



HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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US Environmental
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Washington State
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Re: Reinvesting in Hanford Public Engagement

Dear Mr. Shoop, Mr. Vance, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Einan,

Since the inception of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) in 1994, public engagement has been recognized by the HAB and the Tri-Party Agencies (the Agencies) as an important factor in the success of Hanford cleanup efforts (see references 1-27). Initial efforts by the Agencies to educate the general public on Hanford cleanup activities, and to provide mechanisms for meaningful public involvement in cleanup directions and decisions, were pursued aggressively. However, the infrequency of public meetings and meaningful outreach over the past few years shows a trend towards devaluing the importance of public involvement at Hanford. This letter is an invitation to reverse that trend and reinvest in public involvement.

A core value of the HAB as expressed in 2012 states: "Hanford cleanup decisions can have impacts on people and the environment for hundreds of years to come. The public should have meaningful opportunities to influence cleanup decisions through open and transparent processes."

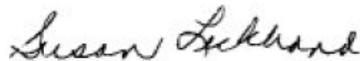
We recognize the opportunity for you as a leadership team, with the recent appointment of Mr. Vance and Mr. Einan to management positions, to bring new energy and attention to public involvement efforts at Hanford. As a first step to directly involve the broader public, create opportunities for dialogue, solicit input and provide meaningful information about Hanford activities, consistent with past HAB advice and recommendations. The HAB would

like the Agencies to consider leading the following public engagement activities and meetings this current fiscal year and continuing thereafter.

- **Regional HAB Meeting:** Convene and ensure funding for at least one regional HAB full board meeting per year, with an evening session covering a Hanford topic such as PFP contamination, PUREX Tunnels, or Direct Feed Low Activity Waste. The additional cost to hold a full HAB meeting regionally instead of in the Tri-Cities is insignificant when viewed from the perspective of the overall Hanford budget. It also provides a platform from which to reach and engage the broader public.
- **Regional Hanford Dialogue Meetings:** Hold a series of in-person Hanford Dialogue meetings around the region, using a format that provides for significant opportunities for public interaction. We recognize that the wide-range of topics of interest and unpredictable nature of these meetings can be challenging for management, however, there is great advantage to DOE, WA Department of Ecology and EPA in fostering a higher level of public knowledge, understanding, and trust to build support for Hanford cleanup.
- **Budget Priorities Meeting:** Hold a detailed Hanford budget review meeting with the full HAB (in the March-April timeframe each year, to assure timely HAB Advice and public comment) covering the current fiscal year and planning for the next two fiscal years. We recognize there are significant budget uncertainties because of Congress' failure to pass an annual budget, yet the discussion is still an important one to have. This budget review should NOT be limited to a presentation at a mid-day HAB meeting when most of the broader public cannot attend.
- **Strategic Plan for Public Involvement:** Establish a strategic plan to identify and implement public involvement activities and update the plan each year as an activity in the Annual Work Plans.
- **Public Involvement Survey Report:** Provide a detailed public report in a timely fashion summarizing results of surveys identified in the Public Involvement Plan, including the annual survey and other periodic public surveys conducted during public meetings and comment periods. Please include what actions the Agencies will take to resolve any identified concerns.

The HAB welcomes each of you and looks forward to positive interactions to increase the opportunities for information sharing and HAB and public engagement to support a safe and effective Hanford cleanup. We would be happy to discuss the details of this letter with you at your convenience and would appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,



Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

Enclosure

cc: Jim Owendoff, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
David Borak, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Kyle Rankin, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
James Lynch, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
The Oregon and Washington Delegations

Appendix A

References (The following references can be found at www.hanford.gov)

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2. HAB Consensus Advice #25, "Consolidating Public Involvement Activities," dated June 7, 1995. https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/HAB_Advice25.pdf
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10. HAB Consensus Advice #161, "Diversity Outreach," dated June 4, 2004.
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14. HAB Consensus Advice #239, "Incorporating Public Involvement Strategic Planning into the Community Relations Plan," dated November 5, 2010.
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15. HAB Consensus Advice #240, "U.S. Department of Energy's Open Government Plan and the Hanford Community Relations Plan," dated February 11, 2011.
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17. HAB Consensus Advice #261, "2013 State of the Site Meetings," dated September 7, 2012. https://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/HABAdv_261.pdf
18. HAB Consensus Advice #291, "State of the Site Meetings and Technical Webinars," dated December 8, 2016.
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