



17-HAB-0016

FEB 13 2017

Mr. Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin, Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Hudson:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (BOARD) ADVICE #291, STATE OF THE SITE
MEETINGS AND TECHNICAL WEBINARS

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies have reviewed your December 8, 2016, advice with suggestions about the mechanics of holding meetings to ensure the public is involved in the Hanford Site decision-making process.

We recognize that people nationwide are interested in the Site and people locally and regionally are affected by agency policies and operations. We agree that engaging with the public plays a vital role in the decision-making process. Public involvement not only allows the TPA agencies to consider public values and concerns, but it also provides the opportunity to educate the public and alleviate concerns. As an added benefit, a well-informed public can help maintain support for Hanford cleanup.

The TPA agencies have supported regional State of the Hanford Site meetings for well over a decade. The plan to proceed with a web-based meeting this spring does not imply that the agencies have ruled out future, in-person meetings.

However, we believe creating a virtual space for discussion will be a cost-effective way to allow TPA decision-makers to address the progress and challenges of the cleanup efforts, as well as answer questions and concerns, with a broader range of local, regional and even national audiences than would be possible with an in-person meeting. As you suggest, the agencies will also consider web-based meetings as a potential forum for technical topics.

One of the goals for this year's event is to increase participation of younger individuals, particularly those interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. This is the generation that, if equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills, will be helping address some of Hanford's most complex cleanup challenges. We would be interested in hearing your ideas for reaching STEM-minded students in our promotional efforts for the event.

Whether it is via the web, Speakers Bureau, social media or one of the many public information meetings held, the TPA agencies are committed to the goals of transparency and public policy deliberation.

[Washington State Department of Ecology](#) – [U. S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) – [U. S. Department of Energy](#)

FEB 13 2017

We appreciate that citizens groups invested in Hanford have been active in promoting interest in our meetings among their membership. We look forward to receiving the Board's feedback and discussing any lessons learned at the conclusion of this year's meeting.



Doug S. Shoop, Manager
Richland Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy



Kevin W. Smith, Manager
Office of River Protection
U.S. Department of Energy



Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Alex Smith, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
Washington State Department of Ecology

OCE:KLH

cc:

David Borak, EM-3.2
Celinda Crawford, EM-3
Dawn MacDonald, ORP/co-DDFO
John Mocknick, EM-3
Kyle Rankin, RL/co-DDFO
Linda Suttora, EM-3.1
Administrative Record
Environmental Portal

U.S. Senators (OR)

Jeff Merkley
Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Suzan DelBene
Dennis Heck
Jaime Herrera Beutler
Pramila Jayapal
Derek Kilmer
Rick Larsen
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Dan Newhouse
Dave Reichert
Adam Smith

State Senators (WA)

Sharon Brown

State Representatives (WA)

Larry Haler
Brad Klippert