



MEETING SUMMARY

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

December 4-5, 2019

Richland, Washington

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This is only a summary of issues and actions discussed at this meeting. It may not represent the fullness of represented ideas or opinions, and it should not be used as a substitute for actual public involvement or public comment on any particular topic unless specifically identified as such.

Executive Summary

Hanford Advisory Board (Board or HAB) Action

The Board adopted advice #303 regarding the 100-BC Proposed Plan.

The Board approved two Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) recommendations:

- Recommendation on Improving EM SSAB and Public Engagement in the (U.S. Department of Energy(DOE) Environmental Management Budget Process
- Recommendation on the Disposition and Transport of Nuclear Material

Presentations and Updates

- Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agency updates
- Hanford Workforce Collaboration for the Future
- Committee Reports

Public Comment

There were no public comments received on either day of the meeting.

Welcome and Announcements

Jim Lynch, DOE and Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO) for the Board opened the meeting and explained that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The meeting was open to members of the public and offered two opportunities for public comment. It was also audio-recorded.

Susan Leckband, League of Women Voters and Board Chair, welcomed members to the HAB meeting. Susan provided an overview of the meeting agenda and its objectives. The meeting was open to members of the public and offered two opportunities for public comment.

Susan invited members to share announcements. Ken Niles, Oregon Department of Energy, shared that he had been in communication with Marilyn Reeves, League of Women Voters representative and former Board Chair, who encouraged members to keep their attention and efforts focused on Hanford cleanup in light of the 25th anniversary celebration of the HAB on the evening of December 4, 2019. Susan reflected that the first HAB meeting was held in February 1994. She shared that there were photos, past pieces of advice, and other memorabilia in the back of the meeting room for people to enjoy. The Board has adopted over 300 pieces of advice to the TPA agencies.

Susan Leckband confirmed the adoption of the [September 2019](#) Board meeting summary by consensus conditional on the addition of the specifics for the three public comments made on the second day of the September meeting.

Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Agency Updates

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Brian Vance, DOE Site Manager for the Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and the Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP), provided members with a presentation¹ and noted that the phenomenal progress on site illustrates the optimism and affirmation of the workforce efforts in accomplishing cleanup.

He began with the recent celebration for the completion of the transfer of 35 cubic yards of radioactive sludge from the K Basins to safe interim storage at T Plant.

The Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) program manager has worked to get his staff on the same page to work on multiple interfaces to ensure we are going to be ready on time. It is not just about delivering the waste treatment plan, but also delivering full capability. DOE has exceeded their goals this year for treating water and have made important progress in other supporting systems, such as the Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF).

At the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP), DOE is in the final phases of demolition and will be progress through January. At the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF), the cask design is now complete. The 324 Building continues to be a challenge, and safety is a top priority so that the work can be done safely and effectively. At AX-102, we are 70 percent complete.

DOE remains committed to making cleanup progress safely and to create the conditions so that people want to work at Hanford.

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Suzanne Dahl, Ecology, provided members with a presentation² and described ongoing permitting activities for the Tank-Side Cesium Removal System (TSCR), Low-Activity Waste (LAW) operational conditions, IDF, and the Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF). She also reviewed progress on the Consent Decree and the Central Waste Complex closure plan.

With respect to the TPA M-91 milestone talks about transuranic waste, they had hoped to start public comment on proposed changes in July 2019, but DOE and Ecology could not reach agreement on shipping dates. On September 4, 2019, DOE notified Ecology that there are several other milestones at risk of being missed. In a letter dated October 25, 2019, Ecology requested further information on these risks.

Ecology proposed holistic negotiations in May 2019, and this week, DOE and Ecology came to agreement on the scope of these negotiations and also agreed to engage a U.S. Department of Justice mediator to assist in these negotiations.

¹ [Hanford Advisory Board Agency Update](#)

² [Department of Ecology Agency Update](#)

There is a set of permit modifications that have been ongoing since 2016 related to T Plant and EPA inspection and enforcement action related to them. The public comment period on T Plan will be from December 16, 2019 – February 7, 2020.

Hanford has an aging workforce which is a struggle for all three TPA agencies. We participate in job fairs and have increased our ability to provide internships. Succession planning is very important.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Dave Einan, EPA, thanked the Board for its work, including its most recent work on the 100-BC Proposed Plan. One of the things EPA is looking for are opportunities to be more efficient and help the Hanford site cleanup be more efficient. The agency has a special focus on the Central Plateau. It is important to show progress.

Board Questions and Discussion

Board members asked about cesium and strontium issues. Joe Franco, DOE, explained that cesium represents about a third of the waste, and a lot of the strontium is in the capsules at WESF. The heat is generated from the strontium capsules and must be covered by the safety analysis.

Multiple HAB members also expressed their appreciation for the TPA agency updates. They asked about the scope of the holistic negotiations. Brian Vance, DOE, explained that they were part of the High-Level Waste (HLW) mission that is in parallel with the tank waste treatment activities. Closures in the tank farms have prevented further migration of contaminants.

Members of the Budgets and Contracts Committee (BCC) noted that they have two active discussions, one of which is developing draft advice on cleanup priorities. The question was asked about Waste Management Area C and what steps are required for closure. Suzanne Dahl, Ecology, explained that a closure plan for the area would need to be submitted, permit conditions would be developed, and there would be a public comment period regarding the draft permit modifications. It will probably not occur in FY2020.

A question was raised regarding the critical path schedule for DFLAW and managing the different sources of risk from TSCR, ETF, and other elements. Members were curious about seeing more information about those risks and how they are being addressed. Brian Vance, DOE, confirmed that there is an integrated schedule. There are regular team meetings, peer review, and other activities to assure that the funding received allows DOE to address those risks. John Price, Ecology, explained that there are inspection reports that Ecology sends to DOE which may be found in the Administrative Record (AR).

Board members raised the concern about the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) and the use of clean soil in operations as compared with already-contaminated soil. They asked for a presentation on the issue for the River and Plateau (RAP) Committee because they do not understand why clean soil is being used. The issue of the generation of secondary waste related to Hanford cleanup activities was also raised and whether or not this type of waste should be sent to ERDF as opposed to sending it off-site. HAB members liked the idea of sending waste away from Hanford. Although it is only a small part of Hanford waste, Dave Einan, EPA, noted that the waste from the 200 West pump and treat is sent off-site to Arizona.

When the question of what waste characterization improvements were planned for the operation phase of the tank waste treatment project as compared to the planning phase, the answer was that DOE is making sure that the characterization criteria is being met before waste is transferred for treatment.

In response to a question about senior leadership changes at Ecology, Suzanne Dahl confirmed that the Director of Ecology (Maria Bellon) is retiring. She has been in the position for seven years. There is continuity in TPA negotiations with senior Ecology managers and staff.

HAB members expressed appreciation to TPA agency attention to workforce issues and asked about how many younger professionals have recently been hired. Dave Einan, EPA, explained that EPA has been unable to replace a staff vacancy for a little over a year. Suzanne Dahl, Ecology, had an introduction of a new Ecology hire in her presentation.

Public Comment

There were no public comments on either December 4 or December 5.

EMSSAB Chairs Meeting Recommendation on Improving EMSSAB and Public Engagement in the DOE Environmental Management Budget Process

The topic of EMSSAB chairs meeting recommendation on improving EMSSAB and public engagement in the DOE environmental management budget process was introduced by Jim Lynch, DOE. He explained that the process for considering recommendations from the EM SSAB is that individual Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) consider the recommendations without any wording changes and authorize their board chairs to sign the recommendations with an up or down vote.

Susan Leckband, HAB Chair, clarified that the explanatory statement at the end of the advice is not a formal part of the recommendation. Rather, it is an explanation of what the EM SSAB is for context.³

On December 4, the Board discussed the recommendation for the purposes of understanding its context and intent. Susan Leckband explained that part of the recommendation is to encourage DOE Headquarters to provide guidance to the sites sooner than later so that each SSAB can better provide informed advice for its site. Pam Larsen, City of Richland and HAB National Liaison, further explained that DOE is subject to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) direction that limits what information can be shared outside DOE.

Board members asked if the EM SSAB process includes a formal response to recommendations similar to the HAB process in which the TPA agencies formally respond to HAB advice. Jim Lynch, DOE, explained that there is not an obligation for DOE to respond to EM SSAB recommendations but they typically do. The EM SSAB meets twice a year, and a number of DOE Headquarters staff and managers attend.

The HAB approved the EM SSAB recommendation on December 5, 2019 and authorized the Board Chair to sign it on behalf of the HAB.

³ [Recommendation on Improving EM SSAB and Public Engagement in the DOE Environmental Management Budget Process](#)

Hanford Workforce Collaboration for the Future

DOE

Susan Leckband introduced the topic of the Hanford Workforce Collaboration for the Future. Brian Vance, DOE, shared that the goal is to make it easier to recruit people and create the positive perception that the Hanford site is a good place to go for a rewarding career that is both interesting and important.

Santos Ortega, EEO Manager, DOE, introduced himself as the DOE lead on workforce issues, including working on those issues with Hanford contractors. Santos provided members with a presentation on collaboration for workforce planning at the Hanford site⁴. He has been actively involved in recruiting for Hanford for the past 40 years. He noted that there is an aging workforce, which has raised challenges at a time when there are great and exciting things happening at Hanford as the site moves into operations mode for treating tank waste and other cleanup activities. He noted that they are working to communicate what future skills needs are for the next 10 years. Santos explained the need for partnerships and collaborations locally, regionally, and nationally to meet these needs because Hanford is competing for talent.

With respect to the demographics of the current Hanford workforce, it is about three-quarters male and one-quarter female. Over 50 percent of the workforce has college degrees, and 37 percent are in the trades. 22 percent of the workforce is currently eligible for retirement. In the next four years, that will rise to 42 percent eligible for retirement.

DOE is using outreach to its speakers' bureau, links to local Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) programs in local schools. It also wants to reach out to veterans. In addition, it has convened the Hanford Future Workforce subcommittee focused on educational, apprenticeship, and targeted recruiting programs. It has also developed a Human Capital Strategic Plan.

Mission Support Alliance (MSA)

Bob Wilkinson, MSA, explained that MSA has taken a lead role working with Connect Tri-Cities events and other activities to continue to identify talent in a competitive market. MSA has participated in job fairs with specific emphasis on local high school and middle school students, as well as STEM programs and university students. MSA has offered resume and interview preparation assistance. MSA has also reached out to veterans because they have a rigorous ethic.

MSA has about 2,000 employees with about 30 percent that are retirement eligible. They would like to identify talent that can be developed through workforce planning, internships, apprenticeship programs and other opportunities.

Bechtel

Valerie McCain, Bechtel National Inc., explained that they are deep in the start-up and commissioning activities at the vitrification plant to get ready for commissioning. That means the Bechtel workforce is in transition.

⁴ [The Hanford Workforce: Collaboration for the Future](#)

With respect to Bechtel's current and future workforce, the workforce is currently a blend within which the skill mix is shifting. For example, design and construction management is transitioning to increased facility management for the plant. Bechtel identifies gaps in electrical engineering, control techs, technical writers, and project controls.

Similar to the other contractors, Bechtel is working at similar initiatives participating in career fairs, STEM activities, partnering with Columbia Basin College (especially for laboratory techs), and partnering with the building trades.

CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC)

Ty Blackford, CHPRC, shared that the company has about 1,800 employees of which 32 percent are eligible for retirement now or in the next 1-3 years. It needs to both attract experienced people and fill the pipeline for positions. The company is working to get resources similarly to the other companies, including STEM programs.

One of CHPRC's programs involves taking volunteers who are employees at the Hanford site who spend time with students engaged in specific activities. One of the examples is HAB member Becky Holland, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council, who is working with students from Chiawana High School. When that program began, only 10 percent of the students knew what Hanford was because they had parents who worked on the site. Programs like this help give visibility to careers that students may not have considered before but in which they are now interested.

Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS)

John Eschenberg, WRPS, explained that his company's demographics are very similar to those described by other Hanford contractors. WRPS used the same approaches to recruiting employees, and onboard 50 interns a year from all over the country. This adds value to the workforce because recruiting efforts are nationwide and promote increasing diversity. WRPS also recruits veterans.

The company offers competitive salaries and great benefits which contributed to employee retention. WRPS onboard 40-50 people a month, and John speaks to every new hire. He explained that he wants to instill a high level of pride in the work WRPS does and how much the work matters. The workforce is dedicated, dependable, and have transportable skills. The Tri-Cities is a great place to live, too. As an example, WRPS received 600-800 applications for 40-50 technical jobs.

WRPS enjoys the designation as being the safest company in the DOE Environmental Management complex.

Santos Ortega, DOE, wrapped up the presentations by noting that DOE and its contractors welcome HAB assistance in spreading the word that there are great opportunities to work at the Hanford site.

Agency Perspectives

Suzanne Dahl, Ecology, shared that the Ecology office has a workforce of 58 women and 42 men. Ecology also wants to be an employer of choice although it cannot compete with the salaries offered elsewhere. Instead, Ecology offers a work culture that values work/life balance and flexibility in work schedules.

Ecology staff reach out to both middle and high schools. It also supports STEM at all grade levels and through presentations to schools. In addition to career fairs, it is looking for more opportunities for recruiting employees.

Board Questions and Discussion

Multiple board members expressed appreciation of the presentations and attention to workforce issues. There was a suggestion to reach out to tribal communities. Other members spoke of their family members who were seeking work. Some commented on the importance of retaining institutional knowledge between generations of workers.

Members commented that they believed that mentoring programs with local schools and universities had high value. Santos Ortega, DOE, noted that there were a couple of mentoring programs with Washington State University (WSU) and Columbia Basin College whose funding was cut a few years ago when DOE Headquarters determined that they were not a part of environmental cleanup even though the programs were considered very successful. Valerie McCain, Bechtel, noted that there will be increased needs for chemists and technicians to staff laboratories as operations start up.

Sometimes in the past, people have been offered monetary incentives to retire or to leave an organization. The question was raised as to whether or not contractors or other organizations were considering incentives to entice employees to stay longer instead of retiring. Ty Blackford, CHPRC, explained that there is an option to look at retention in the event of a critical need.

There was a discussion on maintaining institutional knowledge and training. Brian Vance, DOE, described Training Tuesdays on which there were two hours designated for training for the purpose of bridging knowledge gaps. There will also be contract transition training. The contractors also have internal training programs for succession planning. Bob Wilkinson, MSA, added that the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) training center is a big part of this. Brian Vance also emphasized the importance of an increased safety culture on site.

Questions were raised about how Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts would work from a workforce perspective to support cleanup work moving forward towards project completion. Brian Vance, DOE, explained that it requires a sophisticated level of coordination and integration of work to leverage the workforce appropriately.

The last part of the discussion focused on how to communicate and promote the Tri-Cities as an attractive community for Hanford employees.

Draft Advice: 100-BC Proposed Plan

Tom Sicilia, Oregon Department of Energy and lead issue manager for the 100-BC Proposed Plan draft advice⁵, introduced the draft advice for Board consideration. HAB Advice #296 also addressed the 100-BC area and is a part of this new draft advice.

Dave Einan, EPA, clarified that the year referenced in the advice is not in the 30,000-range but rather in the 10,000-year range.

⁵ [100-B/C Proposed Plan](#)

The Board had a lively discussion regarding timeframes and the dates in the draft advice, particularly as it related to the period of institutional controls. Some Board members strongly opposed specifically identifying a year in the draft advice that was so far out in time. There were also concerns raised about the portion of the advice that recommended signage concerning the long-term risks in the national park. One of the concerns was unduly scaring people away from the Tri-Cities or from visiting the national park. Others emphasized the importance of helping the public know that there was contamination farther down in the ground that would take many, many years to decay. Board members wrestled with how to communicate danger, including the use of symbols and signs, over such a long period of time to future generations.

There was general agreement that it is important to tell the story of Hanford and its cleanup. In addition, this advice is time sensitive as the comment period for the 100-BC Proposed Plan was scheduled to end just a few days after the Board meeting. Dave Einan, EPA, clarified that EPA would consider any HAB advice on the topic even if it came in outside of the public comment period.

On December 4, Tom Sicilia (Oregon Department of Energy and 100-BC lead issue manager), Pam Larsen (City of Richland), Paige Knight (Hanford Watch), and Tony Umek (Tri-City Development Council) agreed to craft alternate wording for the advice to be considered by the Board on December 5. Jeff Burrig, Oregon Department of Energy and Chair of the Public Involvement and Communications (PIC) Committee offered to bring the issue of signage and telling the Hanford cleanup story to the PIC Committee for further discussion.

On December 5, the HAB adopted the advice on the 100-BC Proposed Plan by consensus.

EM SSAB Chairs Meeting Recommendation on Disposition and Transport of Nuclear Material

Susan Leckband, HAB Chair, introduced the recommendation⁶ on December 4.

In response to Board member questions about a national repository, Shelley Cimon, Columbia Riverkeeper and HAB Vice Chair, explained that the issue is difficult in Nevada because of the issues that have historically surrounding Yucca Mountain. Ken Niles, Oregon Department of Energy, made a presentation on transportation to the October 2019 EM SSAB meeting which could also be made to the HAB or one of its committees.

There was also discussion about packaging waste, waste characterization, and waste acceptance criteria for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico and how it influences transportation issues. Other forms of waste were also identified. The bullets in the EM SSAB recommendation expand to include spent fuel and other forms of waste.

The HAB approved the EM SSAB recommendation on December 5, 2019 and authorized the Board Chair to sign it on behalf of the HAB.

Committee of the Whole (COTW)

⁶ [Recommendation on the Disposition and Transport of Nuclear Material](#)

The discussion began with a look back at the October COTW and the Hanford Site 5 Year Plan “placemat”⁷ document. Jim Lynch, DOE, explained the intent of the placemat was to highlight the Hanford cleanup mission and key operations for accomplishing it. The symbols for various parts of the mission were carried throughout the document to tie the planning document together and paint an integrated picture of how key activities will happen over time.

Many Board members expressed their appreciation of the placemat, its layout, and the information it contains. The Board also appreciated DOE senior leadership participating in the October COTW and the quality of the DFLAW tour earlier that week.

Board members made some suggestions and observations about the placemat.

- One wanted to see a critical path schedule.
- The placemat could be better used by the public if it contained a glossary to define acronyms.
- For the activities listed across the bottom, add some kind of time frame so that people can know when to expect certain things to happen.
- Add the Hanford.gov website.
- Where do the German high-level waste glass logs fit in? This was a program from 1997 that is at a finer level than the larger activities listed on the placemat.

As the discussion transitioned to focusing on future COTWs, some Board members reflected that the Hanford Site 5 Year Plan topic was not the type of topic they envisioned for a COTW. The Board discussion and interaction about workforce issues seemed like a better fit for a COTW. Jim Lynch, DOE, clarified that DOE wants constructive dialogue.

The Board discussed possible topics for future COTWs⁸:

- Long-term stewardship and institutional controls
- Future use, end states, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), the Inner Area Principles, including what it will take to get there
- Legacy management
- Performance assessment and how things have been done on the Hanford site
- Risk, including a common definition, how it is measured, how to compare different types of risk, and how it is incorporated into cleanup
- What if we used the C Farm closure as a case study example that would enable us to discuss end states and risk-related topics?
- Burial grounds, including SW-2.

The discussion wrapped up with Board members requesting increased collaboration in designing future COTWs. Susan Leckband, HAB Chair, said that the conversation about future COTW topics will be discussed by the Executive Issues Committee (EIC) and a proposal will be brought to the next Board meeting.

Closing Comments on December 4

⁷ [The Hanford Site 5 Year Plan](#)

⁸ [Potential Committee of the Whole Meeting Topics](#)

JoLynn Garcia, DOE, announced that the next HAB member appointment package is due to DOE Headquarters on January 14, 2020. She asked Board members to get information to DOE as soon as possible.

Susan Leckband, HAB Chair, invited all to join the Board's 25th anniversary celebration at 6:00 pm in the back of the meeting room.

HAB Committee Reports

Tank Waste Committee (TWC)

Bob Suyama, Benton County and TWC Chair, described the topics the committee had addressed in its October TWC meeting and November joint meeting with the Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection (HSEP) Committee, including:

- Waste Management Area C,
- Vince Panesko's white paper on lateral flow,
- System Plan 9,
- Grout and the formation of an Issue Manager (IM) team,
- A/AX single shell tank farm retrieval,
- Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF),
- Tank Vapors,
- Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF), and
- Tank Integrity Panel.

Bob Suyama described the October 16 DFLAW tour and the November 4 DOE and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) tour of the PNNL grout facilities. Steve Wiegman, Public-at-Large and TWC Vice Chair suggested that a tour for the full HAB to the PNNL grout facilities would be good.

In November, General Accounting Office (GAO) staff were at Hanford and interviewed a number of members of TWC.

Topics for the TWC January meeting are anticipated to be more work on grout and review of the next revision of the white paper on lateral flow.

River and Plateau (RAP) Committee

Jan Catrell, Public-at-Large and RAP Chair, explained that the committee has been concentrating on the Central Plateau, groundwater, and other related matters. There was a short meeting in October at which RAP began work on the 100-BC Proposed Plan draft advice.

In November, RAP continued work on the 100-BC Proposed Plan draft advice, as well as having updates on PFP, 100 Area groundwater, 200 West pump and treat, and WESF.

Looking forward, RAP wants to identify a representative for the IM team working on Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Cleanup Priority Advice and to hear more about ERDF, the 324 Building, the Canyons, and 618-11. It would like a committee call in December to plan for its January meeting.

Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection (HSEP) Committee

Becky Holland, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and HSEP Chair, explained that the November joint meeting with TWC included a discussion on tank vapors and the new equipment being used. HSEP is also discussing developing a new piece of draft of advice on traffic safety. Both tFPF and the 324 Building are of interest to the committee.

Public Involvement and Communications (PIC) Committee

Jeff Burrig, Oregon Department of Energy and PIC Chair, reviewed the committee's work from its December meeting before the HAB meeting. Topics included:

- TPA public involvement calendar, including current and upcoming public comment periods,
- Future land use and how that filters down to cleanup decisions,
- Review of the Hanford Site 5 Year Plan "placemat", uses of the piece, and suggestions for improvement,
- Review of Hanford Live,
- The HAB regional meeting and Hanford Regional Dialogue recommended for April in Seattle, and
- Diversity and outreach, including lessons learned in identifying communities with which we want to connect.

Budgets and Contracts Committee (BCC)

Tom Galioto, Public-at-Large and BCC Chair, explained that BCC is working to bring draft advice on FY2022 cleanup priorities to the February Board meeting. At the BCC joint meeting with PIC, they talked about the cleanup priority draft advice and the BCC resource material list.

Contracts/Budgets:

- 1) EM Major Procurement Actions (with links to specific contract documents):
<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2019/05/f62/EM-Major-Procurements-Chart-05-10-19.pdf>
- 2) Environmental Management website (for general info on EM organization and activities):
<https://www.emcbc.doe.gov>
- 3) Federal Budget Timeline (from Presentation by DOE Budget Director [Mark Coronado] to BCC, March 2018)
https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/Budget_overview_for_HAB_March_2018_final.pdf
- 4) DOE Procurement Process Review notes (from presentation by DOE Acquisitions personnel [Jenise Connerly, Tim Corbett, Marcy Aplet-Zelen] to BCC, April 11, 2018)
Available from T.Galioto (not posted on Hanford.gov website, and no link exists for this material to date)
- 5) DOE Procurement Process Review presentation notes (from DOE Acquisitions personnel [Karen Flynn] at the Nov 8, 2018 BCC meeting
<https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/BCCNov8.pdf>
- 6) HAB Committee of the Whole (COTW), "FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND 2018 HANFORD BUDGET PRIORITIES, dated March 16.
https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/2016_0316_COTW_summary.pdf

General Info:

7) DOE Hanford website:

<https://www.hanford.gov/>

8) HAB website: (can also get to it through DOE Hanford website/Outreach/Hanford Advisory Board):

For HAB Advice/DOE Responses, Committee Membership, Meeting Minutes, Documents, Annual HAB Schedule, etc

<https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab>

9) Current HAB/BCC Annual Workplan: (for FY-2020)

https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/FY2020_FINAL_HAB_Work_Plan_10_1_19.pdf

10) Current HAB Calendar: (for FY-2020)

https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/2020_FINAL_HAB_Calendar_10_1_19.pdf

11) New Member Orientation package, including HAB-Related Acronyms Provided through DOE/HAB Facilitation Team (Prosidian)

12) Paper, "The Hanford Advisory Board: Democratic Participation in Technical, Bureaucratic Decision-Making," Alex Sager (Portland State University) and Alex Zakaras (University of Vermont), SSRN-id2105113, date unknown. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2105113

Hanford Legal Documents:

13) TPA Agreement website:

<https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/TriParty/TheAgreement>

OR:

<http://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/HFFACO.pdf> This is a searchable pdf file kept current with real-time approved changes

14) Consent Decree website:

https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/Amended_CD1.pdf

Critical Reports/Documents:

15) CRESP Report website (Hanford Site-wide Risk Review Project):

<http://www.cresp.org/hanford/>

16) GAO Report GAO-19-28, "Program-Wide Strategy and Better Reporting Needed to Address Growing Environmental Cleanup Liability," dated January 2019.

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/696632.pdf>

17) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report, "*Independent Assessment of Science and Technology for the Department of Energy's Defense Environmental Cleanup Program*," dated 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.17226/25338>

18) Transmittal of Report DOE/RL-2018-45, "2019 Hanford Lifecycle Scope, Schedule and Cost Report," dated January 2019.

https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/2019_Hanford_Lifecycle_Report_w-Transmittal_Letter.pdf

Upcoming committee work includes convening the IM team for the FY2022 cleanup priority advice by mid-December and gathering information on the new IDIQ contracts.

The Board suggested that BCC have a meeting in January following the RAP and TWC meetings in order to compile the input on the FY2022 cleanup priority draft advice. The request was made that two BCC items be added to the agendas for both RAP and TWC:

- Input on the FY2022 cleanup priority advice,
- Input on Workforce draft advice.

National Liaison

Pam Larsen, City of Richland and HAB National Liaison, provided a report⁹ to the Board.

DOE Headquarters

The Senate confirmed Dan Brouillette to be Secretary of Energy on November 19, 2019. He has held a number of key positions with DOE since 2001. He has indicated that Hanford ranks at the top of his priority list.

Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

A new agreement requires that 25 spent nuclear fuel rods from the Byron Power Plant in Illinois can only be shipped to INL when one canister of waste is safely processed at the INL Steam Reforming Facility. The agreement also requires that 55 percent of shipments to WIPP must be from Idaho. Most of the transuranic waste at INL was sent there from other sites. Connie Flohr is serving as the acting site manager following the departure of Jack Zimmerman who is now heading the Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center in Ohio.

Portsmouth

Citizens have filed two federal lawsuits regarding the Gaseous Diffusion Plan and the alleged failure to contain radioactive contamination.

Oak Ridge

DOE is continuing to evaluate the approach for the Molten Salt Reactor experiment that could involve removing above-ground structures and encasing below-ground structures in grout. There is also a study that could take three years regarding the feasibility of entombment and other options regarding residual fuel salts. Thorium is being extracted from the U-233 inventory to support cancer treatment research.

Savannah River Site

The site is struggling with the rate of employee retirement. In 2019, the site hired 250 new employees to replace retirees. They are also ramping up for the startup of the Sale Waste Processing Facility which is due to begin waste treatment in 2020.

National Academies Panel

⁹ [National Liaison Report](#)

The panel studying the supplemental treatment of Low-Activity Waste (LAW) at Hanford extended its comment deadline until November 20. This study was required by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act as a parallel to the Savannah River study. The Savannah River study concluded that vitrification, grout, and steam reforming are all viable options for treatment and disposal of LAW.

EMSSAB

Susan Leckband, HAB Chair, announced that Ike White is now EM1 (the head of the DOE Environmental Management program). Susan shared that Ike has a lot of field experience. Priorities include getting tank waste cleaned up across the DOE complex. Identifying and communicating success stories encourages continued investment in cleanup.

Other issues in the complex include:

- Major contracts to be awarded across sites in the complex,
- How to apply the definition and interpretation of high-level waste, and
- Waste Control Specialists in Texas has expressed interest in receiving waste.

The two EM SSAB recommendations that were considered by the HAB and other sites were developed by Susan Leckband, HAB Chair, and Shelley Cimon, HAB Vice Chair. In addition, they shared the Hanford Site 5 Year Plan “placemat” with the other SSABs, many of whom were impressed with the piece.

Draft Advice on Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Cleanup Priorities

Tom Galioto, TWC Chair, explained the new approach to developing what has formerly been called HAB budget advice. DOE has requested a change in approach for the advice for FY2022 to concentrate on cleanup priorities rather than dollar and requested funding amounts.

BCC would like each HAB committee to designate a representative to the IM team developing the draft advice. It is hoped a first draft of the advice will be available by late December so that it can be considered at committee meetings in January and presented to the full Board in February. Committee representatives were identified as:

- Liz Mattson, PIC
- Shelley Cimon, HAB vice chair
- Bob Suyama, TWC
- Becky Holland, HSEP
- Tom Sicilia, RAP

Not all Board members are comfortable with prioritizing cleanup activities as they are concerned that identifying priorities could be misinterpreted that some activities are not a priority.

Board Business

Jim Lynch, DOE, announced that the new Hanford Site Mission Essential Services contract was awarded on December 5 while the Board was meeting.

Possible topics identified for the February HAB meeting include:

- Draft advice on FY2022 Cleanup Priorities
- Draft advice on Workforce issues
- Recommended meetings in Seattle: HAB regional meeting and Hanford Regional Dialogue
- White paper on lateral flow from TWC
- Presentation on transportation from Ken Niles, including possible relationship to shipping grout off-site
- Update on the HAB membership appointment package

The discussion wrapped up with a reminder that HAB committee leadership selections¹⁰ for chair and vice chair are due in the March 2020 time frame, dependent on committee meeting schedules.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Hanford Advisory Board Agency Update

Attachment 2: Department of Ecology Agency Update

Attachment 3: Recommendation on Improving EM SSAB and Public Engagement in the DOE Environmental Management Budget Process

Attachment 4: The Hanford Workforce: Collaboration for the Future

Attachment 5: Draft Advice on 100-BC Proposed Plan

Attachment 6: Recommendation on the Disposition and Transport of Nuclear Material

Attachment 7: The Hanford Site 5 Year Plan

Attachment 8: Potential Committee of the Whole Topics

Attachment 9: National Liaison Report – December 2019

Attachment 10: Hanford Advisory Board - Selection of Committee Leadership

Attendees

Board Members and Alternates:

Susan Leckband, Member	Shelley Cimon, Member	Pam Larsen, Member
Fred Brink, Member	Richard Bloom, Alternate	Bob Suyama, Member
Larry Lockrem, Alternate	Mike Korenko, Alternate	Phil Lemley, Alternate
Rebecca Holland, Member	Tom Carpenter, Alternate	Jacob Reynolds, Alternate
Emmitt Jackson, Member	Dan Solitz, Alternate	Ken Niles, Member
Tom Sicilia, Alternate	Janice Catrell, Member	Rudy Mendoza, Alternate
Steve Wiegman, Member	David Bolingbroke, Member	Tom Galioto, Member
Gene Van Liew, Member	Paige Knight, Member	Antone Brooks, Member

¹⁰ [Hanford Advisory Board Selection of Committee Leadership](#)

Kristie Baptiste-Eke, Member	Robert Davis, Member	Margery Swint, Alternate
Chuck Torelli, Member	Ed Pacheco, Alternate	Mohamed Osman, Member
Tony Umek, Member	Helen Wheatley, Member (Phone)	Jeff Burright, Alternate (Phone)
Liz Mattson, Member (Phone)		

Agency, Contractor, and Support Staff:

JoLynn Garcia, DOE-ORP	Jim Lynch, DOE-ORP	Brian Vance, DOE
Earl Fordham, WA DOH	John Price, Ecology	Brian Stickney, DOE
Mark Heeter, DOE	Jeff Frey, DOE	Bill Hamel, DOE
Brian Harkins, DOE-ORP	Tom Fletcher, DOE-ORP	Dave Einan, EPA
Ginger Wireman, Ecology	Anne Knapp, Ecology	Ryan Miller, Ecology
Randy Bradbury, Ecology	Dieter Bohrmann, CHPRC	Ty Blackford, CHPRC
Renee Brooks, MSA	Jen Colborn, MSA	Dib Goswami, Ecology
Lindsay Strasser, Northwind	Coleen Drinkard, MSA	Mike Priddy, WA DOH
Dana Gribble, MSA	Ashley Herring, Facilitation Team, ProSidian	Ruth Nicholson, Facilitator, ProSidian
George Rangel, Bechtel		

Members of the Public:

Maynard Plahuta	Annette Cary	
Linda Maiden (Phone)	Usama Zaher (Phone)	Gary Younger (Phone)
Kelsey Shank (Phone)		