

**Hanford Regional Dialogue (formerly State of the Site) Format Guidelines Proposal**  
**Hanford Advisory Board – Public Involvement Committee**  
**7/26/18**

In an effort to support the Tri Party agencies in re-instituting regional public dialogues for the Hanford cleanup, the Hanford Advisory Board Public Involvement Committee would like to offer the following event format recommendations and tenets of a successful public exchange.

Location

While the PIC believes it is vitally important to conduct multiple dialogues around the region, we believe that Hood River, OR would be a good first location to launch a new event format. Hood River traditionally has been an engaged audience and Columbia River issues are among the most basic of concerns about Hanford. It is the hope of the PIC that the Agencies continue holding regional public dialogue meetings after the Hood River meeting in cities such as Portland and Seattle.

Basic Tenets

- The purpose of the dialogue should be to share information, elicit public values, gather public concerns, and, to the extent possible, respond to public questions and comments.
- The Agencies will do their best to work with individuals to resolve outstanding questions.
- An overarching goal is to increase long-term, informed public involvement.
- A two-way dialogue is preferred to the “information upload” style of presentation.
- We recommend that the Tri-Parties engage with host community leaders and stakeholders as part of event development, to include a survey or some other tool to help solicit specific relevant topics to ensure that local concerns are addressed and to solicit effective outreach strategies prior to the event.
- The topics discussed at each event should be tailored to the relevant concerns of the hosting community. Time should also be allotted to discuss general site topics. Because this is a public involvement activity, preference should be given to topics for which public input may make a difference in site cleanup decisions (not limited to open public comment periods).
- It is important to secure a strong event facilitator to set ground rules and moderate the conversation. The facilitator would ideally be brought in early to consult on the event format. The goal of the facilitator should be to encourage an open, respectful discussion (and although paid by DOE, the facilitator is not there to represent DOE or anyone else’s positions).
- Opportunities should be available for separate agency perspectives or third-party viewpoints (e.g., Oregon, Tribes, etc.) to be heard.

Proposed Event Flow from an Attendee’s Perspective

Below is a description of a proposed event format that the PIC believes may contribute to a successful dialogue. We estimate the time for this type of event to be 2 – 3 hours. We have attempted to combine these ideas into a “Format Map,” included as Figure 1. Two alternatives are presented.

Upon arrival to the Hanford Regional Dialogue, the attendee views informational posters and maps to orient them to the site and the evening’s topics. The event is called to order by the facilitator, and all

attendees take a seat before the “main stage.” The facilitator explains the event format and the ground rules, then the Tri-Party agencies offer their welcome and present a short **overview presentation** of Hanford and the evening’s three - four focus topics<sup>1</sup>.

Next, the attendees break into **smaller group breakouts**. There would be multiple rounds of small group discussion, tailored to the size of the group so each attendee would have time to participate in multiple focus topics. During these discussions, a subject matter expert from DOE would share information about the topic, and agencies/entities with other viewpoints would have the opportunity to speak as well. The public attendees would engage in discussion on the topic, and any major points or questions that can’t be answered at the table would be recorded by a delegate of that discussion group (possibly a member of the HAB or a public volunteer). After a set period of time (30 minutes minimum), the groups would rotate to the next topic (this means that each of the focus topics would be discussed TWICE during the night). Depending on meeting attendance, multiple tables may be necessary to keep discussions manageable.

After the small group breakouts phase, the whole group would gather back at the main stage for the **rollup and feedback**. The Agency management would invite delegates from the small group discussions to summarize the main points of discussion and any major questions, then respond or capture the comments for a future response as appropriate. Members of the public in the audience would have the opportunity to add any additional points of consideration or questions that were not adequately reflected by the small group delegates.

Upon completion of the full group feedback phase of the meeting, the facilitator would summarize any major outcomes, questions still to be answered, or public involvement opportunities on the horizon. The formal meeting would **adjourn**, but members of the public would have the opportunity to leave any last comments or questions on the WALL (which is available throughout the duration of the event) before they leave.

#### Other Format Suggestions Based on PIC Discussions

- Decision makers from DOE-RL, DOE-ORP, Ecology and EPA should be present.
- An interactive format has always been more successful.
- Some combination of presentations and topic-specific discussion tables staffed by Subject Matter Experts would be preferred.
- We would like to see the Tri-Party Agencies collaborate to develop one concise presentation that provides an overview of Hanford and updates on current cleanup progress and issues. This presentation would be intended to create a baseline of information before the meeting moves to smaller group discussions.
- The purpose of the small groups is to have a two-way exchange of information, to raise and address questions and concerns, and to allow multiple perspectives to be heard. One or more agency officials should be at a table to receive input and provide information, but not to sway discussion. Strong facilitation and documentation of comments or questions will ensure that public members can share, discuss, and reach agreement (not necessarily perfect consensus), as

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<sup>1</sup> The actual number of focus topics is flexible depending on feedback from the facilitator and host community.

well as elevate major points of input or questions to the larger group during the next phase of the event. The table facilitators do not need to be paid independent contractor staff, but need to be trained (e.g., via a 30- to 60-minute conference call) to ensure they can encourage participation, capture major outcomes, and keep conversation focused on the topic.

- Small group discussions should begin with a brief overview of the specific topic, based on the level of knowledge within the group, plus an opportunity to hear and discuss alternative viewpoints.
- The format could include a “sticky wall” similar to the recent Committee of the Whole meeting, which may be a way to let members of public get an issue, “off their chest and on the wall.”
- One of the table/topics could be focused on “the future of Hanford” (e.g., end state visions, projected future risks, future site uses).
- Topic-specific discussion should avoid “nuke speak”, i.e., avoid getting into the weeds of technical issues or jargon.
- A static visual representation (such as poster boards) of the major cleanup areas at Hanford (e.g., tanks, canyons, river corridor cleanup projects) with basic facts and the agencies responsible would help the public to direct questions. Posters from third-party organizations such as Tribes, the State of Oregon, and others should also be encouraged.
- The event agenda should include covering the means / avenues / timelines for additional involvement and input to the 2-3 topics chosen or general topics people raise. If people raise issues, the wrap-up should include WHEN / HOW there will be follow up to major concerns or suggestions.
- Recording and publishing the meeting online could extend the reach of the conversation, though would add to the cost.

### Outreach Suggestions

- The PIC would like to assist in designing an attractive mailer to be sent to the portion of the TPA list for the region where each meeting is located. The PIC also recommends using external communications expertise in the mailer design.
- Targeted ads in alternative local papers
- Radio ads and public service announcements (PSAs)
- Facebook advertising
- NW Public Radio
- KNKX, public radio in Tacoma
- PSAs for TV
- KBOO in Portland
- Internet outreach
- Placing posters at College campuses
- Heart of America Northwest and other citizen groups may raise awareness via email, social media, phone bank, and/or mail.

Figure 1: Proposed Format Map for a Hanford Public Dialogue Meeting

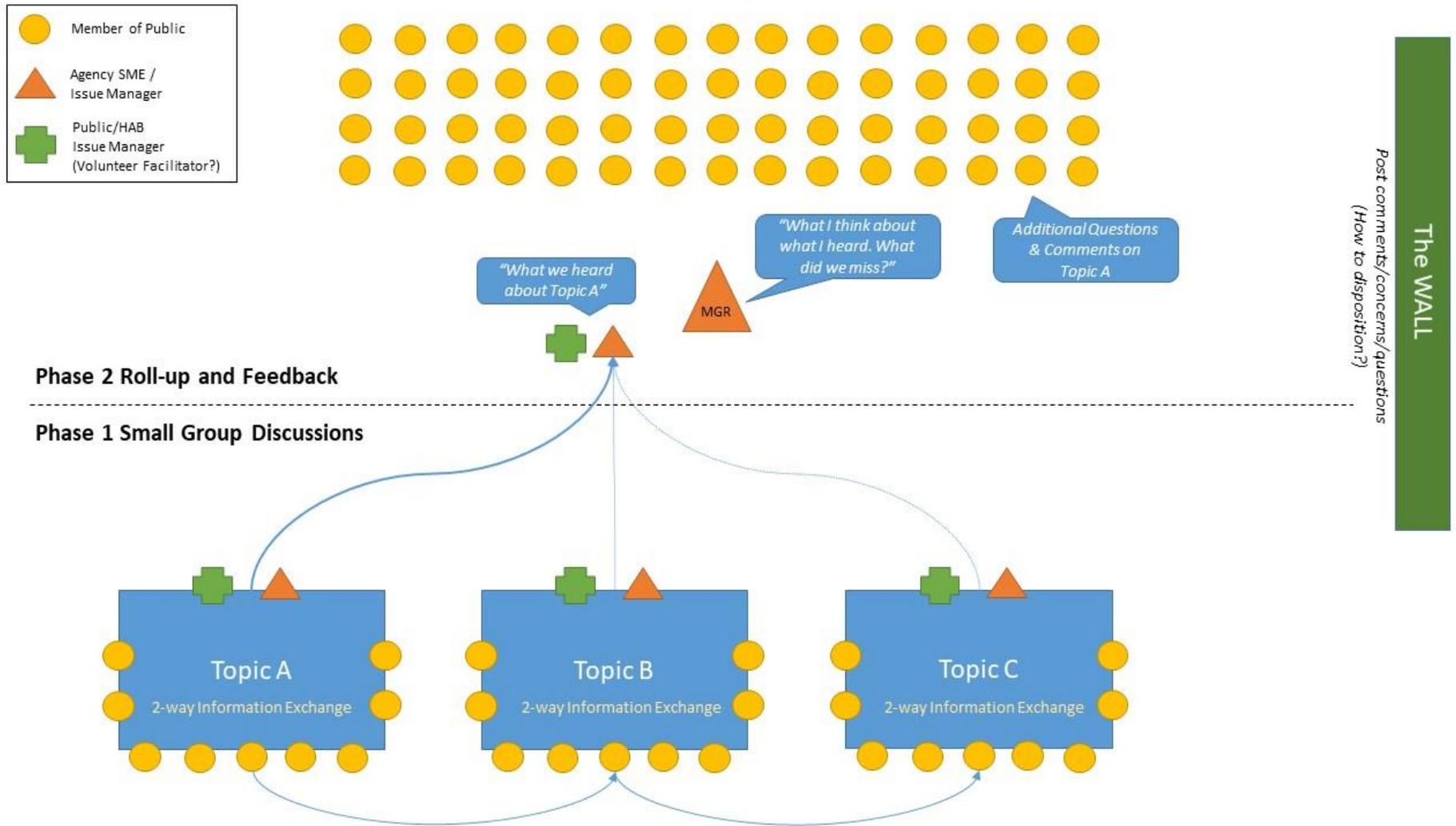


Figure 2: Potential Alternative Format Variant

