



APR 16 2018

18-HAB-0025

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
ProSidian Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin Ave., Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) ADVICE #293, HANFORD STATE OF THE SITE (SOS) MEETINGS

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies appreciate the HAB's continued focus on public involvement activities. The TPA agencies have reviewed advice #293 on SOS meetings encouraging the agencies to plan regional SOS meetings in 2018 and beyond.

Regional meetings give citizens, especially those not living in a community adjacent to the site, a chance to meet Hanford officials, learn about current work, ask questions, and provide input on Hanford decisions. Although communication channels have proliferated since the first regional public meetings, and people now use a broad range of information sources and tools, face-to-face dialogue about important issues remains essential. We understand that it's vitally important for the public to remain informed about and engaged in Hanford cleanup, and we will continue to explore and implement ways to meet the information needs of the stakeholders, Tribal Nations, and public. While these regional public meetings played a valuable role in our public involvement toolkit, we are encouraged by the HAB's ideas on designing and developing a new format for periodic regional meetings that better reflect the changing communications landscape and status of cleanup.

In addition to in-person meetings, the agencies are supportive of hosting virtual meetings to allow for those individuals not geographically located near an in-person meeting location to participate in discussions about Hanford.

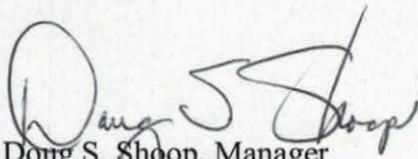
Here are our responses to the HAB's specific points of advice:

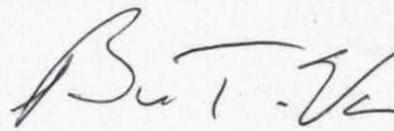
- The Board advises the TPA agencies to schedule a series of regional, in-person SOS meetings for the spring of 2018 and to do so in a manner consistent with the goals, expectations, and values identified in previous pieces of SOS BOARD advice.
 - While we agree that multiple meetings would be desirable, we plan to start with a single public meeting in a mutually agreed-upon format at a location outside of the Tri-Cities, in the near future to launch our new regional meeting concept.

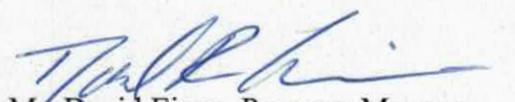
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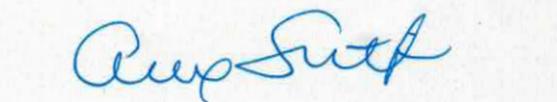
- The Board advises the TPA agencies to seek Board and local citizen groups' collaboration and involvement in the SOS scheduling and design process, starting in autumn 2017, in order to ensure adequate community and Board membership support.
 - We welcome HAB and stakeholder collaboration to plan and schedule a regional meeting, to include developing a new format and title for the meeting. We agree that collaboration creates the greatest likelihood for success.
- 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 SOS meeting outcomes, format, and methods of meeting evaluation.
 - We look forward to receiving input from the Public Involvement committee regarding a regional meeting protocol.
- The Board advises the TPA agencies to hold future in-person SOS meetings annually, consistent with past Board advice on this matter.
 - We agree that having consistent meetings is desirable and will work to make that possible, while recognizing that the pace of cleanup work and other issues might influence the frequency of meetings.

Thank you again for your advice, and we look forward to continuing engagement with the HAB on effective ways to involve the public in discussions on Hanford cleanup decisions. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Heeter, Richland Operations Office, at (509) 373-1970; Echo Dahl, North Wind, supporting Office of River Protection, at (509) 376-7112; Emy Laija, EPA, at (202) 564-2724; or Randy Bradbury, Ecology, at (509) 372-7954.


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cc: see page 3

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Administrative Record
Environmental Portal