



MEETING SUMMARY

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB)

Full Board Virtual Meeting – Teleconference and GoToMeeting

October 7 - 8, 2020

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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.

Opening

Executive Summary

Hanford Advisory Board (Board or HAB) Action

The HAB adopted its Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan.

The HAB adopted its Fiscal Year 2021 Calendar.

There were two pieces of advice adopted at the October Board meeting:

- #307 – Effective Virtual Public Meetings
- #308 – B Plant

Public Comment

There were two public comment periods offered at the October meeting, one on each day. There were two public comments received on the first day. There was no public comment made on the second day.

Opening

James Lynch, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO) for the Board, noted that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). He explained that this was his last meeting as DDFO and expressed his appreciation for the work done by the HAB.

Susan Leckband, League of Women Voters and HAB chair, welcomed members to the Hanford Advisory Board meeting. She especially welcomed the newly appointed members and expressed regret that she would not be able to greet them in person over breakfast, as is tradition. She thanked all the people who made this online meeting possible and reminded participants to use the chat box to help communicate during the meeting.

Susan went on to announce that nominations are open for the two-year terms for HAB chair, vice chair, and national liaison. The two-year terms start in 2021.

Ruth Nicholson, HAB facilitator, reviewed the agenda and how the meeting was adapted to a virtual, online format.

The HAB approved the HAB summary for its June 2020 meeting. Tom Sicilia, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) asked that his presentation providing background on the B Plant advice be included as a link in the summary and posted on the Hanford.gov website. Susan Leckband emphasized that anything presented at a HAB meeting should be a part of the official record. Shelley Cimon, Columbia Riverkeeper and HAB vice chair, asked why HAB members were not sent handouts of the agency presentations for this meeting because it is helpful to have those in hand not just on screen during the meeting.

The new manager of ODOE, Max Woods, was on the line for his first HAB meeting. Dana Cowley, Mission Support Alliance (MSA), clarified that he would be included in the next HAB membership packet for formal appointment to replace Ken Niles, ODOE, who retired last August. Appointment of new members takes a while to be processed through DOE-Headquarters.

Gary Younger, DOE, provided the names of the newly appointed HAB members in the CHAT box:

Patrick Pittenger

John Trumbo

Nickolas Bumpaous

Armand Minthorn

Mason Murphy

Jill-Marie Gavin

Amber Waldref

Daniel Strom

Steve March

Michael Mays

Steve Anderson

Leslie Koenig

Susan Coleman

Steve Rowley

Larry Haler

Dori Gilmour

Chris Sutton.

Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Agency Updates

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Brian Vance, DOE, explained that he wanted to focus his remarks on progress in 2020 and the outlook for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY2021). He introduced Brian Stickney who is the Acting Manager for the Richland Operations Office replacing Joe Franco. Ben Harp, Manager for the Office of River Protection, was unable to attend the HAB meeting.

The March-May 2020 timeframe was Phase 1 at Hanford. From May 26 until today, we have been in Phase 2. In Phase 1, we focused very heavily on the health and safety of the workforce and managed the hazards on site. Communications on site and with the community and local health care providers have been a key concern on both a daily and weekly basis. Our control and availability of personal protective equipment has become more robust as time has progressed.

DOE is focused on Thursday communications so the workforce knows what to expect in the upcoming week regarding remobilization. Contractors have been innovative to find ways to make progress in spite of COVID conditions to make sure workers are safe. There has been return to work training for employees to ensure they are up to speed on expectations and protocols.

Controls were not relaxed when we entered Phase 2. As of September 3rd, we are roughly 50% back at work on site. We are working together to bridge those on site and those who are still teleworking. Over the summer, we worked to make sure that expectations were well-understood. Communications remains very important. For example, we have one call a week that is specifically focused on talking about COVID across the DOE complex so that site managers can share lessons learned.

The Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) work represents the largest budget in Hanford's cleanup history in Fiscal Year 2020. It is critical that we demonstrate cleanup progress. All of the critical path is physical work which has been impacted, but the work has still been remarkably successful. The Tank-

Side Cesium Removal concrete pads and road have been completed. Permitting for DFLAW has progressed. The new water treatment plan was completed.

Looking at risk reduction, the pump and treat program has exceeded its goal of treating two billion gallons. The lock up work of stabilizing underground structures at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) was completed. Waste retrieval in the AX tank farms progressed. There has been a lot of progress in spite of the challenges due to COVID. Brian also recognized Hanford fire and utilities programs that ensured that the site was safe for people to continue their daily work.

Four major contract awards have been announced. MSA started contract transition in August. The new Central Plateau contract kicked off in October.

Looking forward to FY2021, the PFP project will be completed. Work will continue on cutting the floor at the 324 Building, and K Basins and reactors are on the road for interim stabilization. DOE wants to remain engaged with the community to continue to protect workers and strive for a culture of excellence in project delivery to support the Hanford cleanup mission.

Brian said that he was proud of what DOE and its contracting team has accomplished in the challenging year of 2020. Safe, efficient cleanup progress is critical, as is funding to continue to make progress.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Alex Smith, Ecology, provided a regulatory update. She started by explaining that in early 2019, DOE notified Ecology of some risk associated with meeting some Consent Decree milestones related to the Waste Treatment Plant. Ecology proposed that the agencies engage in negotiations to look at the entirety of waste treatment which the agencies are calling holistic negotiations. They are currently engaged in these negotiations with assistance from a federal mediator. The agencies cannot discuss the substance of these negotiations.

With regard to the M-91 series of milestones, the current deadline to ship transuranic and mixed waste to New Mexico is not achievable because the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) was shut down for a while. The entire national schedule has been delayed and the WIPP closing date has been extended from 2030 to 2050.

Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) negotiations are underway regarding Central Plateau milestones which were delayed due to inadequate federal funding for the work in recent years. The objectives are to implement early actions, accelerate cleanup, and ensure consistent remedies for similar waste sites.

Alex reviewed a list of inspections and compliance reports for a wide variety of Hanford sites between June and September 2020. She also talked about the ambient air quality boundary that is used for construction application modelling for Hanford. The agencies signed a memorandum of agreement in July delineating a revised ambient air quality boundary.

Ecology has been very busy with permitting for various facilities DOE is constructing, including DFLAW. All Ecology staff is working from home, but draft permit information is available on the Ecology website.

Alex announced that she is leaving her position at Ecology on October 31 to take a position at another state agency. Ecology is currently recruiting nationwide to fill her program manager position. She thanked the HAB, and especially Susan Leckband as chair, for working diligently on Hanford cleanup.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Calvin Terada, Director of EPA Superfund and Emergency Management Division, thanked Alex Smith for her work and wished her well in her future endeavors. Calvin explained that he began work in his current position last April and offers a background in environmental health. Cleanup progress has been a high priority for EPA since the TPA was signed in 1989. EPA's office in Richland plays a critical role in this. Dave Einan, EPA, is working hard to increase EPA's staff in Richland who he hopes to have in place by the end of the year.

EPA's priorities include protecting the river corridor and accomplishing work on the Central Plateau. Calvin expressed his gratitude to Brian Vance and his team of DOE and contract workers who are addressing contaminated groundwater in the river corridor and the Central Plateau.

HAB Discussion

HAB members asked about COVID response and for numbers of workers tested and positive test results. They expressed concern about how site workers are notified about co-workers who have tested positive

because some employees are not notified. Instead, they hear about positive test results of their co-workers through unofficial or informal channels. Brian Vance explained that he gets a report every morning on COVID numbers across the state that shows trends and hospital bed availability. At the Hanford site, there have been 596 negative test results and 175 confirmed positive test results. Brian emphasized that it is important for employees to raise their concerns with their employers.

Another question concerned the U.S. Department of Justice recent settlement on a False Claims Act case regarding fraud in timecards. Brian described the requirement on contractors to develop and implement an ethical program similar to the safety program in order to reinforce ethical behavior across the Hanford site. DOE has created a reporting system and internal federal process to ensure contractors understand expectations. Contractors are held accountable.

Alex Smith said she would look into a question about the 242-A Evaporator because it represents a single point of failure, but the Ecology permit will not be finished until months after the Evaporator upgrades. The concern was getting the permit done in a timely manner.

A question was asked about the ambient air boundary and why there was no public comment on its revision. It was followed by a question about extensions of TPA time periods which have a single public meeting or only a 30-day comment period when some people would like more time to consider these critical issues. Alex Smith explained that some of the public comment periods have not yet been set, and she will take the concerns back to Ecology staff.

Another question about the air quality boundary was focused on the size of the air quality boundary as the Hanford site footprint got smaller and whether the air quality boundary was then effectively keeping the public out of a larger area than the footprint. Alex Smith explained that it basically comes down to a trade off for the air quality goal that for whatever is being emitted on site, the public can safely breathe the air at some more distant point. The boundary has to be enforceable, so it is possible to remove people from an area, if necessary.

In response to how the Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracting process is working, Brian Vance explained that the early stages of transition are going well. Much of the scope is a continuation of work that is already being done, so the full benefits will not be apparent for a while or until projects are closed out. DOE has staggered the contract transitions because the paperwork takes time.

HAB members asked Alex Smith what she thought the biggest challenges are for Hanford in general and for Ecology in particular. Alex said that one of the biggest challenges is funding. While the work on waste treatment is exciting, there are also questions on how it will be treated. We should get a clearer picture in the next few years.

Public Comment

Rebecca Parker asked what can we do better with respect to COVID? Because the virus is airborne, it is a concern for her when they are in small trailers on the Hanford site. Even though workers are six feet apart, there was not active ventilation. She expressed concern that the virus particles tend to float around in the air longer. She said they wore cotton masks, but the masks did not protect workers from the small

COVID particles. She asked if they could add more ventilation. She wanted to make sure that things were done safely without rushing. She is really scared to be working on site.

Armand Minthorn, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, thanked the TPA agency presenters. He noted that they gave good information and updates on the work, but none of the three presenters mentioned anything about the tribes. He would like them to be engaged with the tribes so the tribes are fully updated and engaged in Hanford cleanup.

HAB Work Plan and Calendar for FY2021

Susan Leckband opened the discussion and invited each of the HAB committee chairs to comment on their respective sections of the draft HAB work plan. Carrie Meyer, DOE, explained that the way DOE constructed the work plan was to focus on what DOE believes would be constructive policy-level input from the HAB. DOE recognizes that if issues emerge, the work plan can be amended because it is a living document.

Bob Suyama, Benton County and Tank Waste Committee (TWC) chair, and Steve Wiegman, Public-at-Large and TWC vice chair, indicated that the HAB work plan looked good to them. Steve said that he was still not totally clear what “actionable advice” is.

Jan Catrell, League of Women Voters and River and Plateau Committee (RAP) chair, confirmed that the HAB work plan appeared to cover everything of interest to RAP. Jan indicated that the Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF) could be a joint topic with TWC if it was going to be a repository for vitrified low-activity tank waste. Tom Sicilia, ODOE and RAP vice chair, observed that RAP can work with what is in the work plan to work on groundwater treatment options and issues around the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF).

In response to a question about items in the work plan Holding Bin, Carrie Meyer explained that Holding Bin topics are items on which DOE expects to brief the HAB but is not sure at what level. The suggestion was to add in System Plan 9. Carrie said she would investigate the emergency pumping plan and if it should be added as well. Emy Laija, EPA, did not have anything to add to the pumping plan issue. Ginger Wireman, Ecology, indicated she would check on the pumping plan with her colleagues at Ecology.

Another suggested addition was double-shell tank space management. There was discussion about whether this should be added as a regular topic in the work plan or placed in the Holding Bin.

Jeff Burreight, ODOE and PIC chair, reviewed the Outreach items in the work plan. There were no issues of concern raised.

Tom Galioto, Public-at-Large and Budgets and Contracts Committee (BCC) chair, congratulated DOE for including cross-cutting budget issues in the work plan. The discussion focused on the ability to share the analytical building blocks since DOE got its hands slapped last year for releasing embargoed information. There is disagreement between some HAB members and DOE about what is appropriately embargoed information, including analytical building blocks and the Integrated Priority List. A number of HAB members are also openly uncomfortable with providing advice to DOE with a ranked cleanup priority list.

Becky Holland, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee (HSEP) chair, reviewed the topics for the HSEP committee. She raised a concern about COVID response in that it affects everything but right now fits best with HSEP. The topic of worker health and safety was augmented with a list of sub-topics like pandemics, contract transitions and worker stress.

The morning of the second day of the meeting, a quorum was confirmed, and the HAB adopted the FY2021 Work Plan by consensus. It also adopted the FY2021 Calendar by consensus.

HAB Advice: B Plant

Jan Catrell gave an overview of the B Plant draft advice. Richard Bloom, City of West Richland and HSEP vice chair, expressed significant concern about the classification of waste as Greater Than Class C or High-Level Waste. He was opposed to the draft advice in the form presented to the HAB from RAP. The group agreed to consider alternate wording and look at the draft advice on the morning of the second day of the meeting.

The morning of the second day, there was still opposition to the draft advice as written. Susan Leckband reviewed the definitions of consensus in the HAB Charter and Operating Ground Rules, as well as the provisions for majority and minority reports as addenda to HAB advice.

Richard Bloom offered a revised version of the draft advice that was acceptable to him. The HAB came to consensus and adopted the advice with some minor wording revisions.

HAB Advice; Remote Meetings

Jeff Burrigh introduced the draft advice on virtual public meetings. Initial group discussion focused on how to accommodate participants with special needs or disabilities. Concerns were also raised about having an integrated online platform for both audio/phone and visual presentation information.

Members also discussed the desirability to have enough time for people to ask questions and receive responses balanced with planned vs. flexible end times for meetings. The challenge is that for in-person meetings, there is often an opportunity to continue discussions after a meeting ends that is not easily available for online meetings. Another issue of lively discussion was if it was reasonable to offer participants the ability to attend online meetings anonymously.

There was not agreement on the draft advice on the first day of the meeting. The HAB agreed to take a second look at it the morning of the second day of the meeting.

On the morning of the second day, HAB members continued working through the table of suggestions in the draft advice. The HAB came to consensus and adopted the advice with some minor wording revisions.

HAB Committee Reports

National Liaison

Pam Larsen, City of Richland and HAB national liaison, relayed that Environmental Management (EM) remains on track in 2020 for cleanup achievements despite COVID-19. The largest risk is tank waste. She described progress in Idaho and at Savannah River. The FY2021 EM budget is higher than what the President requested.

Public Involvement and Communications Committee (PIC)

Jeff Burrigh explained that the PIC has spent much of its time working on the advice on virtual public meetings that was adopted by the HAB at this meeting. PIC wants to talk about how to welcome new

HAB members who might not have a lot of familiarity with Hanford topics. PIC wants to make its next meeting a welcome party for new members to show them they are welcome. They are also considering doing a Hanford 101 to include a “no stupid questions” section to talk through Hanford issues.

Budgets and Contracts Committee (BCC)

Emmitt Jackson, Non-Union, Non-Management Employee and BCC vice chair, said that BCC would be requesting Issue Manager team representatives from all HAB committees to help develop the draft cleanup priorities advice for FY2023.

Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection (HSEP)

Becky Holland informed the HAB that at its last meeting, HSEP had updated on tank vapors and COVID response in the tank farms. She still wanted a broader COVID briefing for the full Board. She did not believe HSEP needed a committee call at this time.

Tank Waste Committee (TWC)

Bob Suyama explained that the TWC had a meeting three weeks prior and has asked Erik Olds, DOE, to regularly update TWC on the critical path for DFLAW. The critical path is being impacted by COVID. TWC also received updates on tank waste retrievals in A/AX tank farms, the 242-A Evaporator, and the Vitrified Low-Activity Waste (VLAW) Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR). TWC would like a meeting on November 18.

River and Plateau Committee (RAP)

Jan Catrell noted that RAP is not involved with tank issues or DFLAW. Rather, it is concerned with water, contamination in the soil, and non-tank facilities on the Central Plateau. The HAB recently received EPA's response to Advice #306 on addressing aging infrastructure. Areas of specific interest include the vadose zone, ERDF, PFP, and the 324 Building. She welcomed new members to come and join RAP discussions.

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB)

Susan Leckband said that the EM SSAB will be meeting virtually as its last meeting was cancelled. Shelley Cimon added that if anyone is interested in listening in, she and Susan will make sure to share the call-in information.

Board Business

Susan Leckband and Ruth Nicholson reminded HAB members about the open nominations for HAB chair, HAB vice chair, and national liaison. Each HAB seat has one vote for each of those positions. Elections will be held at the December HAB meeting.

Attachments

Attachment 1: HAB Draft FY2021 Calendar

Attachment 2: DOE Agency Update

Attachment 3: Department of Ecology

Attachment 4: Hanford Advisory Board Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan

Attachment 5: Hanford Advisory Board Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan with Mark Ups

Attachment 6: Effective Virtual Public Meetings draft advice

Attachment 7: B Plant draft advice

Attendees

Board Members and Alternates:

Steve Anderson, Member	Susan Leckband, Member	Leslie Koenig, Alternate
Richard Bloom, Member	Todd Martin, Member	Mike Korenko, Alternate
Nickolas Bumpaous, Member	Armand Minthorn, Member	Phil Lemley, Alternate
Shelley Cimon, Member	Mohamed Osman, Member	Larry Lockrem, Alternate
Susan Coleman, Member	Gerry Pollet, Member	Steve March, Alternate
Laurene Contreras, Member	Dan Solitz, Member	Liz Mattson, Alternate
Shannon Cram, Member	Bob Suyama, Member	Michael Mays, Alternate
Robert Davis, Member	Steve Wiegman, Member	Marissa Merker, Alternate
Tom Galioto, Member	Jeff Burrigh, Alternate	Mason Murphy, Alternate
Becky Holland, Member	Jan Catrell, Alternate	David Reeploeg, Alternate
Emmitt Jackson, Member	Larry Haler, Alternate	Tom Sicilia, Alternate
Pam Larsen, Member	Alex Klementiev, Alternate	Chris Sutton, Alternate

Others:

Stan Branch, DOE	Dave Einan, EPA	David Swale, BWX
Jim Lynch, ORP	Emy Laija, EPA	Kelsey Shank, the EDGE
Linda Maiden, DOE	Calvin Terada, EPA	Maxwell Woods, ODOE
Carrie Meyer, DOE	Earl Fordham, WDOH	Annette Cary, Tri-City Herald
Brian Stickney, DOE	Lindsay Strasser, AttainX	Teresa Alldredge
Brian Vance, DOE	Dieter Bohrmann, CHPRC	Steve Olsen
Gary Younger, DOE	Jen Colborn, MSA	Rebecca Parker
Randy Bradbury, Ecology	Patrick Conrad, MSA	Mike Sobotta
Ryan Miller, Ecology	Dana Cowley, MSA	Matt Williams
Alex Smith, Ecology	Coleen Drinkard, MSA	
John Temple, Ecology	Ashley Herring, ProSidian	

Ginger Wireman, Ecology	Ruth Nicholson, HAB facilitator, ProSidian	
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