

HANFORD REGIONAL DIALOGUE MEETING SUMMARY

HOOD RIVER, OREGON | NOVEMBER 1, 2018

Executive Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Site and provide an opportunity to discuss nuclear waste cleanup issues with agency decision-makers. The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – DOE, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) – hosted the event Nov. 1, 2018 in Hood River, Oregon, from 6-9 p.m. 33 members of the public attended.

TPA agency staff and contractors served as subject matter experts and small group facilitators in four breakout sessions. The topics in those sessions were cleanup priorities, aging infrastructure, tank farms overview, and tank waste treatment. Significant input from the Hanford Advisory Board was used to develop the meeting format, which encouraged dialogue among all participants.

6:00 p.m. Doors Open/Open House

Groups participating in the open house included the Hanford Advisory Board, Hanford Challenge, Columbia Riverkeeper, Heart of America Northwest, Ecology, and the Oregon Department of Energy.

6:30 p.m. Welcome Susan Hayman, Facilitator, EnviroIssues

**6:35 p.m. Oregon Welcome Dan Serres, Columbia Riverkeeper
Ken Niles, Oregon Department of Energy**

**6:40 p.m. Introductory Agency Remarks Bill Hamel, Department of Energy
Brian Vance, Department of Energy
David Einan, EPA
Alex Smith, Ecology**

**7:00 p.m. Breakout Session #1 Mike Cline, Nina Menard, Laura Buelow
1. Cleanup Priorities Moses Jaraysi, Stephanie Schleif
2. Aging Infrastructure Rob Hastings, Steve Pfaff, Jeff Lyon
3. Tank Farms Overview Tom Fletcher, Brian Harkins, Jay Decker
4. Tank Waste Treatment**

Facilitators in each group captured the themes and questions from participants on flip charts. Questions varied widely in each group. At the end of the first session, participants moved to another breakout topic of their choice.

7:40 p.m. Break

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7:50 p.m.

Breakout Session #2

1. *Cleanup Priorities*
2. *Aging Infrastructure*
3. *Tank Farms Overview*
4. *Tank Waste Treatment*

**Mike Cline, Nina Menard, Laura Buelow
Moses Jaraysi, Stephanie Schleif
Rob Hastings, Steve Pfaff, Jeff Lyon
Tom Fletcher, Brian Harkins, Jay Decker**

8:30 p.m.

Transition

8:40 p.m.

Small Group Observations

Following the two breakout sessions, the whole group reconvened for the conclusion. Agency leaders briefly shared what they heard as they visited all four groups.

Alex Smith, manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program, thanked the audience for attending this important conversation. She added that it was clear from the small group discussions that the TPA agencies need to provide further understanding and clarity about issues and decisions involving the classification and management of waste in Hanford's tank farms.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Hanford Project Manager Dave Einan observed that the TPA agencies need to better communicate the whole Hanford picture and better describe how work is prioritized. He also stated that he appreciates the dedication of the public to Hanford issues.

Bill Hamel, Assistant Manager for River and Plateau for the DOE Richland Operations Office, said that he appreciated the open and productive discussions. Bill added that he heard a need to get the public more involved and better equip them with the means to talk to their elected officials about Hanford work.

DOE Office of River Protection Manager Brian Vance said he also appreciated the constructive dialogue and looks forward to future discussions, as ORP prepares to begin treating tank waste in the next couple of years. Brian added that he hoped the meeting helped highlight the dedication of the TPA agencies working on Hanford cleanup and the importance of that partnership in achieving the mission.

Susan Hayman invited comments from the audience on their observations from the breakout group discussions. Most respondents commented on the meeting format. One participant suggested a longer meeting so people could get more information. Another asked for a meeting where everyone could attend all of the breakout groups. A request was made for a meeting summary to be created and distributed. The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

Northwest Public Radio's Anna King covered the event live via Twitter and followed up with an online [article](#).

Agency representatives and managers will be discussing the meeting outcomes further before deciding on future events.

Feedback on the meeting was collected via a short survey distributed at the event. Additional feedback can be sent to HanfordDialogue2018@rl.gov. Click here to learn more about [public involvement opportunities](#) at Hanford.

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