

HAB

Hanford
Advisory
Board



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Hanford Advisory Board: Mission Statement

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) is a nonpartisan, broadly representative body consisting of 32 members interested in the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex, located in southeastern Washington state, where plutonium was produced for the national defense effort during World War II and the Cold War. The HAB works to provide consensus advice to DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), collectively known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies, on selected major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site.

The HAB was chartered in 1994 by DOE under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The HAB is one of eight citizen advisory boards that make up the DOE Office of Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board. The purpose of the charter and development of the HAB is to provide a forum for bringing together diverse views, cultures, and demographics from communities and regions affected by Hanford Site cleanup activities.

What is the Hanford Advisory Board?

The Hanford Advisory Board has the following attributes:

- **Mission oriented:** The primary mission of the HAB is to provide informed recommendations and consensus advice to the TPA agencies on selected major policy issues related to Hanford Site cleanup.
- **Policy focused:** The HAB focuses on difficult policy-level issues associated with a long history of plutonium production and the resulting contamination from radioactive and chemical waste.
- **Diverse:** The HAB is made up of 32 members representing a variety of constituencies from local interests, environmental perspectives, business groups, tribal nations, public health representatives, state of Oregon officials, university professionals, public-at-large representatives, and the Hanford workforce.
- **Collaborative:** The HAB operates by consensus.
- **Dedicated:** The HAB has provided 294 pieces of consensus advice to the TPA agencies over the last 25 years.
- **Robust:** The HAB maintains five standing committees that routinely meet throughout the year to discuss issues of relevance to the Site's cleanup.
- **Inviting:** All HAB meetings are open to the public. The HAB actively reaches out to different communities to increase awareness of and involvement in Hanford cleanup. More information about the HAB, including all HAB advice, responses and correspondence, can be found at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab.

Chair's Message: 2019

In 2019, the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) celebrated 25 years of volunteer service to the citizens of the Pacific Northwest. Over 300 well-researched consensus advice letters, technical white papers and flowcharts were developed and issued to leaders of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies. Those agencies include the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Current TPA leaders – DOE's Brian Vance, EPA's Dave Einan, and Ecology's Alex Smith, congratulated the HAB on its accomplishments and dedication to a better Hanford future at the HAB's 25th anniversary celebration in December.

As with every year, 2019 had its set of challenges for the HAB, but board members always look forward while learning from the past and remain committed to a better, safer Hanford cleanup. Members continue to encourage the TPA agencies to provide opportunities for the public to learn about and comment on cleanup issues. The Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste vitrification (mixing with glass) process is a primary focus of the DOE Office of River Protection and the HAB continues to support emptying the underground tanks of low-activity waste and processing it into a safer form for disposal.

The HAB issued four pieces of consensus advice to DOE, EPA and Ecology in 2019, including the HAB's yearly cleanup priorities/budget advice. All HAB advice is available on our website at www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab and I urge you to check it out. Additionally, the website contains all the presentations provided by the TPA agencies to the HAB at full board and committee meetings. All HAB meetings are open to the public and the meeting calendar and locations are on the website.



Susan Leckband, Board Chair

The HAB's well-informed consensus advice is the result of the members' dedication to the best, safest Hanford cleanup possible, and the willingness to learn while working with the TPA agencies to become educated on issues, challenges, successes, and upcoming decisions on Hanford Site cleanup actions.

The HAB members look forward to overcoming challenges that 2020 may present; they continue to educate themselves on current and emerging Hanford issues and actions, work many volunteer hours, be flexible, and be ready to resume the development of informed, thoughtful advice and recommendations.

2019 At a Glance

This section of the report recounts 2019 HAB activities and accomplishments. This includes a summary of the consensus advice provided to the TPA agencies during this period, as well as more detailed highlights of the significant work performed over the course of the fiscal year.

Advice in 2019

The HAB adopted four new pieces of advice in 2019. To read these pieces of advice and TPA agency responses in their entirety, visit www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab.

300

FY 2021 Budget Priorities

Date submitted: April 18, 2019

301

Traffic Safety Advice

Date submitted: September 19, 2019

302

Public Involvement in Budget Development

Date submitted: September 19, 2019

303

Supplemental Advice on 100-B/C Proposed Plan (19-SGD-0047)

Date submitted: December 5, 2019

Committee of the Whole

On October 17, members of the HAB and the TPA agency staff had the opportunity to take part in the Committee of the Whole HAB meeting at Washington State University Tri-Cities.



Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Tour

On October 16, HAB members had the opportunity to take part in a tour of the Hanford Site's Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste facility.



Tank Waste Committee Meeting

DOE Deputy Designated Federal Official Jim Lynch provides HAB Tank Waste Committee members an update on Tank Farm Vapors at the Hanford Site.



Hanford Advisory Board 25th Anniversary

On December 5, HAB members and TPA agency staff took part in the 25th anniversary celebration at the Best Western Plus hotel in Richland.



Hanford Site Manager Brian Vance speaking at the 25th anniversary.

HAB Committees

The HAB is composed of five committees that focus on policy recommendations to the TPA agencies about complex issues driving cleanup at Hanford. A sixth committee is comprised of the HAB and committee leadership. Each committee develops draft advice based on shared information, discussion and HAB values. The committees work through the consensus process to identify and agree on specific advice points. When advice has committee consensus, it is brought before the full HAB for consideration.

The HAB has two technical committees: River and Plateau, and Tank Waste. They are responsible for understanding and tracking current Hanford cleanup work. The other three committees are the Public Involvement and Communications; Budget and Contracts; and Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection. They are focused on tracking broader sitewide issues. The sixth committee is the Executive Issues committee, which provides overall HAB leadership.

Annually, the committees identify a list of priority topics for discussion and develop a work plan. The work plan is comprised of timely topics brought forward through collaborative discussions between the HAB, TPA agency representatives and Hanford Site contractors. Members will self-identify as issue managers on a committee level, when they have a strong interest or expertise in a particular issue. Issue managers take the lead in researching, framing topics for discussions and developing advice.

2019 HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD AND COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Board Leadership

Chair: Susan Leckband, Washington League of Women Voters

Vice chair: Shelley Cimon, Columbia Riverkeeper

National Liaison

Pam Larsen, city of Richland

Committee Leadership

Budgets and Contracts Committee

Chair: Tom Galioto, public at large

Vice chair: Emmitt Jackson, non-union, non-management employee

Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee

Chair: Rebecca Holland, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council

Vice chair: Richard Bloom, city of West Richland

Public Involvement and Communications Committee

Chair: Jeff Burreight, Oregon Department of Energy

Vice chair: Liz Mattson, Hanford Challenge

River and Plateau Committee

Chair: Jan Catrell, public at large

Vice chair: Tom Sicilia, Oregon Department of Energy

Tank Waste Committee

Chair: Bob Suyama, Benton County

Vice chair: Steve Wiegman, public at large



2019 Hanford Advisory Board meeting



Getting Involved with Hanford Advisory Board Work

If you're interested in the HAB's work or in learning more about cleanup at the Hanford Site, you can stay involved and informed in the following ways:

Talk to your HAB member — There are 32 HAB seats representing perspectives from local governments, the Hanford workforce, public health and environmental organizations, universities, the public at large, and tribal nations. Talk to a representative to learn more and to share your thoughts. Current membership lists are maintained on the HAB's website.

Attend a HAB meeting — Consider observing a HAB or committee meeting. HAB and committee meetings are open to the public and occur almost monthly throughout the year. Meetings are held in Richland and information on upcoming meetings can be found on the Hanford website (www.Hanford.gov) under the Event Calendar.

Become a member — Each HAB seat consists of a primary and alternate member. As seats become open, individual organizations or interest groups nominate replacements. For more information on the process of becoming a HAB member, visit www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab

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Information about the Hanford Advisory Board is available online at www.hanford.gov.