



Hanford Advisory Board 2015

The Hanford Advisory Board

(also known as the HAB or Board) is a non-partisan, broadly representative body consisting of 32 members interested in the cleanup of Washington's Hanford Site, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex that produced plutonium for national defense during World War II and the Cold War. The Board works to provide consensus advice to DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), also known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies, on select major policy issues related to the cleanup of hazardous chemical and radioactive wastes. The Board was chartered in 1994 under the Federal Advisory Board Committee Act of 1972. Since then, Board members have collaboratively developed 285 pieces of advice for the TPA agencies.

Annually the TPA agencies provide the Board with a draft work plan and consult with Board and committee leadership on the major policy issues on which it anticipates the Board's advice would be helpful. The TPA agencies may also seek the Board's advice as new or emerging issues arise.

Chair's Message: 2015



Steve Hudson, Board Chair

In its 21 years, the HAB has evolved to successfully meet its responsibility to deliver consensus advice and other Board products to the TPA agencies. That success depends chiefly upon the Board's passionate reliance

on a set of well-defined values, a committed membership, and a consistent respect for the informed recommendations and advice being developed. These essentials in turn also encourage the Board to remain sensitive to changes in the HAB, its community, and the character of general cleanup activities.

In 2015 for example, the HAB began to address the impact of changes in Board membership and public involvement on effectiveness. Specifically, as Board membership became more youthful and more diverse—the HAB was beginning to look more like the communities it represented—the HAB and the TPA agencies responded by adding youth involvement and public outreach topics to its 2016 work plan. The latter change proved particularly important because it considered how the HAB and the TPA agencies could best schedule public involvement activities to encourage general public participation.

In light of these kinds of changes, I am looking forward to a productive 2016 for the HAB, and I hope you are as well.

HAB Advice in 2015

In fiscal year 2015, the Board adopted five pieces of advice. To read the advice as well as the agency responses, visit: www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab/adviceandresponses

ADVICE	# 281	In-Trench Macroencapsulation of Waste at the Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility Date submitted: 11/6/14
		To reduce worker exposure and protect the environment, the Board supported DOE and EPA's proposal to treat a limited set of hazardous waste within the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility trench prior to disposal.
	# 282	Tank Farm Vapors Date submitted: 2/5/2015
		The Board advised DOE to explore policies and technologies that would work to ensure the safety of tank farm workers following reported worker exposure to chemical vapors.
	# 283	Central Plateau Inner Area Guidelines Date submitted: 4/9/2015
	The Board advised DOE to further develop sound regulatory and operational guidelines that would fully characterize, inventory, and clean up contamination on the Central Plateau.	
# 284	Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Priorities Date submitted: 6/11/2015	
	The Board advised DOE to request adequate funding for upcoming fiscal years, stressing the critical role of compliant funding in achieving the cleanup mission. The Board also highlighted important cleanup efforts in need of funding for each DOE field office.	
# 285	TPA Milestone M-091 Change Package Date submitted: 9/10/2015	
	The Board provided advice and comment to the TPA agencies as they negotiated updates to the TPA M-091 milestone series, which governs the schedule to retrieve, treat, and dispose of radioactive and mixed waste at Hanford.	

Getting Involved with Board Work

If you're interested in the Board's work or in learning more about cleanup at the Hanford Site, there are several ways that you can stay involved and informed:

Talk to your Board member — There are 32 seats on the Board 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 Hanford Advisory Board's website.

Attend a HAB meeting — If you are interested in learning about HAB work and cleanup at Hanford, consider observing a Board 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 seat on the Board consists of a primary member and an alternate. As seats become open, individual organizations or interest groups nominate replacements. For more information on the process of becoming a member of the HAB, visit: www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab



2015 Board and Committee Leadership

Board Leadership

Chair: Steve Hudson, Hanford Watch

Vice chair: Susan Leckband,
Washington League of
Women Voters

National Liaison

Shelley Cimon, Columbia Riverkeeper

Committee Leadership

Budgets and Contracts Committee

Chair: Jerry Peltier, City of West Richland

Vice chair: Ed Revell, Tri-City
Development Council

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: Liz Mattson, Hanford Challenge

Vice chair: Ken Niles, Oregon
Department of Energy

River and Plateau Committee

Chair: Pam Larsen, City of Richland

Vice chair: Gary Garnant, Grant &
Franklin Counties

Tank Waste Committee

Chair: Bob Suyama, Benton County

Vice chair: Melanie Myers-Magnuson,
"Non-Union, Non-Management"
Employees

Board Work in 2016

In 2016, the Board will continue to discuss and advise the TPA agencies on key Hanford Site cleanup policy issues. The Board’s focus remains on Central Plateau cleanup, K Basin sludge retrievals, groundwater cleanup, tank farm retrievals and progress with the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant construction efforts.

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For more information, visit www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab



The Board meets five times throughout the year to hear agency updates, reach consensus on cleanup policy advice, and share information.