



MEETING SUMMARY

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

**River and Plateau (RAP) and Health and
Safety & Environmental Protection (HSEP)
Joint Committee Meeting**

January 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Teleconference and GoToMeeting

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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

Becky Holland, Hanford Atomic Metal Trade Council and HSEP chair, and Jan Catrell, League of Women Voters and RAP chair, welcomed meeting participants.

The HSEP committee adopted the meeting summary for its September 2020 virtual meeting.

The RAP committee adopted the meeting summary for its November 2020 virtual meeting with minor edits.

Stan Branch, US Department of Energy (DOE), announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Briefing on Hanford Patrol and Traffic Safety

Andy Foster, Mission Support Alliance (MSA), provided a briefing on the Hanford Safety Initiative. MSA is the administrative lead and facilitator of the Hanford Site Traffic Safety Committee comprised of DOE, contractors, and local entities affected by Hanford traffic.

The Hanford Site has about 10,000 vehicles entering and existing daily. Energy Northwest has a rather significant impact on this. Although Hanford roadways generally have lower accident rates than elsewhere, many of the accidents are low-level incidents, which often occur in parking lots. Prior to COVID, the Benton County Sheriff's Office was issuing about 120 citations a month on the Hanford Site. High-occupancy vehicle use is declining.

The Traffic Safety Initiative includes a heavy emphasis on education. In addition to a colorful Accomplishments poster, the Initiative includes sitewide communications, a website, new and updated signage, and new software to track incidents and other traffic data. They have received good feedback on the small new utility trailers with elk signs that highlight being aware of animals near roadways.

Enforcement activities include partnering with local agencies, such as the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the Washington State Patrol. Communication among DOE and its contractors is improving. In addition, MSA is working to work toward there is aerial surveillance and radar and camera speed monitoring to help where law enforcement is difficult.

With respect to the engineering component of the Initiative, there are studies on Route 4 South, Route 2, and Route 11A, in addition to Central Plateau parking areas. There is work with the Washington State Department of Transportation to improve safety at the intersection of State Route 240, Route 10, and State Route 225. Traffic safety is also being incorporated into site development and operations planning.

A recent assessment indicated that the Initiative's communication and enforcement efforts have contributed to improvements in traffic safety.

Committee Discussion

In response to a question about citations, Benton County has indicated that it is seeing a positive trend in issuing fewer citations. However, it is difficult to assess how much of this decrease is due to the pandemic. There is also an observation that bridge congestion has become less now that the new Duportail Street bridge is open. This may also be due to a combination of the new bridge and the effects of the pandemic. The reduction in ride sharing may also be due to people being encouraged not to share vehicles during the pandemic.

A question was asked about how the 10,000 vehicles that enter and exit the Hanford site are counted. Richland performs the traffic counts and sends them to MSA. The MSA Traffic Engineer also collects data and works with local agencies to gather accurate traffic counts. The 10,000 vehicle daily count is a pre-COVID number. Individual contractors have classified who their essential workers are that continue to travel to the site.

There were no action items or next steps identified for this topic.

Hanford Fire Department Overview and Future Planning

Chris Yaroch, DOE, provided an introduction to the Hanford fire and emergency response program. The Mission Support Contract calls for 24/7 protection of human life, property, and facilities, including

- Fire prevention, suppression, and investigations,
- Emergency rescue,
- Emergency medical services and patient transport,
- Incident Command,
- Hazardous materials, chemical, biological, and radiological emergency response, including decontamination, and
- Fire protection system inspection, testing, and maintenance.

There are over 10,000 workers and 2,500 buildings, trailers, and structures on the Hanford Site. The fire service has mutual aid agreements with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations in the surrounding communities.

The Hanford Fire Department has a wide variety of resources, including over 125 staff positions, three fire stations, multiple types of engines and trucks, a HAZMAT command post, and fire-suppression ATVs.

Resources are being reconfigured as active cleanup operations shrink from the overall Hanford Site's 580 square miles down to the 75 square miles centered around the Central Plateau. This will affect hazardous materials events, technical rescue incidents, emergency medical situations, and fire alarms.

Committee Discussion

In response to a question about tumbleweed management, the fire department has a burn operation that sets up a safe zone before burning tumbleweeds.

With respect to water lines and potential leaks, Jeff Frey, DOE, explained that there is a masterplan that keeps track of leaks, as well as an ongoing program to test pipes and replace them as needed.

The Hanford Fire Department is looking at replanning some of its projects as the Site moves out of COVID restrictions and reassesses what future work needs to be accomplished.

Cleanup Priorities for FY2023 Draft Advice

Jan Catrell introduced this topic noting that the HAB has been reluctant for years to prioritize Hanford site projects and budget items. This year, the approach to developing the annual cleanup priorities advice has been to try to align it with the Hanford Site Five-Year Plan, similar to what was done for last year's advice.

Tom Galioto, chair of the HAB Budgets and Contracts Committee, reviewed the table that the Issue Manager (IM) team is using to develop this year's draft advice. It lists the various projects, how they appear in the Hanford Site Five-Year Plan, and comments and notes on progress or IM team member questions and concerns. It is a working document.

Tom acknowledged HAB member concerns about developing a single priority ranking of Hanford Site projects that would result in pitting the priorities of one HAB committee against the priorities of other committees. So, the approach is to group the projects and programs in a way that aligns more with the HAB committees and large bodies of work on the Site, such as the Central Plateau, River Corridor, and tanks.

Committee members wanted to ensure that the Central Waste Complex was included in the list of important projects. There was not agreement as to whether or not to include the Test Bed Initiative in the draft advice.

Action Item: Gary Younger agreed to ask if DOE can share last year's budget with the IM team to be used as a resource.

Open Forum

Committee members discussed issues around groundwater, iodine, and drinking water standards. Emy Laija, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), explained that the iodine issue relates partly to its potential effects on glassified waste, as well as drinking water standards related to wells. EPA is not willing to entertain changing the drinking water standards.

There was discussion of the composite analysis and its use. DOE has a contractor engaged to specifically do a composite analysis and related Cumulative Impact Evaluation (CIE). It was noted that when we start deviating from the idea of vitrifying waste, and start grouting waste instead of vitrifying it, we start deviating from the reports that say that vitrification is what we need to do.

In response to a question about the current facilitation contract rebid process, DOE indicated that the scope is not available to the public because of the procurement process.

Committee Business

HSEP members decided that there is no need for a committee call in January. The committee is interested to learn more about the Hanford Site’s response to COVID at its February meeting.

RAP identified the following topics for its February meeting:

- 324 Building
- Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility
- M-91
- TPA agency responses to HAB advice
- Election of RAP chair and vice chair for 2021.

RAP decided it did not need a committee call in January.

Action Item: In response to requests for color copies of the recent RAP groundwater presentation, Gary Younger said that he would try and get those copies out to interested HAB members.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: [Meeting Agenda](#)
- Attachment 2: [HSEP draft meeting summary for September](#)
- Attachment 3: [RAP draft meeting summary for November 2020](#)
- Attachment 4: [Traffic Safety Initiative](#)
- Attachment 5: [Hanford Fire and Emergency Response Services – Overview and Future Planning](#)
- Attachment 6: [Hanford Site Five-Year Plan \(2019\)](#)
- Attachment 7: [Hanford Five-Year Plan \(2020\)](#)
- Attachment 8: [HAB Advice #304 – FY2022 Cleanup Priorities](#)
- Attachment 9: [DOE Response to HAB Advice #304 \(letter\)](#)
- Attachment 10: [DOE Response to HAB Advice #304 \(attachment\)](#)
- Attachment 11: [RAP Work Plan](#)
- Attachment 12: [HSEP Work Plan](#)
- Attachment 13: [HAB Issue Manager team list](#)

Attendees

Board Members and Alternates:

Steve Anderson, Primary	Liz Mattson, Primary	Leslie Koenig, Alternate
Richard Bloom, Primary	Bob Suyama, Primary	Vince Panesko, Alternate
Shelley Cimon, Primary	Jan Catrell, Alternate	Tom Sicilia, Alternate

Becky Holland, Primary	Larry Haler, Alternate	Chris Sutton, Alternate
Pam Larsen, Primary		

Others:

Stan Branch, DOE	Ryan Miller, Ecology	Michelle Betrand
Jeff Frey, DOE	Lindsay Strasser, AttainX	Dieter Bohrmann, CH2M Hill
Tim Haddick, DOE	Andrew Foster, MSA	Coleen Drinkard, MSA
Corey Low, DOE	Ashley Herring, ProSidian	Tyler Oates, MSA
Chris Yaroch, DOE	Ruth Nicholson, HAB facilitator	
Gary Younger, DOE		