

# HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

*A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act*

**Advising:**

US Dept of Energy  
US Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Washington State  
Dept of Ecology

**CHAIR:**

Steve Hudson

**VICE CHAIR:**

Susan Leckband

March 7, 2014

David Huizenga  
Senior Advisory for Environmental Management  
EM-1/Forestal Building  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20585

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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Harold Heacock

**Labor/Work Force**

Mark Reavis  
Thomas Carpenter  
Jeff Luke  
Lynn Davison  
Rebecca Holland

**Local Environment**

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**Liaison**

**Representatives**

Washington State  
Department of Health

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Diversity and Effectiveness

Dear Mr. Huizenga,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) has taken the challenge of examining itself and increasing Board effectiveness. The Board considers itself (as does the public and Tri-Party Agreement agencies), a regional Board, as cleanup of Hanford is a Pacific Northwest environmental issue with diverse interests. Up until budgetary cuts impacted Board meeting travel, meetings rotated between Richland, Portland, Seattle, Spokane and Hood River. Actively casting a wide net into those communities, the Board strove to shape a larger, more inclusive arena for Board and public interaction and public policy development. With the reduction in budget, the Board leadership and members have developed a variety of actions to consider that will help ensure, as much as possible, a wider public observation of and engagement in Board activities. Since the affected area for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation includes Washington, Oregon and Idaho, the demographics will take some time to assemble. The Board intends to work with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as that information becomes available to see how those demographics could be included in any action to refine the Board's membership balance plan and to increase Board effectiveness and diversity.

The Board's Executive Issues Committee has discussed the effectiveness and diversity of Board membership at each meeting and as actions are developed, they will be brought forward to the full Board for consideration. The Board expects to be implementing a variety of actions throughout 2014 and beyond to allow us and the Tri-Party Agreement agencies to observe and evaluate if the actions have increased Board effectiveness and diversity or if course corrections are needed. The Board will continue to work closely with our Designated Deputy Federal Official and his/her designee(s) in an open and transparent manner.

**Actions the Board has implemented:**

- The Board changed its 2014 meeting schedule days as well as planning an evening Board meeting that would allow day workers and members of the public the opportunity to attend without having to take time off work. The Board also adheres strictly to the time identified for public comment at Board meetings. Similarly, Board sub-committee meetings have always been and will continue to be open to the public to observe; opportunities are also made available at the meetings for the public to comment.

**EnviroIssues**

**Hanford Project Office**

713 Jadwin, Suite 3  
Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: (509) 942-1906

**Hanford Advisory Board**

Subject: Board Diversity Effectiveness

March 7, 2014

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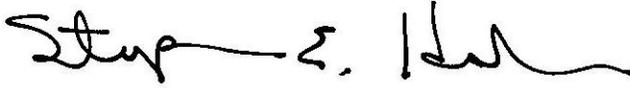
- Board interest groups are polling their memberships for those demographically diverse members who may have an interest in participating in Board activities as a step toward implementing mentorship and new member development planning for submittal for appointment to the Board.
- Another opportunity, in addition to consensus advice, that demonstrates the wide variety of opinion will be realized through increased usage of “Round Robin” discussions at Board meetings to ensure that the Tri-Party Agreement agencies get the full, diverse, breadth and depth of opinions on specific topics. (DOE has provided feedback to the Board that the Round Robin discussions are particularly valuable in ensuring diverse voices are heard).
- Board leadership and DOE are reviewing Board meeting attendance to identify any members who are not attending meetings, and using that information to encourage those responsible for the affected seats to consider appointing new members and/or determining the interest and effectiveness of those seats.
- The Board encourages the Tri-Party Agreement agencies to continue State of the Site meetings to inform and engage a diverse, regional public on Hanford cleanup.

**Board and DOE actions for the future:**

- Ways to involve a high school/college student population in Board activities.
  - The Board asks for DOE’s help in developing a process to engage the youth of the community in Board activities. One goal would be to broaden the exposure of the Board and educate future generations regarding DOE’s mission for Hanford cleanup and the Board’s role in that mission.
- Re-institute joint Tri-Party Agreement agency and Board evening topical tutorial sessions in conjunction with Board meetings.
- Effectiveness through additional diversity.
  - The Board requests DOE to work with them to identify a variety of additional viewpoints not currently represented on the Board for potential inclusion in Board activities (e.g. agriculture, Hispanic community, etc.)

Hanford cleanup will go on for decades into the future and the Board is committed to providing the most informed, clear, timely, policy-level advice and recommendations generated by a Board that is open, committed, effective, transparent, and diverse.

Sincerely,



Steve Hudson, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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*This letter represents Board consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.*

cc: Ernesto Moniz, Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters  
Matt Urie, General Council, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters  
Steve Silverman, U.S. Department of Justice  
Matt McCormick, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
Kevin Smith, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
Jeff Frey, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office  
Dennis Faulk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology  
David Borak, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters