

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB or Board) Membership Nomination and Appointment Process

Background

In 1993¹ the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology – engaged in a collaborative and transparent public process to form an advisory board to address Hanford cleanup issues. An outcome of that process was the identification of an advisory board membership that represents a balanced mix of diverse interests between local and regional interests, environmental and business interests, worker and non-worker interests and different government entities at all levels. The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) was subsequently chartered by DOE Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The HAB is subject to the requirements of the EM SSAB Charter, FACA (5 U.S.C. App.) and its implementing regulations (41 C.F.R. § 101-6 et seq.); the DOE Manual on Advisory Committee Management Program (DOE M 515.1-1, Oct. 22, 2007); and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Among DOE, EPA and Ecology regarding the HAB.

HAB Mission

The primary mission of the Board is to provide informed advice and recommendations to the Tri-Party agencies on selected major policy issues concerning Hanford including: cleanup standards and environmental restoration; waste management and disposition; stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials; excess facilities; future land use and long-term stewardship; risk assessment and management; and cleanup science and technology activities.

HAB Membership

The HAB is comprised of 32 seats. Each seat has a primary member and at least one alternate member to ensure adequate representation of the interest group or organization. Membership of the HAB includes:

Seven representatives of local governmental interests that includes one member appointed by each of the governing bodies of Benton, Franklin and Grant counties, the cities of Kennewick, Richland, Pasco, and West Richland, and one appointed by the Benton-Franklin Regional Council;

One representative of business interests from the Tri-Cities area, appointed by the Tri-Cities Development Council (TRIDEC), or an organization similar to TRIDEC;

Five representatives of the Hanford workforce, including two members of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and the Central Washington Building and Construction Trades Council;

¹ *Convening Report on the Establishment of an Advisory Board to Address Hanford Cleanup Issues (Convening Report, Keystone Center, 1993).*

two non-union and non-management employees who can effectively represent cleanup contractor workers and research and development and health contractor workers; and one representative for the interests of workers that have public policy implications that may not be addressed by the other seats in this category;

One representative of local environmental interests;

Five representatives of regional citizen, environmental, and public interest organizations with an active interest in Hanford cleanup, drawn from and nominated by those regional organizations;

One representative each for local and regional public health concerns;

One representative of each tribe having treaty rights that are affected by Hanford cleanup decisions, including the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe;

Two representatives of the interests of the citizens and the State of Oregon, that might not otherwise be covered by the categories listed above. The interests of the State of Oregon are represented by the Oregon Department of Energy, which is charged by the Governor to address the interests of Oregon in Hanford cleanup issues. The interests of Oregon's citizens are represented by the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, which was established to advise the State of Oregon on Hanford cleanup;

Two representatives from regional universities; and

No more than four public-at-large members, who have expressed a general interest in Hanford cleanup issues and who might otherwise contribute to ethnic, racial, or gender diversity on the Board.

HAB Nomination and Appointment Process

HAB members and alternates are nominated by the individual interest groups or organizations represented on the HAB. Each year a rotation of one-half of the HAB seats are cycled through the membership nomination and appointment process.

The annual membership nomination process begins with the DOE Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) sending an electronic letter to the nominating official of each organization whose member and alternate are up for appointment. The DOE letter encourages consideration of criteria/values that promote desirable advisory board representation such as diversity, ability to attend meetings and ability to work with divergent viewpoints. The nominating authority is requested to respond to DOE-RL either confirming that the current member and alternate will continue to represent their interest or nominating a new member and/or alternate. Once DOE-RL receives confirmation of nominees or new nomination forms, nominated individuals are provided a HAB membership application to complete and return, along with a short biography and/or resume.

The Hanford Work Force seat and the Local and Regional Public Health seat are identified (*Convening Report*) as seats where relevant organizations are to act collaboratively to select a member and alternate to represent that interest. Letters are sent to the nominating authorities of those organizations requesting the nominating officials submit the names of an agreed-upon member and alternate.

For the Hanford Work Force “Non-Union, Non-Management Employees” seats, the TPA agencies work collaboratively to nominate individuals. To fill a vacancy, an ad - drafted by the agencies - is placed in Hanford cleanup contractor newsletters. Applicants must complete a HAB membership application and may be chosen to participate in an interview with public involvement staff from the three agencies. Candidates are rated and selected based on agreed-upon criteria.

Individuals to fill Public-at-Large seat vacancies are nominated by the TPA agencies. Regional outreach efforts conducted may include: regional (Seattle, Spokane, Portland) and local newspaper ads, posting information on TPA agency websites, Facebook and Twitter pages, and sending notice to the Hanford e-mail list. Applicants must complete a HAB membership application and may be chosen to participate in an interview with public involvement staff from the three agencies. Candidates are rated and selected based on agreed-upon criteria.

DOE-RL submits the HAB nominations to DOE-HQ for review and approval. Members are appointed for two-year terms by DOE-HQ.

For more information on the nominating process, please contact DOE-RL Public Affairs Office at (509) 376-8230.