



FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

*November 7, 2017
Richland, WA*

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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

Liz Mattson, Chair, welcomed the committee and introductions were made. The June meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Announcements

Laura Buelow, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced herself as interim EPA manger. Laura communicated that Emy Laija is now physically located in Washington D.C. but will continue with her Hanford work.

Dieter Bohrmann, North Wind – supporting DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) introduced committee members to Echo Dahl. Echo will begin transitioning into a support role for ORP with the HAB.

Ken Niles, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) introduced Jeff Burrigh as the replacement for Dirk Dunning.

Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Public Involvement Update

Dieter Bohrmann, North Wind – supporting ORP provided an updated Tri-Party Agreement Public Agency Involvement Calendar to all attendees [TPA Public Involvement Calendar Updated for Fall/Winter 2017-2018](#).

Using the calendar as a guide, Dieter provided the committee members with an overview of upcoming public comment opportunities. Dieter stated there are three public meetings associated with the public comment periods, scheduled in December 2017, two of which are tentative.

Dieter informed the committee members that the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board meeting is planned for this November 27 & 28, 2017 in the Dalles, Oregon.

Dieter stated that the Hanford Public Involvement Plan was updated and posted on the Hanford.gov website in June 2017.

Committee Member Questions (Q), Responses (R), and Comments (C):

Note: This section reflects individual questions, comments, and agency responses.

Q: “Can you tell us what the deadline is for when the capsules will be moved into dry storage?”

R: “The design is slated for 2019, but there are no dates associated with the move into dry storage.”

Q: “Is there a TPA milestone associated with the capsules?”

R: “It is still under negotiations.”

Q: “At one of the public meetings, we were given an opportunity to weigh in on the different options for the capsule storage. There were over 20 options and was given an opportunity to vote on the options. Was the design chosen, based off the votes?”

R: “The design was done before the public meeting. Historically, the design came from the input and concerns past public meetings.”

Q: “Once the basin that holds the capsules is emptied out, is there any plans of what will happen with the facility and the basin?”

R: “We’re still in the decision phase.”

State of the Site (SOS) Regional Meetings & Advice

Liz Mattson, Chair, introduced the topic of the In-Person SOS Regional Meetings and advice.

Members of the PIC had an opportunity to review the advice, make suggestions, and ask questions.

Liz requested recommendations from the members for SOS meeting formats, locations, and outreach.

- New Approaches/Formats
 - Interactive has always been more successful
 - Subject Matter Experts available
 - Tables with SMEs available for discussion
 - Combo of presentations and tables
 - Short and sweet presentations
 - Agencies able to differentiate
 - Identify key topic areas (PIC to identify) to allow for meaningful dialogue
 - Strong facilitation/moderator
 - Screen in background with images of tanks, geographic location of tanks, ORP & RL locations. Who manages what so participants know where to direct questions?
 - Include historic context with organization
 - Table with “the future” of Hanford information
 - Table for River, Waste
 - Not too technical of a conversation
 - Spread meetings throughout the year

- Potential Locations
 - Public Locations (Seattle Center, Community Center)
 - Seattle (Not just Seattle proper)
 - Hood River
 - Portland
 - Spokane
 - Vancouver
 - Walla Walla
 - Portland State Library (free)
 - 100 Mile Radius (Areas directly impacted)
 - Regional Meetings

- Ways to increase outreach efforts
 - Ads in papers

- Radio ads
- Facebook advertising
- NW Public Radio
- KMKX
- Local radio stations (PSA)
- PSA for TV
- K Boo in Portland
- PIC to review logo & flyer prior to distribution
- Internet outreach

Agency Perspective

Dieter Bohrmann stated that there has been no action on the ORP side regarding an SOS meeting. Dieter noted that the new ORP manager, Brian Vance started on November 6, 2017. The SOS meetings take time to put together, so a Spring meeting would be very optimistic.

Laura Buelow noted that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is supportive of the SOS meetings. Laura stated that EPA should have a permanent manager in place in 2018.

Committee Member Questions (Q), Responses (R), and Comments (C):

Note: This section reflects individual questions, comments, and agency responses.

Q: “Do you have a sense of timing as to when those answers may be available?”

R: “There will be a lot of discussions that will take place with Brian Vance this month.”

C: “Historically, Ecology has hosted SOS meetings before.”

C: “I suggest attaching the previous pieces of advice, as they are stated in the advice text.”

Q: “By having the current dates in the advice, is it a possibility that we are giving the agencies a potentially unrealistic date?”

R: “Potentially, although, we have an agreement with the agencies to have this conversation today.”

C: “Meetings that are within 100 miles of the Tri-Cities, which would be areas that are directly impacted by Hanford.”

Q: “For clarification regarding the 100-mile radius, what does it mean by areas directly impacted by Hanford?”

R: “For clarification, the westside of the state would not be physically impacted by Hanford.”

C: “It is foolish to draw a boundary of 100-mile radius for a SOS meeting. I would be adamantly opposed to not having it in Oregon.”

C: “It sounds like we are not in agreement in locations for the SOS meeting.”

Next Steps:

The changes and additions to the advice will be addressed at the full board meeting.

Regional Workshop on the PUREX Tunnels

The PIC members had an open discussion on the topic of the Regional Workshop on the PUREX Tunnels.

Agency Perspectives

Mark Heeter, Public Affairs Specialist for DOE Richland Operations Office (RL), provided members insight of the PUREX workshop. The workshop would have focused on the PUREX Tunnel 2 and the Best & Brightest Panel report. The Best & Brightest Panel was commissioned to investigate different options for stabilization of Tunnel 2. The Best & Brightest Panel report is close to completion. Once the report is completed, it will be sent to Ecology for review. RL and Ecology will work together to determine the best path forward for Tunnel 2.

Randy Bradbury, Department of Ecology (Ecology) noted that within a day of PUREX Tunnel 1 collapse, Ecology put out an order that required immediate action for stabilization. The order set very aggressive deadlines, which determined that grout would be the best option for tunnel 1. In August, RL decided to assemble a panel to study the best options for tunnel 2. After many complaints from the public on the decision to grout tunnel 1 without public input, Doug Shoop (RL) and Alex Smith (Ecology) determined that a public workshop would be appropriate to present options for stabilization tunnel 1. Ultimately it was decided that grouting tunnel 1 was best. Currently we are waiting for the report from the panel with options for tunnel 2.

Committee Member Questions (Q), Responses (R), and Comments (C):

Note: This section reflects individual questions, comments, and agency responses.

Q: “When will the Best & Brightest Panel report be done?”

R: “*The report is due to Ecology by December 8, 2017.*”

C: “I was opposed to the workshop being solely based on PUREX tunnels. The PUREX topic was a launching point to discuss infrastructure and other risks that existed throughout the site. I advocate for a public meeting that covers all of those things.”

C: “We were told that the grout used for tunnel 1 would be a light density grout, but at the River & Plateau committee meeting in August, it was announced that the contractor decided to use a higher density grout. This was bothersome to me because of the process, as we were told that light density grout would be used.”

C: “My recollection of the discussion surrounding the workshop in Hood River was that the topic would be PUREX, as it was the hot topic at the time.”

R: “*The meeting we are talking about was born from the news conference that took place back in July. Doug Shoop and Alex Smith stated they would be having a regional workshop on PUREX.*”

C: "I think what is needed is a series of regional workshops. It could be something that is every two months on topics that don't usually get any facetime."

Q: "Do you have a sense of timing as to when this meeting will take place? Can you define regional and what that means?"

R: "*Regional means somewhere is the Northwest outside of the Tri-Cities, like Washington and Oregon. As far as timing, I don't know. It all depends on the discussions between RL and Ecology.*"

Q: "When the report comes back from the panel, what do you envision for RL and Ecology's process to be before going to the public?"

R: "*I am not sure.*"

Q: "Does the public get to weigh in on the path forward for tunnel 2. What is the workshop going to be about?"

R: "*Yes there will be a public comment period for the permitting process related to the PUREX tunnels.*"

C: "Since this is a topic of interest for PIC, RAP, and HSEP, we should have an issue manager representing the PIC."

Next Steps:

The PIC will form an issue manager team to continue to follow the PUREX meeting. Issue manager for this topic for the PIC committee is Rebecca Holland.

Outreach

Members of the PIC had an opportunity to review the outreach topic on the FY 2018 work plan, make suggestions, and ask questions.

Liz noted that the FY2018 workplan will be reviewed and approved at the full board meeting on November 8, 2017.

Committee Member Questions (Q), Responses (R), and Comments (C):

Note: This section reflects individual questions, comments, and agency responses.

Q: "When was the last time the public has been educated on the sirens on Site?"

R: "*We do educate the public, but maybe were not doing enough.*"

Q: "Does DOE use code RED? The county is really pushing for us to sign up for code RED."

R: "*I don't know if DOE uses code RED.*"

Q: "What does the institutional knowledge have to do with? Is the institution intended to be the PIC or the HAB or Hanford?"

R: "*I think its all of the above.*"

Committee Business

3-Month Work Plan

The topic of the PUREX Tunnels was added to the 3-month work plan as a placeholder for each month.

Committee of the Whole

Members of the PIC suggested additional topics for a Committee of the Whole meeting.

- PUREX Tunnels
- Infrastructure
- Emergency Preparedness
- DFLAW

Other Items of Discussion

There will be not committee call in November. There is a committee call placeholder for December 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. to determine if a January meeting is needed.

Gary Garnett, HAB Issue Manager recommended a list of books and articles to the HAB members:

Book Recommendations – November 2017

- Building the Bombs: A History of the Nuclear Weapons Complex, by Charles R. Loeber, published by Sandia National Laboratories, 2002.
- The Tainted Desert, by Valerie L. Kuletz, 1998 –Mapping the Nuclear Landscape.
- Fukushima Meltdown & Modern Radiation, by John W. Apsley, 2011.
- Nuclear Waste in Your Backyard, by Robert Ferguson & Michell Gerber, 2014.
- FALLOUT – CIA’s Secret War on Nuclear Trafficking, by C. Collins & D. Frantz, 2011.

Article Recommendations – November 2017

- Plutonium: The First 50 Years, DOE Report, Nov. 1995, 92 pages.
- Plutonium Disposition –Need for More Work at the Waste Isolation Plant –GAO-17-390, Sept. 2017.
- Digging Into History of Hanford’s Radioactive Waste Tunnels, Anna King, May 15, 2017.
- Who Killed the US-Russia plutonium agreement, and does it matter? Darya Dolzikova, Dec. 1, 2016, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.
- Gary Petersen: Proposals on MOX and WIFF compound an uncertain path for Hanford’s nuclear waste, Tri-City Herald, Sept. 12, 2015 -- (relates to plutonium agreement article).

- The United States and Russia are Prepping for Doomsday -- by Jeffrey Lewis, Oct. 7, 2016, Foreign Policy -- (Plutonium stockpiles for tens of thousands of nuclear weapons).
- Hanford, Not Fukushima, is the Big Radiological Treat to the West Coast -- article by Robert Jacobs, April 29, 2016 -- CounterPunch Magazine (muckracking with an attitude).

HAB Member Self-Assessments

An introduction was made by Liz Mattson, Chair. This time was used for a round table discussion of what you have been up to. What have you done to share information about Hanford with your community and/or family and friends? Have you heard from anyone in your network that would be helpful to agencies?

- Ginger Wireman did a presentation at the Walla Walla library for the American Association of University of Women. Ginger used a video from the Columbia Riverkeeper as part of her presentation.
- Susan Leckband was on a panel discussion for WSU students. Susan discussed why she is on the HAB and talked about Hanford. Susan noted that she will be discussing the HAB at an upcoming League of Women Voters meeting.
- Shannon Cram is currently not teaching, but has been active in speaking engagements. Shannon held 2 seminars on Hanford at the Seattle Center and 3 guest lectures (2 skype) for John Jay College. Shannon noted that she is going to Chile for a conference and will be presenting about Hanford. Suggested a book called “Uranium People.”
- Tom Galioto shared a few articles on Linked In.
- Helen Wheatley stated that Heart of America NW is in talks with Columbia Riverkeeper about holding 3 meetings (one in Olympia) to discuss Hanford and focusing on the PUREX Tunnels.
- Gary Garnant had nothing to share.
- Jan Catrell had an opportunity to speak at one of her local League of Women Voters meeting about Hanford. Jan was able to share a PowerPoint presentation about the PUREX tunnels from the Hanford website. Jan spoke on a tour of the LIGO facility.
- Jennifer Copeland stated that MSA sponsored the “Connect Tri-Cities” job fair. CHPRC was also in attendance to educated students on Hanford.
- Mark Heeter noted that in Hanford has over 1,000 visitors on Site for tours of Hanford, this year.
- Shelley Cimon went on a tour of the Site with the EM SSAB chairs.
- Dawn MacDonald did not have any updates.

- Dan Solitz shared brochures for the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board. Discovered a new group on Facebook that is very interested in Hanford.
- Rich Bloom did reports on the demolition of PFP.
- Echo Dahl did not have any updates.
- Dana Gribble did TV anchor snippets for Charter. Interviewed state law makers for Washington.
- Jennifer Colborn has been submitting articles of upcoming events for committee meetings or public involvement opportunities, to the Tri-Cities Business Journal for the last 6-8 months.
- Liz Mattson has been involved with a 4-session workshop called “Powers of Leadership.”

Open Forum

Members of the PIC took time to discuss their thoughts on Hanford related issues.

Committee Member Questions (Q), Responses (R), and Comments (C):

Note: This section reflects individual questions, comments, and agency responses.

C: “Being heavily involved with local political campaign, I have found one of the vexing issues is how to communicate with the public and trying to figure out what platforms to use. It has become incredibly complex. We have found is that Facebook has been very useful. This is something that the PIC should try to figure out how to deal with public involvement in these aspects.

Q: “I do want to make more space for discussing the decision from DOE not to pay for the second member to attend meetings. Have you heard of any more information as why this decision was made?”

R: “Ken Niles, ODOE sent a letter to Jim Owendoff. Jim responded to Ken almost immediately. The budget wasn’t the primary focus on why the decision was made, but it was to align the HAB as the other boards.”

Q: “Doesn’t the HAB have some control of its budget?”

R: “The change is to align the board as the other boards.”

C: “Another concern and cause for future discussion is a permanent state of reduction in budget, staffing, etc. and what the implications are.”

Attachments

Attachment 1: Tri-Party Agreement Agencies – Public Involvement Calendar – Fiscal Year 2017 – June 2017

Attachment 2: Book and Article Recommendations for HAB Members

Attendees

Board Members and Alternates:

Gary Garnett	Jan Catrell	Susan Leckband
Shelley Cimon	Dan Solitz	Helen Wheatley
Tom Galioto	Liz Mattson	Shannon Cram
Rebecca Holland	Richard Bloom	Earl Fordham
Gerry Pollett, Phone		

Others:

Laura Beulow, EPA	Mark Heeter, DOE-RL	Echo Dahl, DOE-ORP
Dieter Bohrmann, DOE-ORP	Jennifer Colborn, MSA	George Rangel, Vit Plant
Jen Copeland, CHPRC	Ginger Wireman, Ecology	Dana C. Gribble, MSA
Dawn McDonald, DOE-ORP	Earl Fordham, DOH	Kyle Rankin, DOE-RL
Lindsay Strasser, ProSidian	Melissa Orona, ProSidian	