

# Hanford Advisory Board

September 2009

(including U.S. DOE, U.S. EPA and Washington State Dept of Ecology representatives)



# HAB – A Board of 31 “Interests”

- Seven representatives of local governmental interests
- One representative of business interests from the Tri-Cities area, appointed by TRIDEC or similar
- Five representatives of the Hanford workforce: 2 Union, 2 non-union/non-mgmt, 1 other
- One representative of local environmental interests;
- Five representatives of regional citizen, environmental, and public interest organizations with an active interest in Hanford cleanup issues, drawn from regional organizations;
- One representative each of local and regional public health concerns, focusing on individuals and organizations that have a particular expertise in this area;
- One representative of each of the three tribes that have treaty rights that are affected by Hanford cleanup decisions: including the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe;
- Two representatives of the interests of the citizens of the State of Oregon including one appointed by the Governor of Oregon or the agency that has the lead role for the State of Oregon on Hanford cleanup issues; and one that can represent the broad interests of Oregon citizens appointed by the Oregon Hanford Waste Board;
- Four at-large (members of the public).

# Consensus-How the HAB Works

- HAB is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
  - Part of the national SSAB (Site Specific Advisory Board consisting of citizen advisory boards from other EM superfund sites)
- HAB provides advice and recommendations to DOE, EPA and Ecology
  - TPA agencies develop an issues priorities list requesting HAB input and the HAB works that list through the committee structure. Additionally,
    - Committees determine issues for discussion and or a,
    - Committee member brings issue forward
    - Information is requested from DOE and/or regulators or outside sources by committee chair or Issue Manager
    - Information is presented to the committee or issue manager(s) review information and propose path forward. Committee discussion occurs. If advice is developed, the committee must reach consensus on advice before it is brought before the HAB.
- To date the HAB has provided 222 pieces of advice to the TPA agencies in addition to decision flowcharts, white papers and round robin discussions. All of which provide the agencies with in-depth stakeholder and public values.
- HAB Website: [www.hanford.gov/hab](http://www.hanford.gov/hab)

# HAB Committees

- River and Plateau
- Tank Waste
- Health & Safety
- Public Involvement
- Budgets & Contracts

River and Plateau and Tank Waste committees meet almost monthly. Other committees meet as the work/issues require.

Occasionally the committees will meet jointly or a Committee of the Whole will be convened to discuss an overarching issue where all members need the opportunity to weigh in and hear each others concerns. The HAB may determine that a task force is needed to work a particular issue over some period of time. The HAB remains nimble enough to address issues in whatever manner is required to provide all the membership with equal opportunity to engage in the process.

# HAB Concerns

- **Safety**
  - Worker
  - Public
- **Hanford site size reduction**
  - New record of decision (ROD) strategy for central plateau
  - Future land use
  - Economic impacts of cleanup
  - Long term stewardship and institutional controls
- **Groundwater**
  - Integration for groundwater cleanups across Hanford (field offices and contractors)
  - Will 200 Area cleanup Records of Decisions (ROD) and Remedial Actions be protective enough?
- **Capping waste sites vs. retrieve/treat/dispose**
  - Characterization needed
  - Viability/longevity of barriers/caps
  - Potential risks to groundwater
- **Transuranic waste**
  - Contact handled shipments restarted
  - RH shipment initiation-will there be room
  - Pre-1970 buried waste (some TRU) – disposition?

# HAB Concerns

- **Funding**
  - American Recovery Act (stimulus dollars) workscope
  - Yearly appropriations – are they adequate to avoid cleanup delays
  - Don't want to lose momentum after 2011 when stimulus dollars are gone
- **Waste Treatment Plant**
  - Startup schedule moved from 2011 to 2019
  - Current underground tank storage system integrity
    - Are there enough double shell tanks with available space to continue waste removal from single shell tanks or is new tank construction needed?
  - Demonstrated Progress = funding sustainability
- **NRC**
  - Ongoing discussions regarding rulemaking and potential waste reclassification
    - What is the impact on Hanford cleanup?
      - Need for NRC to have branch technical positions (technically sound science)
      - Calling out depleted uranium as “unique” waste stream (risk increases over time from daughter products)
      - Definition for “period of performance”
      - Propose NRC hold meetings in affected communities
      - Waste blending
      - Corollary legislation needed in individual states