

HANFORD REGIONAL DIALOGUE MEETING SUMMARY

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON | JUNE 12, 2019

The purpose of the Hanford Regional Dialogue 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, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) – hosted the event June 12, 2019 in Richland, Washington, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. About 50 members of the public and other agencies attended.

TPA agency staff served as subject matter experts in three facilitated breakout sessions. The topics in those sessions were the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) approach for near-term tank waste treatment, current cleanup work, and a lookback/lookahead at the Hanford cleanup mission. As a supplement to the breakout sessions, a Hanford Site information station was available throughout the meeting. Input from the Hanford Advisory Board and local stakeholders helped to shape the meeting format, which encouraged dialogue among all participants.

5:30 p.m. Doors Open / Open House

Groups participating in the open house included the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), Hanford Challenge, Heart of America Northwest, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Hanford Workforce Engagement Center.

6:00 p.m. Welcome Ryan Orth, Facilitator, EnviroIssues

**6:05 p.m. Tri-Cities Welcome Susan Leckband, HAB
Pam Larsen, Hanford Communities**

**6:10 p.m. Introductory Agency Remarks Brian Vance, DOE
David Einan, EPA
Alex Smith, Ecology**

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions 1 - 3
*1. DFLAW Tom Fletcher & Rob Hastings (DOE)
Suzanne Dahl (Ecology)*

*2. Current cleanup work Bill Hamel & Brian Stickney (DOE)
Craig Cameron (EPA)
Nina Menard (Ecology)*

*3. Lookback/lookahead Glyn Trenchard, Carrie Meyer & Tom Teynor (DOE)
Laura Buelow (EPA)
John Price (Ecology)*

*4. General Hanford information Jeff Bird, Greg Jones & Delmar Noyes (DOE)
Stephanie Schleif (Ecology)*

TPA agency staff served as facilitators for each breakout group. At the end of the first session, participants moved to another breakout topic. Sessions repeated three times so that each participant could engage in dialogue on each breakout topic.

8:10 p.m.

Small-Group Observations

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

DOE Hanford Site Manager Brian Vance thanked everyone for participating, stating the importance of continued communication in a complex world with different perspectives. He mentioned the interest in traffic safety on site and the broader safety culture that is necessary for Hanford's success, particularly during this period of change as the site prepares for the start of tank waste treatment operations. He noted DOE's ongoing emphasis on ethical behavior and commitment to meet taxpayer expectations for safe, efficient, and effective cleanup. He encouraged participants to recognize cleanup successes like C-Farm and the 618-10 area. In conclusion, he said he hoped the participants were impressed with the constructive working relationships between the Tri-Party Agreement agencies as demonstrated during the discussions.

Alex Smith, manager for Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program, said it was clear from the small-group discussions that people are concerned about the risk posed by the Z-9 crib, the ultimate disposition of waste and the challenge of having no national waste repository. She also said she heard the group ask questions about safety, the contamination levels of the waste, and the safety of the workforce environment. She closed by thanking the audience for attending this important conversation.

Dave Einan, EPA's Hanford project manager, agreed with the prior speakers. He thanked the participants and said he was encouraged and pleased that the participants recognized the same risks – the cesium and strontium capsule storage, tank waste and worker safety. He asked everyone to pull together to resolve these risks and offered to provide more engagement opportunities in the future.

Facilitator Ryan Orth invited comments from the audience on their observations from the breakout group discussions. Tom Carpenter, the director of Hanford Challenge said the dialogue was good. A member from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs asked if the tribal foods around Hanford were being tested (follow-up on the question is taking place within the Hanford Site Tribal Affairs program). Following the conclusion of the meeting at 8:30 p.m. most participants remained to mingle and made positive remarks.

Feedback on the meeting was collected via a short survey distributed at the event. Additional feedback can be sent to HanfordDialogue@rl.gov.

To learn more about public involvement opportunities at Hanford visit <https://go.usa.gov/xyYSZ>.

