



13-HAB-0002

OCT 26 2012

Ms. S. L. Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) SEPTEMBER 7, 2012, CONSENSUS ADVICE #261, "2013 STATE OF THE SITE MEETINGS"

Thank you for advice #261 on 2013 State of the Site (SOS) meetings (enclosed). Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies appreciate the HAB's continued efforts to provide public involvement advice. We recognize that the SOS meetings have played a role in fostering open and constructive dialogue between the agencies and public. Below are our responses to your specific advice points:

Advice Point #1: The Board advises the TPA agencies to schedule a series of SOS meetings for 2013 and to do so in a manner consistent with the goals, expectations, and values identified in previous pieces of SOS HAB advice.

Response: SOS meetings are an important tool in our involvement and outreach toolbox. The agencies consider several variables in deciding to hold regional SOS meetings such as:

- The number of public forums held in a given year;
- agency resources and available funding; and
- upcoming public involvement activities.

We are sensitive to past criticism of overwhelming the public with too many meetings. At this time, we are determining potential future public involvement activities and have not made a final decision on holding 2013 SOS meetings.

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Advice Point #2: The Board advises the TPA agencies to seek Board collaboration and involvement early in the SOS scheduling and design process, to ensure adequate community and HAB membership support.

Response: The TPA agencies will continue to work collaboratively with the HAB in the development of future SOS meetings. We value the HAB's early involvement in the planning process to help identify topics of public interest and notify your constituencies of the meetings.

The TPA agencies will continue to work with the HAB and Public Involvement and Communications (PIC) committee to prioritize and schedule public meetings as well as other Hanford public involvement activities.

Advice Point #3: The Board advises the TPA agencies to work with the Board's Public Involvement and Communications Committee to develop and publish an SOS protocol that clearly addresses expected SOS meeting outcomes, methods of meeting evaluation, and the responsibilities of meeting participants.

Response: The TPA agencies agree that it is important to identify expected meeting outcomes, evaluate the meetings, and clarify the expectations of meeting participants. However, the agencies do not agree that this protocol should be a formal published product. Depending on the prevailing topics of interest at a given time, the expected meeting outcomes and responsibilities of meeting participants could change from one SOS meeting to the next. The TPA agencies will continue to work early and collaboratively with the HAB to help plan the SOS meetings.

Advice Point #4: The Board advises the TPA agencies to draft guidelines that promote the effective annual scheduling of future SOS meetings for the Hanford region.

Response: The SOS meetings are one of many valuable public involvement tools that are used at Hanford. For example, since 2010:

- 8 hearings were held around the region on the comprehensive Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management Environment Impact Statement document
- 7 hearings were held on the Hanford sitewide permit
- 4 River Corridor Informational Public Workshops were held around the region
- 2 open forums focused on the Waste Treatment Plant
- Annual public budget meeting/workshops are held

The consideration for SOS meetings will be weighed against the number of legally required public involvement activities and other public involvement activities, as well as available resources. The TPA agencies will continue to work with the HAB and PIC to prioritize public involvement activities and explore the feasibility of holding regional SOS meetings.

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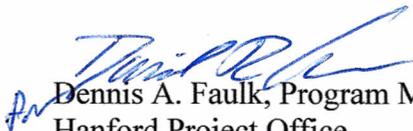
Thank you again for your commitment to work with the agencies to ensure meaningful public involvement in Hanford cleanup decisions and identify opportunities to promote ongoing public dialogue.



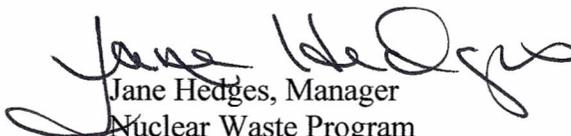
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HAB:TLN

cc w/encl: See page 4

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cc w/encl:

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