



October 8, 2021

Mr. Steve Wiegman, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
245 Torbett St.
Richland, Washington 99354

Dear Mr. Wiegman:

RESPONSE TO HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD JUNE 10 CONSENSUS ADVICE
NO. 310, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN VISION AND GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) advice No. 310 issued on June 14, 2021, regarding public involvement in vision and guiding documents for the Hanford Site. The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies — U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) — value the HAB's advice and appreciate its recommendations. We recognize the time and effort you put into producing this advice.

ADVICE:

The board advised the following:

1. When the TPA agencies are faced with discretionary public involvement, the agencies choose more, not less, public involvement.
2. The TPA agencies use a regional public and tribal involvement process that gathers broad input for vision, prioritization and framework documents that inform and lay the groundwork for cleanup decisions.
3. The TPA agencies consult the board on appropriate design and scope of public and tribal involvement.
4. The Central Plateau Inner Area Cleanup Principles and Parameters document be afforded a public comment opportunity and have public involvement for all future updates.
5. The TPA agencies conduct workshops and a visioning process with the public and tribes on Hanford cleanup end states.

RESPONSE:

- The values expressed in advice points No. 1 and 2 are also the TPA agencies' values.
- The TPA agencies will continue to consult with the HAB Public Involvement Committee on the design and scope of public involvement (point No. 3) when practical.
- The agencies will not consult with the HAB on the scope of tribal involvement; each agency has an ongoing, interactive relationship with each of the three tribal governments that have Hanford interests (point No. 3). The TPA agencies recognize that the tribes speak for themselves and determine how they want tribal involvement to occur. Discussions on tribal involvement occur on a government-to-government basis with respect to treaty obligations and must originate directly from tribal representatives.
- Regarding the Central Plateau Inner Area Cleanup Principles and Parameters document (point No. 4), the TPA agencies previously conducted public involvement on this topic (Reference Advice #283). The TPA agencies will be considering revisions to this document over the next year as a 5-year review of the Tri-Party Agreement is conducted. The TPA agencies will include information about any changes to the document during public involvement activities for the 5-year review.
- Regarding the request to conduct workshops and a visioning process on Hanford cleanup end states (point No. 5), the agencies regularly conduct such activities (Reference Advice No. 132 and 151) on a variety of topics. The agencies would be interested in more specific recommendations intended to enhance existing activities.

If you have questions, please contact Stan Branch, DOE Deputy Designated Federal Officer, on (509) 376-9450; Roberto Armijo, EPA, on (509) 376-3749; or David Bowen, Ecology, on (509) 372-7905.

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