirement for many high school seniors in the region. Hanford Challenge recently participated in Science on Tap and hosted an

outdoor screening of Into Eternity, a documentary on how different countries are dealing with long-term waste issues. Hanford Challenge also hosted an art night, boat tour, and two ice cream socials over the summer for a combined 150 people. Liz said she learned from the challenges of trying to brief a five-year-old on Hanford, or parents with screaming children. Children who attended the ice cream socials were given post cards to color in that can then be sent to friends and family members to show what they learned about Hanford. Liz will share survey results from the ice cream socials in November. Liz said she also attended the Reactor Factor and was very impressed with two DOE-ORP female engineers who used root beer floats to demonstrate the multiple components of tanks and tank waste. She hopes the level of creativity will continue. She encouraged PIC members to use the Reach Museum as collaborative space for engaging the public in Hanford. Other Hanford Challenge outreach includes providing information at a climate justice march and high school service-learning fair.

Steve said he and Susan Leckband will be attending a local reception for 40 members of the Portland League of Women Voters, who will also be taking a Hanford tour. Steve said he enjoys working with students in the Portland area, including helping chemistry students with poster sessions, and encouraging J.D. Dowell, DOE-ORP, to speak to college Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programs about jobs available at Hanford.

Susan Leckband, Washington League of Women Voters, invited PIC members to the Daughters of Hanford exhibit at the Columbia Park museum. It is an interactive story told by National Public Radio, and features women of the Board, TPA agencies, and state with ties to Hanford.

Shelley Cimon, Columbia Riverkeeper, said Columbia Riverkeeper has produced a five-minute video, "Hanford, a Race Against time." It is available on their YouTube channel.

Ken Niles, ODOE, recently participated in a Hanford tour with two Oregon State Senators, Legislative staff, three members of the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, and the ODOE communications manager. He said tours with that type of group are very valuable.

Committee Business

Review of draft HAB FY 2016 Work Plan PIC topics

Cathy said the FY 2016 HAB Work Plan would be presented for adoption at this week's Board meeting. PIC needs to review their topics to ensure they are accurate and appropriate before finalizing for the Board.

Kris said DOE-Headquarters (DOE-HQ) has provided some edits to the HAB work plan to be more in line with other Boards nationwide. She reviewed the changes to the PIC specific topics, noting the other changes will be addressed through the TPA letter on the work plan. Sharon Braswell, DOE-ORP/North Wind, said the changes to Youth Involvement topic are to reflect DOE-HQ's recent guidelines for how EM SSAB Boards can engage high school and college age youth, including age restrictions, parent involvement, and roles to play.

The committee discussed the collaborative work plan process and the problem of addressing late edits received from DOE-HQ. Emy said the regulators acknowledge DOE has a different role in advising the work plan process, as they are responsible for HAB funding. She said she hopes PIC and the Board will listen to the reasoning behind the changes before disregarding them, and that the work plan will continue to evolve and adapt.

Roles and responsibilities

Liz said the purpose of the discussion is to review the PIC's role on the Board. The Executive Issues Committee (EIC) recently reviewed the roles of all the committees, as outlined in the HAB Process Manual, and noted that PIC's description is longer than the others are. Liz distributed the PIC's excerpt from the 2012 HAB Process Manual and asked committee members to provide feedback on whether it is still accurate.

Committee members agreed the description is accurate. EIC issue managers working on updating the HAB Process Manual will be editing PIC's description to be more in line with the others. The updated version will be provided to the full Board in November.

Update committee's 3-month work plan / meeting topics

The committee reviewed and updated the November meeting topics table. There is a placeholder for a committee call on October 14, and the next in-person meeting will be on Tuesday, November 2.

Emy said the TPA agencies recently held a workshop to work on improving the Hanford Administrative Record. Changes and information will be rolled out over the next year to improve functionality and access. PIC may be asked to provide input on communications plans and tutorials in 2016.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Flip-chart notes

Attachment 2: TPA Public Involvement Calendar

Attachment 3: 2012 HAB Process Manual excerpt

Attendees

Board members and alternates

Don Bouchey	Dirk Dunning	Susan Leckband
Jan Catrell	Gary Garnant	Liz Mattson
Shelley Cimon	Becky Holland	Ken Niles (phone)
Shannon Cram	John Howieson	Gerry Pollet
Sam Dechter	Steve Hudson	

Others

Kristen Skopeck, DOE-RL	Cathy McCague, EnviroIssues	Jennifer Copeland, MSA
Joanne Grindstaff, DOE-ORP (phone)	Melissa Thom, EnviroIssues	Jennifer Colborn, MSA
Benjamin Vannah, DOE-RL	Sharon Braswell, DOE-ORP/North Wind	Andrea Prignano, WRPS
Dieter Bohrmann, Ecology	Rich Marshall, DOE-ORP/North Wind	Rachel Baron, HoANW (phone)
Emy Laija, EPA		Pedro de la Torrez, student