

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

February 1-2, 2001

Kennewick, Washington

SUMMARY OF PAST BOARD ADVICE

Ken Niles, Oregon Office of Energy (State of Oregon), has read all 113 pieces of Board advice and summarized them for use as an informational piece. It was decided to adopt this as a living document to be periodically updated. It will be distributed at public meetings, given to congressional representatives, and possibly posted on the Internet website. It will be given to the public at the budget hearings in March.

NEW WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT

Harry Boston, U.S. Department of Energy - Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP), and Leif Erickson, (DOE-ORP) reported on the contracting process. The new contract is an end point contract. The goal of the contract is to have a fully operating plant. There are incentives in the contract for performance and safety.

Significant challenges were brought out such as funding and staffing shortages, time pressures in meeting Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones, and the need for cooperation in getting permits. Infrastructure needs were addressed. Workers are currently in place and many more will be arriving on site over the next several months as site preparation begins.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) members reminded the DOE that vitrification only treats 10 percent of the waste at Hanford. They stressed the need to continue to pay attention to the safe treatment of the other 90 percent of the waste and to the safety of the workers and the public.

LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP

Susan Leckband, Non-Union, Non-Management Employees (Hanford Work Force), reported on a workshop on January 31st, 2001 in support of the long-term stewardship plan. Jim Dailey, DOE-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL), has contracted to develop the plan in connection with the EPA's request for an Institutional Controls Plan by this July.

MARTHA CROSLAND - A DOE-HEADQUARTERS PERSPECTIVE

Martha Crosland, DOE-Headquarters, discussed the history of the Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) and reported on the charter renewal for them. She reported that the HAB is the most prolific of the SSABs and is known for giving sound, accurate advice.

She discussed how advice is processed when it is sent to DOE-Headquarters. There are some problems with tracking advice that she will address when she returns to her office. HAB members stressed the importance of feedback to advice issued and of having a way to evaluate how well DOE is doing in following through on advice.

Martha brought a handout of a revision to the DOE's Public Participation Policy that was reviewed at the end of the Clinton Administration. It has been published in the *Federal Register* and is still open for additional comment from the HAB.

FLUOR HANFORD WORK FORCE REDUCTION

Jeff Luke, Non-Union, Non-Management Employees (Hanford Work Force), addressed the proposed layoff of about 300 workers on site. He expressed concerns over the reasons for the layoffs and felt that the workers were not being treated fairly. The workforce reduction calls for layoffs of people doing "low priority" jobs. He wanted the workers to be informed as to the priority level of their jobs and given the opportunity to transfer to higher priority work.

The Board adopted advice for DOE-RL and Fluor Hanford about this issue.

HAB ORGANIZATION AND COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING

The HAB agreed that a change was needed in committee organization. Confusion among the agencies in working with the current committees, lack of focus, over-extension, inefficiency, and burnout were some of the reasons underlying the need for change.

It was agreed to have some kind of central organizing committee whose function will be to refer issues to the appropriate working committee. The rest of the committees have been temporarily designated Tank Issues, Money Management and Contracts, Public Communications, River and Plateau Issues, and Human Health and Safety Issues.

For purposes of transition, the initial organizational committee will consist of members of the old Executive Committee and the pro tem committee chairs. The pro tem committee chairs and pro tem vice chairs are: River and Plateau - Shelly Cimon, Gordon Rogers, Pam Brown, and Doug Huston; Human Health and Safety - Pam Brown and Doug Huston; Public Communications - Ken Niles and Norma Jean Germond; Tank Issues - Doug Huston; and Finance and Contracts - Gerry Pollet and Harold Heacock.

HAB members and alternates will self-select their committee assignments over the next two weeks. At the first committee meeting, chairs and vice chairs will be selected and workplans and future meeting topics will be set. A committee-of-the-whole meeting will take place the week of February 19th to work on organization and communication issues. There will be a conference call the second week in February to set the agenda for this meeting.

MEETING CALENDAR

HAB meetings for the rest of this calendar year will be in April, June, September, November, and December.

SPENT FUEL

Phil Loscoe, DOE-RL reported that the first multi-canister overpack (MCO) has been processed and the second one is in process. The system for processing the MCO's is being evaluated and changes are being made as needed. The work is behind schedule and over budget, but DOE and the contractor are committed to bringing the budget in line.