

December 8, 2016

Advising:

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

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EnviroIssues
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Doug Shoop, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550 (A7-75)
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Declining Board Budget

Dear Mr. Shoop,

Background

Since its founding in 1994, the thirty-two seat Hanford Advisory Board (HAB or Board) has issued 290 pieces of policy level consensus advice to the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies on topics related to Hanford Site cleanup. The Board holds that Hanford cleanup decisions need to be informed by stakeholder input and values, which is a key value of the Board.

As a result of flat funding and inflationary impact, the Board budget is inadequate to allow the Board to fulfill its responsibility to provide policy level input on Hanford cleanup decisions and conduct outreach activities to keep the public informed regarding the scope of cleanup. We are also troubled that current budgets are inadequate for the Board to convene meetings around the region. The Board is requesting that the HAB budget be increased to a total of \$590K¹ for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, with a 2.3% increase for inflation in FY2019 and beyond.

While the Board budget has fluctuated slightly over the past 10 years, the cumulative effects of the ever-increasing costs for travel and other services, over the same period, has severely restricted the activities that the Board is able to support. Adjusting the Board budgets, over the past 10 years, to account for the effects of inflation², the actual Board budget in terms of today's dollars has been effectively reduced to historically low levels (see Figure 1). Consequently, the Board has reduced the number of Board meetings scheduled for the current fiscal year from five to four, and has been forced to eliminate several Board Committee meetings.

¹ See attachment: HAB FY2018 and FY2019 Budget Needs Estimate

² U.S. Government Consumer Price Index (CPI) data published on September 16, 2016

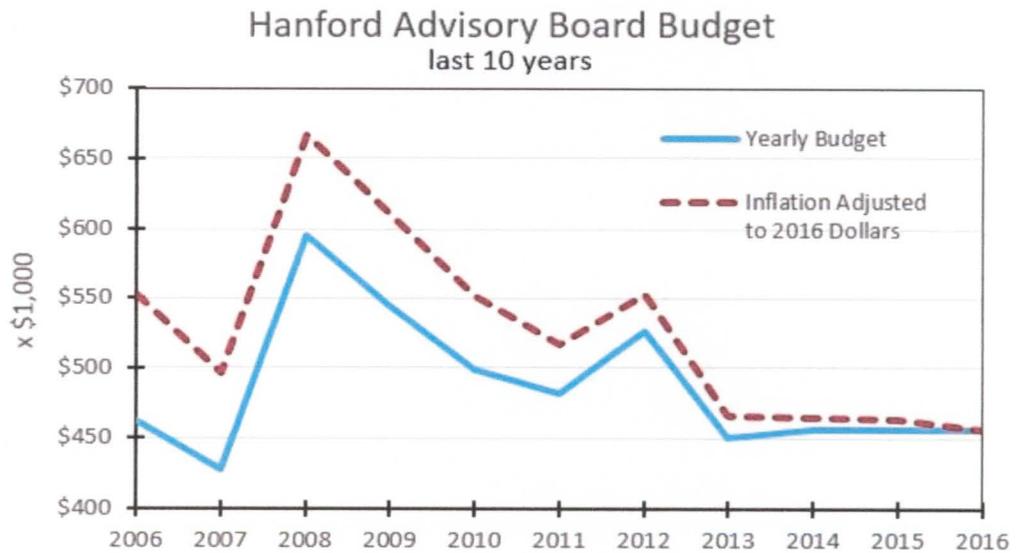


Figure 1: Hanford Advisory Board budget for the past ten years

The Board believes there is high value to the Board and the TPA agencies in engaging all voices who have the potential to become informed participants in Hanford cleanup, providing essential public input to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Washington State Department of Ecology in their mission to conduct a safe and effective cleanup. Public discourse also informs the Board as it develops advice for the TPA agencies.

Historically, the Board has held two of its six meetings in locations outside of the Tri-Cities, such as Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Lewiston and Hood River. The Board believes holding meetings around the region honors the intent of the Convening Report³ to represent a regional vision, not only through advice and recommendations, but also by providing the larger public with opportunities to observe the Board at work and to interact directly with Hanford Site decision makers. These regional meetings have provided opportunities for Board members and TPA agency representatives to hear public concerns expressed during scheduled public comment opportunities. They have also provided information to the public through presentations, materials, and public evening sessions. This level of communication can only be achieved through contact on a personal level that is not possible using various virtual meeting technologies.

To continue to provide well-informed, policy level advice, recommendations, and white papers, the Board provides the following advice to DOE.

³ “Convening Report on the Establishment of an Advisory Board to Address Hanford Cleanup Issues,” The Keystone Center, October 1993.

Advice

- The Board advises DOE to increase the Board budget to \$590K in FY2018, with a 2.3% increase for inflation in FY2019 and beyond. This will allow the Board to hold a minimum of five full Board meetings per year, including at least one meeting outside the Tri-Cities, plus sub-committee meetings as needed.

Sincerely,



Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

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

cc: Monica Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Kevin Smith, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Kyle Rankin, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office
Dawn MacDonald, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection
Dennis Faulk, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alex Smith, Washington State Department of Ecology
David Borak, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Delegations

Estimated Hanford Advisory Board FY-2018 and FY-2019 Budget Needs

Hanford Advisory Board Activity		Average Cost per Activity		Yearly Cost			Subtotal (\$K)
		Facilitation Cost (\$K)	Travel Costs (\$K)	Number per year	Facilitation Cost (\$K)	Travel Costs (\$K)	
HAB Board Meetings - In Tri-Cities. Includes: meeting agenda development, EIC calls, materials preparation & copying, hotel coordination, travel, meeting room rental, audio, setup, meeting facilitation, note taking, and generating detailed meeting summaries.		30.0	5.0	3	90.0	15.0	105.0
Area HAB Board Meeting* - Outside of Tri-Cities. Includes: meeting agenda development, EIC calls, materials preparation & copying, hotel coordination, travel to non-Tri-Cities location. meeting room rental, audio, setup, meeting facilitation, note taking, and generating detailed meeting summaries.		32.0	20.0	2	64.0	40.0	104.0
Committee Week Meetings - Assumes all in Tri-Cities in a no room rental cost location. Includes: meeting agenda development, committee calls, materials preparation & copying, hotel coordination, travel, room setup, meeting facilitation, note taking, and generating detailed meeting summaries.		20.0	2.5	10	200.0	25.0	225.0
Committee Of The Whole - Includes: meeting agenda development, committee calls, materials preparation & copying, hotel coordination, travel, room setup, meeting facilitation, note taking, and generating detailed meeting summaries.		20.0	2.5	1	20.0	2.5	22.5
Leadership Workshop - Includes two-day facilitated Executive Issues Committee (EIC) meeting in a Tri-Cities no room rental cost location, meeting agenda development, EIC calls, materials preparation & copying, hotel coordination, travel, setup, meeting facilitation, and documenting meeting agreements and results.		20.0	2.5	1	20.0	2.5	22.5
Leadership Meeting Attendance* - Includes travel costs for Chair & Vice-chair attendance at Site-Specific Advisory Board Leadership Meetings.			5.0	2		10.0	10.0
National Liaison Conference Attendance* - Includes National Liaison meeting attendance fees and travel costs.			5.0	1		5.0	5.0
Facilitation Support (monthly) - Includes local office operation and rental, Board advice and document preparation, processing of incoming Board correspondence, HAB material storage, maintenance of Web and SharePoint sites, meeting and daily support.		8.0		12	96.0		96.0
* costs vary by location of meeting		Estimated HAB Budget Needs		FY-2018 Total			\$590
				FY-2019 Total (assumes 2.3% Inflation)			\$604