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TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT AGENCIES WEBINAR
PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE HANFORD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

TAKEN ON: Wednesday, November 9, 2011

TAKEN AT: The Federal Building
Richland, WA

REPORTED BY: DIANE D. NICHOLSON, CCR
CCR NO. 2362

1 **APPEARANCES AT LOCATION:**

2 Paula Call, DOE
3 Susan Leckband, Hanford Advisory Board Chair
4 Sharon Braswell
5 Barbara Wise
6 Dieter Bohrmann, Ecology
7 Aaron McCreight, MSA PFM
8 Jeffrey Dennison, MSA
9 Cameron Salony, DOE
10 Emerald (Emy) Laija

11 **PARTICIPANTS:**

12 Susan Hayman - Facilitator (with Enviroissues)

13 **Panel Members:**

14 Paula Call	U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office
15 Pamela McCann	U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection
16 Emerald (Emy) Laija	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
17 Dieter Bohrmann	Washington State Department Of Ecology
18 Susan Leckband	Chair of Hanford Advisory Board

1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Wednesday, November 9,
2 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at The U.S. Federal Building, Richland,
3 Washington, a **WEBINAR** on the **PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE HANFORD**
4 **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN** was taken before Diane D. Nicholson,
5 Certified Professional Reporter and Notary Public. The
6 following proceedings took place: Hanford Public Involvement
7 Plan

8 MS. HAYMAN: Let's go ahead with the introductions.
9 I've introduced myself and I would like to have the Tri-Party
10 Agency representatives introduce themselves. So we'll go
11 ahead and move to that and meet our folks from the Tri-Party
12 Agencies. And, Dieter, would you like to start?

13 MR. BOHRMANN: Yes, thank you, Susan, and thank
14 you everybody for participating tonight. This is Dieter
15 Bohrmann. I'm the public involvement lead at the Department
16 Of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program in Richland, and we look
17 forward to discussing the Public Involvement Plan with you
18 tonight and we hope we can answer any of your questions.
19 Thanks.

20 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks, Dieter. Paula?

21 MS. CALL: Hi, I'm Paula Call and I'm with the U.
22 S. Department of Energy, and I also want to say thanks for
23 taking the time out of your evening to join this Webinar.
24 Many of you have encouraged us for sometime now to try
25 different ways of reaching out and engaging people, and here

1 we are. While we are very excited about trying out this new
2 Webinar format, we want you to know that we are not intending
3 on giving up on face-to-face meetings when they're called
4 for. So like Dieter, I'm looking forward spending the next
5 couple of hours with you and I'll turn it over to Emy.

6 MS. LAIJA: Hi, my name is Emy Laija, and I work
7 for the Environmental Protection Agency and I'll be
8 presenting on the Public Involvement Plan tonight. Do you
9 want me to go ahead and get started, Susan?

10 MS. HAYMAN: Yes.

11 MS. LAIJA: Could I have next slide, please?
12 Okay, so as my counterpart said, we are really excited about
13 tonight. This is one of the first times we are reaching out
14 to the public through our Webinar to discuss the document
15 that's out for public comment. So it is a rather exciting
16 time for us.

17 I'd like to start with some background information
18 and then discuss the key changes to the plan, and I'll go
19 over the next steps, how to go about submitting your comments
20 and how the comments will be used. Next slide.

21 The one initial question you may have had was what
22 is the Public Involvement Plan? Well, this is a document
23 that identifies the ways that the public can participate in
24 the decision-making process at the Hanford Site. It serves
25 as an overall guidance document for public participation at

1 Hanford.

2 A couple of years ago, when I first started
3 working for EPA about three years ago, my boss handed me the
4 Public Involvement Plan and said, Here, read this. This
5 contains information that pertains to your public involvement
6 of your job. So I said, Okay, and I read it, and being new
7 to Hanford and knowing how large and complex Hanford is, it
8 was actually a good document to help orient myself and what
9 were the ways that the public could be involved, and just
10 some basic history about the Site. So I found it to be very
11 useful. That was my first experience with the Public
12 Involvement Plan.

13 So another question you may have had was why
14 should I care about revisions to this document. So right
15 now, during the public comment period, you have the
16 opportunity to provide your input on the document that guides
17 public participation at the Hanford Site. All the comments
18 that are received will be considered before the document is
19 finalized. And I'll talk more about how to provide your
20 comments at the end of the presentation. Next slide, please.

21 So who is proposing the changes to the plan?
22 Well, that's the Tri-Party Agreement Agencies. You heard
23 from the representatives here today from DOE, myself from
24 EPA, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

25 We entered into the Tri-Party Agreement in 1989.

1 That's the legally binding agreement between the agencies.
2 It includes a completion schedule for Hanford cleanup, but it
3 also has a requirement for this document, a public
4 involvement plan at the Hanford Site. That requirement
5 actually comes from a Federal Regulation known as CERCLA, the
6 Comprehensive, Environmental, Reform, Compensation and
7 Liability Act. So we're legally required to have this
8 document for the Hanford Site. Next slide, please.

9 So why are we revising the plan? This document
10 first came out in 1990. So that was a couple of years ago.
11 It was originally referred to as the Community Relations
12 Plan. That's the legal term that's used. So, again, it was
13 first issued in 1990, and last revised in 2002. This is
14 going to be the fifth revision to this document.

15 As you can imagine, over time, material becomes
16 dated, especially as new technologies are used and as the
17 cleanup continues. So we have to update the plan
18 accordingly. We've actually been talking about revising this
19 plan for over a year, and during that time we have received
20 some input and suggested changes to the document. That's
21 mostly been from the Hanford Advisory Board, which is a
22 citizen advisory board that you will hearing from later
23 tonight. Next slide, please.

24 So what are some of the key changes to the plan?
25 The most obvious one is the change in the title. The

1 original title was rather long, the Hanford Site Tri-Party
2 Agreement Public Involvement Community Relations Plan. That
3 was just too long. So we are proposing a shorter, clearer
4 title that simply states the Hanford Public Involvement Plan.
5 That is the phrasing we have been using so far tonight on the
6 Webinar.

7 Another key change is a public involvement
8 section. Here we added more information or enhanced the
9 public involvement goals section, and we've updated the
10 process for evaluating how we direct public involvement.
11 Next slide.

12 Other changes include streamlining the
13 information. So when we say streamlining that doesn't mean
14 we just took out a bunch of information. Really, what we did
15 is anything that was outdated or a process that had been
16 changed, we took that out and replaced it with updated
17 information. For example, some of the phrasing we used when
18 discussing the Hanford Site were terms that we don't really
19 use anymore. Right now, you hear terms like River Corridor
20 and Central Plateau, and that was not anywhere in the 2002
21 document. So we had to update the terminology we use to make
22 it compare to what is happening out on the Site right now.
23 Next slide, please.

24 So here we are going to take a look at the layout
25 of the document. This is basically a table contents that we

1 are looking at. This is quite a bit different from the 2002
2 version. The sections that I think the public will be most
3 interested in are Section 1, the TPA Public Involvement Plan
4 Section. This talks about the goals of public involvement,
5 it's importance, and opportunities to be involved on the
6 Hanford Site. Section three is another key place. People
7 who are looking for more information will be interested in
8 this. It talks about our mailing list, our Listserv, on-line
9 calendars, and other resources you can go to if you're
10 looking for more information on the Hanford Site, beyond the
11 basics provided here.

12 Of course, we still did provide some information
13 on the history of the Site. That's in Section 5, for people
14 who are just getting to know Hanford and need to orient
15 themselves with the Site. Next slide, please.

16 So where do we go from here? Right now we're
17 accepting public comments and currently we're accepting them
18 through November 28th. Besides this Webinar, we have two
19 public meetings that are going to be held in Seattle and
20 Spokane. So all the public comments that are received will
21 be considered when making the final revisions to the document
22 and before it's actually finalized. So we are going to look
23 at everything that comes in to us.

24 When we get all of those comments and we determine
25 which ones can be incorporated into changes in the document

1 or which ones we can't incorporate we will identify those in
2 a comment and response document. This provides the agencies'
3 responses to the comments we receive. So if you submit a
4 comment and you want to know what happened with it, this is a
5 document you should go to for that answer so you can see how
6 your input affected the final document. Next slide, please.

7 Here is information on how to provide your public
8 comments. You can submit your comments, again, through
9 November 28th. You can provide verbal comments on this
10 Webinar or the public meetings. You can send us written
11 comments to the mail address on your screen, or you can
12 e-mail us comments as well. Using any of these methods, we
13 will receive your comments, compile them, and then we'll use
14 them in finalizing the Public Involvement Plan. And that's
15 all I have. Thank you.

16 MS. HAYMAN: Thanks, Emy. We are going to go
17 ahead now and move to the local perspective, and this will be
18 provided by Susan Leckband, who is Chair of Hanford Advisory
19 Board. So, Susan, are you ready to go?

20 MS. LECKBAND: I am, thank you. Thank you, this
21 is Susan Leckband, Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board. For
22 those of you who are not familiar with what the Hanford
23 Advisory Board is -- Next slide, please. The HAB is a 31
24 seat, diverse board of interests established in 1994. It
25 provides consensus advice to the Tri-Party Agencies that you

1 just heard about; The Department of Energy, EPA, Washington
2 State Department Of Ecology.

3 The HAB has provided several pieces of advice on
4 public involvement to the TPA agencies, and they will be
5 listed later in the presentation.

6 The Hanford Advisory Board itself is public
7 involvement and it has continued to be public involvement and
8 been involved in Hanford issues since 1994. Meaningful
9 public involvement is key to successful Hanford cleanup. The
10 public brings valuable insights to Hanford remediation
11 efforts.

12 The ways in which the Tri-Party Agreement agencies
13 inform, involve, and encourage the public to participate help
14 determine the quality of that participation.

15 A robust and successful strategy is critical to
16 implement a public policy of effective public involvement.
17 Next slide.

18 The Board has several principles and they have
19 been stated over and over again through several pieces of
20 advice, and they are listed here as principles. The board
21 believes that the agencies should provide effective notice
22 for public meetings. They should be in time. The notices
23 should be clear, and they should help the public want to
24 engage in those meetings.

25 The educational materials provided should be

1 really understandable to all levels of knowledge. The public
2 involvement process should ensure open and transparent
3 decision making. The agencies should provide easy access to
4 public information and to records needed by the public to
5 understand the issues at hand.

6 We believe that the agencies should incorporate
7 public values in the decision-making process and have
8 provided advice to that end. We believe also that feedback
9 should be provided to the public on how their input was
10 considered in decision, and Emy just stated that would be
11 happening with this particular document. Next, next slide.

12 MS. HAYMAN: Sorry about that, Susan.

13 MS. LECKBAND: The HAB has provided, as I said
14 before, advice and recommendations as well as various kinds
15 of dialogue with the agencies regarding public involvement.

16 We did advise incorporating these following
17 concepts into the Public Involvement Plan. We needed to move
18 on. We need to move back. You went too far. There we go.

19 We believe the plan should be tailored to be
20 understandable at all levels of knowledge to diverse
21 audiences with varied levels of education, language and/or
22 cultural differences. We believe we should collect values
23 and input from diverse perspectives. We believe it should
24 provide educational and interactive public involvement
25 activities.

1 We believe the plan should describe how public
2 values could be impacted by proposed actions and how public
3 comments and values actually influence decisions. We believe
4 you should ensure government agencies are open and
5 accountable to the public. We also believe the agencies
6 should engage the public early and often in the
7 decision-making process on Hanford issues. Next slide.

8 In most recent advice, the Hanford Public
9 Involvement Plan should allow for extended public comment
10 periods when needed by the public, especially when the issue
11 is very complicated or the document to be renewed is very
12 long and hard to understand.

13 We believe that this document ought to be a guide
14 for the public, as well as for the agencies. We believe the
15 plan should include a statement of purpose to explain the
16 document goals and characteristics. We believe it should
17 include clear descriptions of legal requirements for public
18 involvement and requirements for the decision-making process.

19 We also believe that the document ought to
20 include clarification on how documents can be found
21 electronically or in the repository easily available to the
22 public.

23 You will find that particular set of advice and
24 recommendations in the most recent advice issued by the
25 Hanford Advisory Board, November 4th. Next slide.

1 This is the listing of various pieces of public
2 involvement advice issued by the Hanford Advisory Board. As
3 you can see, we have a long history of public involvement
4 advice and continue to stay engaged. There are other pieces
5 of advice, as well, other pieces of advice that contain
6 elements and values in association with public involvement.
7 Next slide.

8 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, I think we are ready to go to
9 the question --

10 MS. LECKBAND: Wait a minute, Susan, you skipped a
11 slide.

12 MS. HAYMAN: What?

13 MS. LECKBAND: You skipped a slide. You need to
14 go back to my last one. Thank you.

15 MS. HAYMAN: I'm sorry, but I'm having trouble
16 with the presentation.

17 MS. LECKBAND: Okay, for more information and to
18 look up those pieces of advice on public involvement that
19 were listed on the previous page, we do encourage you to
20 visit the Hanford Advisory Board website. As you can see, if
21 you go to www.Hanford.gov and click on the Hanford Advisory
22 Board link, as you see circled in the red on the screen in
23 front of you, you will find past advice, meeting minutes from
24 all of the committee meetings, as well as from the board
25 meetings, calendars of next events of the Hanford Advisory

1 Board, and much other information and it's very easily
2 accessible.

3 If you have any questions regarding Hanford
4 Advisory Board, please call the Tri-Cities project office of
5 the HAB facilitation team for more information. The number
6 is listed there, 509-942-1906. Thank you very much.

7 MS. HAYMAN: All right, thank you, Susan, and I
8 promise I wasn't just trying to fiddle around with your
9 presentation, but I beg your pardon for that. Okay, now, we
10 are ready to go to the question and answer period. And do
11 you see some instructions up here your screen? That's just
12 so that you are able to stay focused on the things that we're
13 trying to accomplish here in this period and just to be sure
14 that everybody has gotten instructions and they can reference
15 them when they need to.

16 So just real quickly, you really want to focus on
17 clarifying questions. There will be a comment opportunity
18 later on in the Webinar. So please limit yourself right now
19 to clarifying questions, and you can raise your hand and ask
20 questions or you can send us questions, and we do have a few
21 questions that have been sent in. So we'll get to those
22 first and then we'll go into any other raised hands or
23 written questions, as they come in.

24 If it's a written question, I won't identify who
25 submitted the question, but, obviously, if you raise your

1 hand then I will need to call on you so we'll know who asked
2 that question. Then at the bottom of the screen you will
3 see, if you do want to submit formal public comment, you will
4 actually send that in. You've got that information at the
5 bottom of your screen, and you can type that in and use it at
6 any time after this Webinar. So with that I'm going to go
7 ahead and go to some questions, and then I'm going start with
8 some written questions here.

9 The first one is, does the plan include an annual
10 updated set of goals and action plan for the coming year?
11 And, Emy, I'm presuming that you would like to take that
12 question?

13 MS. LAIJA: Sure, Susan. The last version of this
14 plan was issued in 2002 and we're revising it now. So this
15 is not a document that is revised on an annual basis. So,
16 no, there are no annual goals or anything annual listed in
17 the plan.

18 MS. HAYMAN: Okay. By the way, if you've
19 submitted a written question and you have any follow-up
20 question, be sure and send those to us or raise your hand.
21 Emy, did you have anything else on that one?

22 MS. LAIJA: No, unless another question pops up,
23 but that's it.

24 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, all right, very good, thank
25 you. Okay, a second question that we have that was

1 submitted: What changes have you made to improve public
2 involvement, not just updating language in the plan and
3 adding goals?

4 MS. CALL: Yeah, this is Paula Call with the
5 Department of Energy and I'll take a shot at that. In the
6 last couple of years, we have been hearing from folks that
7 they really appreciate it when we come out informally where
8 we get away from the more traditional agency comes, gives
9 presentation, sits down, public gives comment-type format.
10 So we've really tried to adopt more of a town hall format,
11 where we come and sit around tables and we do a brief
12 presentation and then we have a long dialogue on the issues.

13 We have done that recently on several things that
14 I can think of. On our deep vadose zone strategy, we heard
15 from the public that you really cared about the deep vadose
16 zone. You wanted us to focus more on it. So we came out and
17 we held a two-day workshop that was open to stakeholders and
18 we produced a document to put out for public comment. You
19 know, that wasn't a required formal process but it really
20 helped to form the document that came out of that.

21 In the fall of 2010, we went out for a few
22 meetings on the Solid Waste Radioactive Burial Grounds
23 because people had said, you know, we want to talk with you
24 about that. We want to understand more about the risks and
25 what it is you're planning. So long ahead of the decision

1 process, we went out and had informal public meetings, very
2 heavy on dialogue on questions, answers and discussions that
3 were very satisfying for not just the agencies but we also
4 heard good things from the public.

5 One other example on our recent strategy for
6 tackling the Central Plateau Cleanup, the Department of
7 Energy very early long released a draft strategy. They put
8 it out for comment and went around and had public meetings on
9 that and discussed it.

10 So we tried to go more toward this open
11 dialogue-type setting, where we can actually have some
12 satisfying conversations.

13 MS. HAYMAN: Thank you, Paula. Anything else from
14 the Tri-Party Agencies? Okay, then let's go to our next
15 question. Why doesn't the plan include funding commitments
16 so that we don't hear that agencies can't afford to have
17 meetings in Spokane or Hood River?

18 MS. CALL: This is Paula Call again. That is a
19 pretty straightforward answer. We receive our funding every
20 year from Congress. We don't know what it's going to be
21 until we receive it. So it's irresponsible to think that we
22 could actually make hard commitments on things like that if
23 we don't know what kind of funding level we are going to
24 have.

25 We certainly have hard commitments in the

1 Tri-Party Agreement for an annual meeting on the budget,
2 which we always hold, but beyond that, it's really, you know,
3 we need to wait and see our budget. Then we will know what
4 cleanup projects will take place that year and then we can
5 determine the public involvement process.

6 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks. I want to mention we
7 have received a couple of questions that do not have direct
8 bearing on the plan. They're related to funding for public
9 participation grants and things. So I'm going to hold off on
10 those questions. We'll provide those to the agencies to
11 respond to but not as part of this discussion about the
12 actual plan itself, unless the public participation grants
13 are actually part of the public involvement plan. Are they
14 not or should we be dealing with those questions?

15 Ms. LAIJA: I would like to. I mean, I like what
16 you said about focusing on questions about the plan, but if
17 time allows we can try and answer some of these questions
18 that are related on other items.

19 MS. HAYMAN: Okay. So we will definitely hang on
20 to those because we can provide them to you if necessary, if
21 we don't get to them. So let's go ahead and go through some
22 other questions here. Let's see, next question.

23 Emy stated that the document is legally required.
24 Why is the content of the legally required document not
25 legally binding?

1 MS. LAIJA: This is a question I have been asked
2 in the past about whether or not the Public Involvement Plan
3 is a legally binding document or an enforceable document,
4 and, truthfully, you could argue for either side of that.
5 The message of the agencies have said in the past is when we
6 look at what's legally required or what our hard requirements
7 are, we look at the Tri-Party Agreement, and that's where we
8 identify things that we absolutely have to do. It would be
9 very difficult for the Tri-Party Agencies to be able to agree
10 on which commitments beyond those that are legally required
11 would be put into this document.

12 Honestly, I'm not sure that we would ever be able
13 to agree on that and that's why you don't see commitments
14 beyond what's legally required in the document itself. We
15 just talk about the things that we are striving to do and all
16 the things that we agree we should work towards doing, but we
17 don't identify them as commitments.

18 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks, Emy. We're going to go
19 to a question that we have, another written question, and
20 then we have a hand from Gerry Pollet that we will be going
21 to. So first, the question that was a written question that
22 was sent in.

23 In the interest of transparency, as mentioned in
24 your board release, if they have a direct communication with
25 the contractors on the ground, are the contractors included

1 in the HAB process in the public meetings or does the
2 communication occur solely between the HAB and the TPA
3 agencies?

4 I started reading that before I read that. I'm
5 not sure. Again, I think that's a really question about the
6 HAB. I don't think it's related to the public participation
7 plan. Willing to stand corrected here, but is this a
8 question that we should hold until we see if we have time to
9 address it later?

10 MS. LECKBAND: Well, I can answer it very quickly.
11 This is Susan Leckband.

12 MS. HAYMAN: Okay.

13 MS. LECKBAND: The HAB is chartered to provide
14 formal advice to the Tri-Party Agencies, not to the
15 contractors. That being said, certainly, Department of
16 Energy uses contractors because they perform the work. So in
17 case a contractor comes to the meeting, we do not directly
18 interface with contractors nor do we provide advice to them.

19 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks, Susan. All right,
20 Gerry, we'll go ahead and un-mute you and you have your hand
21 raised. You have either a new question or a follow-up?

22 MR. POLLET: Let me start with process questions
23 here. How many people are on this call to the public?

24 MS. HAYMAN: 16.

25 MR. POLLET: 16?

1 MS. HAYMAN: Yes, we have 16 attendees beyond the
2 staff folks.

3 MR. POLLET: All right. So are the questions and
4 answers being recorded so that we can see them and use them
5 in our comments?

6 MS. HAYMAN: Yes.

7 MR. POLLET: So they can be e-mailed back to
8 everyone. I'd like to make sure that happens because I have
9 very, very grave concerns over what just happened here,
10 Susan.

11 MS. HAYMAN: Okay.

12 MR. POLLET: It's not okay for you to decide that
13 something that the public wants to raise are a set of
14 questions that you are not going to raise, and you're going
15 defer it. If this was a face-to-face public meeting that
16 would never happen.

17 MS. HAYMAN: Would you like to --

18 MR. POLLET: They would have raised their hand and
19 they would have asked the question and other people who are
20 on the phone now would be face-to-face and say, yes, we want
21 to talk about it. I want to point out that public
22 participation grants are an element of every, every public
23 participation and Public Involvement Plan in the State of
24 Washington and the EPA's grants are a part of every super
25 fund grant in the country. They're required to be.

1 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, Jerry, could you --

2 MR. POLLET: I would like to have those people,
3 who have those questions, be able to ask them and have them
4 responded to now, instead of being censored.

5 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks, Jerry. Do you have a
6 question about the plan right now?

7 MR. POLLET: I would like to hear what those other
8 questions were that were submitted from other people.

9 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks. All right, let's go
10 ahead and go to the next question then on the list here.
11 Let's see, all right.

12 Other plans I've looked at include annual action
13 plans, including EPA Region 10 plans for other Superfund
14 sites. So I don't understand your answer that this is a plan
15 that doesn't have an annually updated element. Emy, is this
16 yours?

17 MS. LAIJA: Yes, I'm sorry, Susan. I didn't hear
18 the very first part of the question.

19 MS. HAYMAN: Sure. Other plans I've looked at
20 include annual action plans, including EPA Region 10 plans
21 for other Superfund sites. So I don't understand your answer
22 that this is a plan that doesn't have an annually updated
23 element.

24 MS. LAIJA: Okay. The unique thing about Hanford
25 is that while it is a Superfund site, it's known as a federal

1 facility under Superfund. Again, EPA is not the lead on
2 this. We are in the Tri-Party Agreement with the state and
3 with DOE. So this document, the Public Involvement Plan, is
4 a Tri-Party Agreement document, not an EPA document.

5 For other sites, that might work for their needs
6 to have a plan that they update annually, but that is not
7 what we do for Hanford, and that's because federal
8 facilities, because there's more than just EPA that's
9 involved, are treated or act a little bit differently.

10 MS. CALL: This is Paula. I can supplement that
11 answer from the DOE perspective. These plans are labor
12 intensive and take a measured amount of time and agency
13 resources and dollars to update, and we don't believe that
14 there is a need to update this plan annually. We believe
15 that there was a need to update this plan because it had
16 become dated. However, we don't see a need to spend the
17 money, to spend the money that, you know, we would like to
18 focus on cleanup to update this plan.

19 We believe that we have other mechanisms for
20 keeping folks up-to-date and for being transparent about
21 plans for public involvement, such as our Tri-Party Agreement
22 Public Agreement Public Involvement Calendar, which can be
23 updated very inexpensively and put on the website for all to
24 see.

25 MS. LAIJA: Just a final thought on this. That

1 doesn't mean we don't look at each project individually and
2 identify or start anticipating what kind of activities we are
3 going to need for that. We have general ideas on what are
4 items that will be of high public interest versus other items
5 that will be of low public interest. There are so many
6 projects at the Hanford Site. It's so large and complex that
7 we have to break it into smaller units. We have to look at
8 each of those individually. So we do do that.

9 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, anything else by way of
10 response? Okay, thank you. We have a hand from John
11 Howieson. So if we can un-mute John. John, would you like
12 to ask your question, please?

13 MR. HOWIESON: Yes, it's not directly about the
14 plan but I hope you can find a response to this. I'm
15 distressed that there are only 16 people signed into this
16 Webinar, and I wonder how was the Webinar announced to the
17 public? I know I got it because I'm on a variety of mailing
18 lists and, of course, I'm an alternate on the Hanford
19 Advisory Board. But what about the general public? Was it
20 announced in any newspapers or any general announcement of
21 this Webinar?

22 MS. LAIJA: Actually --

23 MS. HAYMAN: I will -- I'm sorry.

24 MS. LAIJA: I'm sorry.

25 MS. HAYMAN: I was going to say we have 30 people

1 registered and we have 16 on. So I just wanted to mention
2 that, John, and, excuse me, Emy, go ahead.

3 MS. LAIJA: Sorry, Susan, for jumping in there.
4 We have had a few articles in the paper, in different
5 newspapers on this Webinar and the public meetings. We had a
6 few articles that posted on November 7th. One was in the
7 Tri-City Herald. We also had the News Tribune that
8 distributed in the Seattle-Tacoma area. On NCWN.com for
9 Spokane, we had an article that ran on the 7th, also
10 publicizing the Webinar and the public meetings. And even
11 yesterday in Tri-Cities, we had another follow-up article
12 advertising tonight's Webinar.

13 There's quite a bit of newspaper traffic. We also
14 used our electronic Listserv to send out information on the
15 public meetings, as well as a fact sheet that had more
16 detailed information on the Public Involvement Plan itself.
17 So we have done a variety of advertising activities for this.

18 Oh, we also posted a U-Tube video. It was about a
19 two and a half minute video that talked about the Public
20 Involvement Plan. That went up on Monday as well.

21 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, anything else on that, John?

22 MR. HOWIESON: No, thank you.

23 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you. All right, so
24 another question, written question. How are the new methods
25 Paula listed incorporated in the plan? And I'm thinking that

1 these have to do with -- I think this is a follow-up to a
2 question that you answered earlier. Does that ring any bells
3 for you?

4 MS. CALL: Yeah, I think, you know, in the plan we
5 talk about the outreach activities that we do above and
6 beyond what's legally required, the legally required comment
7 periods and the public meetings and the hearings we are
8 required to have. There is a section in the plan that talks
9 about that we place a priority on other forms of outreach
10 that include focus groups, workshops, classroom visits, open
11 houses, that kind of thing, above and beyond compliance but
12 an attempt to reach out and engage people in discussions. So
13 that's how that's factored into the plan. Susan?

14 MS. HAYMAN: What if any efforts are made to
15 distribute PSA's related to these meetings to all major
16 regional media? Did you guys hear that question?

17 MR. BOHRMANN: We got the last half of it, Susan.

18 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, so I'm getting some feedback
19 here on my end. So let me try that again.

20 What, if any, efforts are made to distribute PSA's
21 related to these meetings to all major regional media?

22 MR. BOHRMANN: Okay. This is Dieter from Ecology.
23 We did not do public service announcements of this meeting.
24 As Emy stated there was a considerable amount of advertising
25 in some of the local and regional media that we got, and we

1 did run ads, paid ads in the Tri-City Herald and in the
2 Seattle Weekly. We did do some public service announcements
3 for our State of the Site meetings last spring but we didn't
4 do any for this meeting tonight.

5 MS. HAYMAN: Okay. Any other comments from other
6 TPA folks on that one?

7 MS. LAIJA: No.

8 MS. HAYMAN: Okay. Excuse me, was there somebody?

9 MS. LAIJA: No.

10 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, another written question then.
11 Why doesn't DOE use the e-mail addresses collected at public
12 meetings to sent notices? I always sign up but never receive
13 notices from DOE. Anyone want to take that?

14 MS. CALL: Sure, this is Paula. We did send out,
15 we have a Tri-Party Agreement Listserv, electronic Listserv,
16 and we actually did send out information on this meeting and
17 the public comment period on this plan. So if you didn't get
18 anything, there must be an issue with us not having your
19 e-mail address correctly or what. So if you would like to do
20 something about that tonight, certainly send it in to that
21 e-mail address to submit comments and we can grab that out
22 and add you to the TPA list.

23 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks, Paula.

24 MR. BOHRMANN: That could be a reference to the
25 Hanford Listserv, too, I assume that Ecology maintains.

1 MS. CALL: Yes.

2 MR. BOHRMANN: If you get on that list, that is
3 used regularly and, please, let us know and we'll
4 double-check to see you're on there.

5 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, next question and I'm trying to
6 scoot through these. We have about five minutes on the
7 agenda right now for questions. So there was a question
8 about no PR for the Webinar in Oregon. It was written as a
9 question.

10 MS. LAIJA: We didn't plan public meetings in
11 Oregon. That was based on interactions we had with the
12 Department of Energy in Oregon and also with stakeholders
13 when we were first trying to identify where there was high
14 public interest on this topic, and through those interactions
15 we identified that the state of Oregon was not as interested
16 in having public meetings on this topic in their state. We
17 have a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU with the state of
18 Oregon. So we respected that discussion and decided not to
19 have public meetings there. So that's why we didn't have, we
20 didn't focus on advertising in the Portland area.

21 MS. CALL: I would like to add to that. This is
22 Paula. I know that Ken Niles with the Oregon Department of
23 Energy did sent out notes on this Webinar encouraging folks
24 to get involved or to participate to the Listserv that the
25 Oregon Department of Energy maintains. So there was some

1 solicitation done in Oregon from the Oregon Department of
2 Energy. And they are one of the parties that has really
3 encouraged us to try new and different ways of engaging
4 people, rather than asking them to come out to a public
5 meeting in the evening as we traditionally do.

6 Oregon, in their communications with us, they've
7 pretty much said the public gets weary of coming out to these
8 meetings and we'd like to reserve the ones that are held in
9 Oregon to those focused on a cleanup decision.

10 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks. All right. So I have
11 another question on the plan specifically and then if we
12 don't have any additional questions, I do have some that are
13 related to the public participation guide that we can go to.
14 For this question, I'm going to see if I can -- Okay, so it
15 says in quotes, "Not what we do for Hanford" is not an
16 adequate answer for an annual action plan. We are asking for
17 annual action plans, which is not an update. Update is your
18 word and not my question. If the public wants an annual
19 action plan and strategy, for example, what you will be doing
20 this year to inform people about the findings of the Tank
21 Closure and Waste Management EIS, the \$50 million Tank
22 Closure and Waste Management EIS, that would be an example of
23 what would be an annual action plan.

24 I think the question is about the reference that
25 was made for an annual action plan, and if you can respond to

1 the question about why not have an annual action plan?

2 MS. LAIJA: All right. I originally understood
3 the question to ask, why don't we have an annual plan as part
4 of the Public Involvement Plan, which was what my first
5 answer was responding to. As far as having an annual action
6 plan or strategic plan, the Tri-Party Agencies can't agree
7 with that idea. It's something that we've discussed but just
8 haven't fully developed to the point where we could share
9 with other groups.

10 We realize the importance of knowing what's
11 happening in the future and having a plan for that. Right
12 now our public involvement calendar, which is available on
13 line, is a key way we let people know what's coming up in the
14 upcoming months. Granted that doesn't have the detail that a
15 strategic annual plan would have, but that is something that
16 we've discussed and something we would like to develop, but
17 we don't have anything ready to share right now. I didn't
18 mean to give the impression that that's not something we do
19 or aren't considering doing. We are considering doing that
20 and are working towards it.

21 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you. So it is 20 after
22 7:00, but given the number of participants, I'm thinking
23 we'll probably have a good amount of time for the public
24 comments, but I would like to suggest that we continue for
25 another 10 minutes and get the rest of the questions that

1 have been submitted, if that works all right for everybody.

2 Any objections?

3 Okay, so next question then, it says, The
4 questions and some responses show a regional focus. I submit
5 that Hanford is a national issue. It was built to support
6 the national war and it affects national assets, such as the
7 Columbia River. With that thought in mind, what effort has
8 been made to involve the national media and service clubs in
9 the state of the Hanford Site in its cleanup effort success?

10 MR. BOHRMANN: This is Dieter from Ecology. I
11 would say Hanford is an international issue, and just from
12 Ecology, we've spoken with media in China and Japan in the
13 last year, as well as media here from Washington DC and
14 Massachusetts, as well as any regional media. We agree this is
15 a national-international issue and there is interest beyond
16 the Northwest. So we do realize that and we try to respond
17 to those inquiries that we get from other areas.

18 MS. CALL: And this is Paula Call. I would just
19 like to add that's a really good comment and we really
20 appreciate that, and, you know, we struggle with how can we
21 use our resources that we have to dedicate to engaging more
22 people on this, how can we balance that need with the need to
23 continue with cleanup. So what we are trying to do is take
24 advantage of new technology that's available to us.

25 With our Hanford Speakers Bureau, it's a program

1 where we will go out and speak to any group about Hanford
2 that requests. Now, we have been receiving more and more
3 requests from outside of the region. So we're struggling
4 with, well, we don't want to fly someone there. That's too
5 expensive. Recently, we tried an experiment using Skype to
6 give a presentation and have a discussion with a group, a
7 remote group far away, and it actually worked. We still need
8 to work out some kinks, but we are fully intending on
9 exploring technology to be able to reach out to more folks.
10 I'm told, also, that we are working with a group in
11 Connecticut, who requested a presentation. So we are trying
12 to reach out across the nation.

13 The other thing that we did was last spring's
14 State of the Site meetings, it was prior to our attempt at
15 Webinar. We tried to do a go-to meeting access, where anyone
16 could access that meeting. It had its limitations. We had
17 some lessons learned, and we're going to try it again next
18 time. So we do understand your point. It's a good
19 point, and we're trying to use the resources that we have to
20 reach out more.

21 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thanks. All right, another
22 written question and it says -- It appears that we are
23 getting mostly written questions, which there's absolutely no
24 problem with that -- Why doesn't the draft plan include a
25 commitment to extend comment periods for the period that US

1 DOE has withheld documents relating to the proposal from
2 public disclosure? Ecology committed to ask for this in a
3 legal settlement over records being withheld relating to
4 landfills and burial grounds.

5 MS. LAIJA: Susan, on that, that's a good
6 statement. That is something we are legally required to do.
7 A document that is used to make a cleanup decision has to be
8 available throughout the public comment period on that
9 cleanup decision. So that's a good comment to make. I don't
10 believe we have that clearly identified in the plan right
11 now, but it would be perfectly appropriate to submit that as
12 a formal comment or statement that people would like to see
13 added to this document. We are legally required to do that
14 anyway. I just want to stress that.

15 MR. BOHRMANN: In general, I would say, for the
16 most part, requests to extend comment periods are granted.
17 So are we going to have that in the plan? That's something
18 to consider. Regarding, you know, Ecology's commitment,
19 again, that wasn't necessarily Tri-Party, but as Emy said,
20 you know, please make those requests and if we need to extend
21 the comment period for a variety of reasons, that can be
22 accommodated.

23 MS. HAYMAN: That actually segues nicely into our
24 next written question, and this one is, Are you going to
25 extend the comment period on this plan for two weeks after

1 the meetings/workshops on this plan? Let me say that again.

2 The question is, Are you going to extend the
3 comment period on this plan for two weeks after the meetings
4 and workshops that Heart of America Northwest will be holding
5 on the plan? They're going to be doing that for public input
6 on November 30th and December 1st in Portland and Hood River.
7 So are you going to extend a comment period for two weeks
8 following the meetings and workshops?

9 MS. LAIJA: I've heard people are interested in
10 this. I just need to get those formal requests, be it an
11 e-mail or phone call and we can accommodate that quite
12 easily. So I would say, yes, as soon as someone asks for it
13 in a public setting, we can acknowledge that extension.

14 MS. HAYMAN: So we have about five minutes left,
15 and I've got a request. Actually, let me mention two things.
16 I received a phone for that extension through this Webinar.
17 So go ahead and forward that onto the agencies, and I don't
18 have any other questions outside of the ones or the one that
19 relates to the public participation grants. So given that we
20 don't have any others and we have a little time, shall we go
21 ahead and run that up and give you guys an opportunity to
22 answer that?

23 The questions is, The Washington Legislature
24 directed Ecology to bill USDOE for the Public Participation
25 Grants. What is the status of that?

1 MR. BOHRMANN: Without getting into the legal end
2 of that, that is an interpretation. That is not an
3 interpretation that the Department Of Ecology necessarily
4 agrees with. That said, the Public Participation Grant is an
5 extremely valuable program for the state. It grants
6 recipients to a lot of important work across the state.

7 As noted, there has been a proposal to reduce
8 those grants in this next biennium as we deal with really an
9 unprecedented budget crisis across the state. Many other
10 programs are also up for possible reduction. No final
11 decisions have been made. That will be made after the
12 Legislature comes to the Special Session starting November
13 28th, and probably won't have any, probably won't be a final
14 result on that until early 2012. And there are a lot of
15 options. It could be that none of the reductions are
16 accepted and the Public Participation Grants are fully
17 funded. It could be that all them are accepted or somewhere
18 in between. So a lot of variables on that. Obviously, it's
19 a program that Ecology has supported for many years, and I
20 hate to see any proposed reductions and we hope that it
21 continues to be funded and running forward.

22 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you. So I'm just going
23 to check real quick before we move on to formal public
24 comments to see if there are any other questions. I was
25 going to pause for a minute to see if any hands go up or we

1 receive anything.

2 Okay, let's go ahead then and move into the formal
3 public comment period and, again, there are some instructions
4 on the screen for you, and I just want to cover those
5 briefly. Once again, as you did before, if you would like to
6 make a formal public, please, electronically raise your hand
7 and then we'll call on you and a court reporter will document
8 your comments and we will have a set time allowed for the
9 comments, and I'm thinking, just given the number of folks,
10 that perhaps we could go three minutes. And then once we
11 determine whether or not, well, as long as everybody has had
12 a chance to make a comment, if there's still time available
13 then we can go back and take some additional questions, or,
14 excuse me, additional comments, formal comments if we have
15 time left in the Webinar.

16 If you do want to submit a comment in writing on
17 the Webinar using the question box then you are completely
18 welcome to do that. I won't read those comments but they
19 will go to the agencies and then the agencies will respond to
20 those as they would any other written comment that is
21 submitted to them. So again just to make sure that we're
22 clear, if you want to make a statement here on the Webinar,
23 either raise your hand or send us a message that says, I
24 would like to make a formal public comment. We'll get you in
25 the queue and we'll give you give three minutes, and then

1 we'll move on to the next person. And if we have time left
2 over, we'll come back for you to make additional comments.
3 If you want to submit a written comment you're more than
4 welcome to do that. We won't be reading those. They will be
5 handled like any other written comment submitted to the
6 agencies.

7 So with that, it looks like we have some folks in
8 the queue. So we will go first to Gerry, and then we'll go
9 to Manita. So, Jerry, if you could go ahead and we'll go to
10 Manita. We will go ahead and started your public comments.

11 MR. POLLET: This is Gerry Pollet, Heart of
12 America Northwest. I just sent in a question, which is, Why
13 wouldn't the people who are sitting here and typing in
14 comments have their comments read out loud, that seems to
15 violate the policy of having everyone's comments heard. They
16 are on Webinar. They should be read if they're typing in
17 comments now and shared, so we can hear each other's
18 comments. Can I get an answer to that?

19 MS. HAYMAN: The process that we're using for this
20 Webinar is that if it's a written comment then it's handled
21 as if it were a written comment that were presented even at a
22 public meeting. As I understand, those are not read out
23 loud. If people want their comments to be heard then they
24 should just raise their hand and just state it. I mean, they
25 can basically read it to us. So that would really be the way

1 to go there. If you just submit it to us in writing, we
2 won't be reading them out loud.

3 So we encourage people to actually state their
4 comment or read it to us so that everybody can hear each
5 other. That would be very important. So let's go ahead,
6 Gerry, and we'll just start your three minutes now.

7 MR. POLLET: Thanks for clarifying that and
8 encouraging people to give their comments. If the request by
9 several citizen groups and members of the public to have
10 public meetings on the Public Involvement Plan in Portland
11 and Hood River was not honored then this plan is clearly
12 broken when it comes to the commitment necessary to honor
13 public requests for public meetings. And this plan needs to
14 have a very clear guarantee that when a significant number of
15 people or groups representing them and are committing to turn
16 people out as for public meetings, there will be public
17 meetings.

18 It is already clear to us that given the fact that
19 you have a region-wide Webinar and only 16 people
20 participating, and I'm not sure how many of those are truly
21 public, that replacing meetings is not the way to go. We
22 need to have a very clear statement in the Public Involvement
23 Plan, as we have in the state rules for the state cleanup
24 program, that if 10 or more people or organizations
25 representing them asks for public meetings, there will be

1 public meetings.

2 In this case, the region-wide effort might be
3 reasonable to make that if there is a commitment that 20
4 people will be at the public meeting that you will honor that
5 request and hold it. While we respect and tremendously the
6 role of the state of Oregon, and it's often and frequent to
7 have meetings in Oregon, it is one important input that in
8 the fact that Oregon didn't feel meetings were necessary on
9 this plan, it is not relevant to the fact that many of your
10 public and at least three organizations asked for public
11 meetings on this plan in Oregon and it was not honored. And
12 it just illustrates the need to have a very clear requirement
13 in the plan.

14 Secondly, this plan does not have any strategies
15 for how you are going to increase public involvement.
16 Someone asked about the e-mail list. An annual action plan
17 as is used in many other public involvement plans around the
18 region and nation would ideally have an annual strategy for
19 how you are going to improve and expand notice. For
20 instance, how will you improve and expand the e-mail list,
21 which right now 50 percent of it is contractors and officials
22 and not really the public, leaving only about 350 people on
23 the e-mail list for the largest public works project, the
24 most important environmental project in the Northwest.
25 That's dismal.

1 An annual action plan would have an element of how
2 we are going to expand and improve that for the year with the
3 ability of the public to say here are suggestions and to hold
4 you accountable at the end of the year for whether or not you
5 did anything to improve. Thank you.

6 MS. HAYMAN: Thanks, Gerry. Okay, the next
7 commenter, and I hope I pronounce your name correctly, is
8 Manita Holtrop. Manita, if you would like to go ahead and
9 start your three minutes, please.

10 MS. HOLTROP: Hi, this is Manita Holtrop and I was
11 going to talk about expanding the e-mail list because not
12 just for meetings, but they sent out to only 725 people and a
13 list of agency and contractor personnel doesn't seem to be
14 adequate public involvement. There should be a link to the
15 Listserv on the Public Involvement Plan. The Public
16 Involvement Plan should ensure that the Tri-Party Agencies
17 work with citizen groups in order to actually get their
18 message out and not just rely on e-mail. And the e-mail
19 should be written in layman's terms and not in
20 techno-engineering speak.

21 I think that an independent professional should be
22 contracted to make the announcement and notifications that
23 are easily understood by the public. For example, not using
24 names and types of operating units in the e-mails would be
25 greatly helpful for helping the public to understand what's

1 actually going on.

2 The PIP should have goals and measurements, goals
3 for adequate public involvement. Citizen groups should have
4 to be responsible for this type of thing, and I think that if
5 there's a lack of public involvement it's not because the
6 public isn't interested. It's because it lacks adequate
7 notice and lack of trust in the agencies involved.

8 Citizens who attend meetings should also have ways
9 to send their input in, and people not attending meetings, I
10 feel, feel that their views aren't taken into account and
11 their views have no impact. The Agencies should demonstrate
12 that they will incorporate the views and comments of the
13 public in real decisions because the public aren't going to
14 be fooled if those decisions that they objected to are gone
15 ahead with anyway.

16 Those are my comments. Thank you.

17 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you, Manita. Next, Ken.
18 Ken, would you like to go ahead and make your comments?
19 It's very, very quiet. Let me just double-check to make
20 sure, Ken, you're un-muted. Can you hear us? We are not
21 able to hear you, let put it that way. So, Ken, you might
22 need to come back to us through a phone line if your computer
23 audio isn't working or at least your microphone isn't
24 working. We're not able to hear you.

25 Okay. So we're going to go ahead and move on and,

1 Ken, if you're able to join us by phone or some other way
2 then that would be terrific. So next, Mark Loper, please.
3 Mark?

4 MR. LOPER: Okay, hi, my name is Mark Loper, and I
5 really do think that there should be commitments in the plan
6 and that it should be legally binding. It's kind of absurd
7 to think that there can be a legally required document
8 without any commitments or having it being binding. Reading
9 over the last time the plan was updated, nine years ago,
10 there have been no changes in strategy, and it's interesting
11 to see what new methods you've chosen, and the Webinar seems
12 to be not a great success so far. So I think that clearly
13 public meetings and face-to-face interaction is highly
14 important. I think that the EPA should reject any plan that
15 does not meet its own Superfund requirements, which states
16 that the plan should ensure elements will be followed and
17 that Ecology should not agree to any plan which does not meet
18 the minimum requirements under state law. So I think that
19 the two agencies, other than the DOE, should stick to their
20 guns in following their own rules and not letting this
21 federal agency kick them down the road.

22 Then I agree and echo Manita's and Gerry's
23 comments. Thank you.

24 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you. And, actually, I
25 need to go back to Manita, just in case, and I apologize for

1 not remembering but I think we need to have you state your
2 full name, and you may have given it, but if you would,
3 again, and if you would state your full name in the event
4 that somehow we missed, that would be great.

5 Let's go ahead and give Manita, I think she might
6 be on something else. I have Manita Holtrop, and just in
7 case -- we've got her spelling -- So just in case the court
8 reporter didn't get her name, I just want to be sure that we
9 have that for the record.

10 So we'll go ahead and go back to Ken who is
11 apparently able to join us now by phone. So, Ken, you're
12 un-muted, and, please, go ahead.

13 MR. MILES: Thank you. This Ken Miles. I'm with
14 the Oregon Department of Energy. I want to thank everybody
15 for calling in that has. Like others, I'm disappointed that
16 there's a fairly small audience. I was hoping for a better
17 participation. Several of us, as Paula mentioned, we've sent
18 out to our e-mail list and I know there's been some media
19 coverage of this. So we were hoping for a better
20 participation of the website. That doesn't diminish at all
21 the involvement of those of you who are on. So thank you
22 very much.

23 As mentioned, I had earlier indicated that I
24 didn't think that public meetings in Oregon were necessary
25 for this topic. I was hoping that the Webinar would provide

1 a good opportunity for people. We have heard repeatedly from
2 folks both in Portland and Hood River that at times they're a
3 little weary with coming out to public meetings. We thought
4 it might be an opportunity to try something a little
5 different, make it a little easier on folks. So we'll
6 certainly have to reassess the success of that.

7 I guess just a couple of comments I want to make.
8 One is that we will submit formal comments in writing. So
9 there is more to come. I would say that for the most part I
10 think that we are in a generally pretty good period of time
11 in terms of public involvement activities and interests by
12 the Tri-Party Agencies. I think we have some very energized
13 and involved and engaged public involvement people with each
14 of the agencies.

15 You know, I think we've seen some improvement in
16 terms of the notices and public involvement materials. It's
17 never as consistently as good as any of us would want, but I
18 think we are in, like I said, in a very good space.

19 The one comment that I would make, and I've had
20 some conversations with Emy and Paula a little bit, to me the
21 real guts of this Public Involvement Plan is the beginning of
22 section one, page eight and nine and 10 and 11 for those of
23 you who have it. It talks about the importance of public
24 involvement, and there's some words in that that a lot of us
25 have thrown out over the years in terms of public involvement

1 is important because it makes, you know, better decisions and
2 things like that, but I would hope that the next revision of
3 this document would take that, not just a step further, but
4 many steps further. I hope that there will be some real good
5 discussion and thought internally to really make an effort in
6 writing, really talk about what public involvement does mean
7 and can mean at Hanford.

8 Right now a lot of people are aware that there was
9 a very strong sentiment by the public regarding some new
10 plutonium contaminated waste sites at Hanford. The decision
11 made and the record decision, which was also endorsed by the
12 regulators, was really contrary to very strong input from the
13 public. And I think right now we are in a little bit of a
14 crisis, if you will, in terms of public creditability from
15 Tri-Party Agencies, and I hope that this document can
16 verbalize, if you will, really what public involvement means
17 because there are folks in the public that think we have made
18 a very strong argument, in this case to remove more
19 plutonium. The Tri-Party Agencies, as far as we know, didn't
20 necessarily consider those comments because they certainly
21 didn't follow through.

22 I recognize, although I don't agree with it in
23 this case, I recognize there are some occasions where public
24 input may be considered but not actually influence the final
25 decision, and I think there needs to be a very frank

1 discussion within this document about when those occasions
2 might occur. My one comment and, again, we'll follow-up in
3 writing, I hope for a more frank discussion and consideration
4 of what public involvement really truly means and what type
5 of influence can occur and may not occur at times because I
6 don't think we really see that in this document, and I don't
7 think we've seen it in past versions of this document. And
8 as I mentioned, I think we are at a point where the
9 credibility of the Tri-Party Agencies, in terms of listening
10 to the public comment, is a little bit in a crisis mode. So
11 that's my comments. Thanks.

12 MS. HAYMAN: Thanks, Ken. So we went a little
13 over there, but we're also pretty long on time right now and
14 don't have a whole lot of people who have gotten into the
15 queue at this point to make comments. I would invite any of
16 you who have not already made a comment, if you would like
17 to, you can do so. And then most of you who have made a
18 comment and would like to make an additional comment, if you
19 want to raise your hand, I would be happy to come back to
20 you. So we'll give just a minute here and see if we have any
21 takers on making any additional comments.

22 Mike McCormick has his hand raised. So we'll go
23 ahead and go to Mike. Mike, would you like to start your
24 comment, please?

25 MR. McCORMICK: Yes, thank you. Thank you for

1 taking my comment. I would like to second the previous
2 suggestions for serious expansion of e-mail and notification
3 to the public. I would propose that you could probably go
4 back about five years worth of public meetings and take
5 e-mails from whoever put them down in that time period. I
6 think that would be a reasonable place to start. I'm sure
7 some of those are no longer any good, but that would be
8 weeded out fairly quickly.

9 The second thing was that the use of public
10 service announcements, I would think would be a standard,
11 certainly for this particular aspect of Hanford and this
12 project, but in terms of any public meetings would be a
13 standard site. You would just go to it, and it sounds like
14 this meeting was fairly short-notice. Hitting just the
15 Tri-City Herald and the Seattle Weekly, Seattle Weekly is not
16 known as one of the larger publications in Seattle. It seems
17 somewhat weak to me.

18 In addition, you have numerous radio and
19 television outlets in this region that can be approached,
20 and, you know, if you don't have your own in-house facilities
21 for this, you have a lot of talented people in the area,
22 including myself, that would be happy to help, perhaps the
23 Hanford Advisory Board, regularly produce timely PSA's for
24 upcoming meetings. So I think that would be a good use of
25 energy to reach the citizens of Washington and Oregon State

1 that are directly affected by these meetings.

2 And, finally, I just want to say that I had seen
3 the video that Emy and others had recently produced, and I
4 thought that was a great start. I would like to see more of
5 that. Again, I would like to see those both coming from the
6 different Tri-Party Agreement, the three entities that make
7 up the Tri-Party Agreement, as well as organizations that
8 make up the Hanford Advisory Board. So those are my
9 comments. Thank you.

10 MS. HAYMAN: Thank very much, Mike. All right,
11 just checking to see if we have any others who would like to
12 make a comment right now. If you would, please, raise your
13 hand electronically or shoot us a message. Paul Randall, if
14 you would like, we'll get you un-muted here and then if you
15 would, again, state your name for the record and begin your
16 comment, please.

17 MR. RANDALL: Yeah, I'm Paul Randall. I happen to
18 live in Minnesota. So I'm the guy that made the comment
19 about this is a national, perhaps even an international issue
20 and the comment that I was a little surprised and
21 disappointed by the lack of participation.

22 I would also comment that you should not be
23 discouraged that this first Webinar is not well attended.
24 Having worked on promoting ideas in the past, it takes a
25 tremendous amount of work and don't give up. You have a very

1 important story to tell. You have some great input from
2 people, like Manita, but do work on getting national
3 recognition of what's going on and how important it is to
4 every last citizen in the United States, how important it is
5 to every citizen of the world. So don't give up. Keep up
6 the good work. I have heard a lot of good things tonight. I
7 think this story deserves to be told to a much wider
8 audience. That's my comment.

9 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you. All right, the next
10 person for comment is John Howieson. So if we can un-mute
11 John and, John, again, if you would, please, state your name
12 for the record and then begin your comment?

13 MR. HOWIESON: Yes, John Howieson. I'm with
14 Oregon PSR, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. I
15 want to endorse the previous comments, all of them, but my
16 comment is in line with the immediate previous speaker. In
17 spite of the disappointing response to this Webinar, I think
18 that it is the kind of technology, which if somewhat
19 improved, could be very effective.

20 One of the things I think should be looked into is
21 the possibility of trying to emulate more closely
22 face-to-face public meetings by using the video capabilities
23 of seeing the speakers, as well as hearing the speakers.

24 Furthermore, I think that the poor response to
25 this particular Webinar may have to do with subject matter.

1 Obviously, what happens with the contamination of the soil at
2 Hanford by plutonium and cesium is much more of a hot button
3 issue and much more likely to recruit people to join a
4 Webinar than the current subject, which many people, although
5 it's very important, many people could consider not something
6 they want to join in and comment upon. That's my comment.

7 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you, John. Next, we'll
8 go to Jan Castle. So if we can get Jan un-muted and, Jan,
9 again, your name for the record, please.

10 MS. CASTLE: Yes, this is Jan Castle. I'm a
11 member of Heart America Northwest. I'm the one that asked
12 the question about the public participation grants, and I
13 find myself rather bemused by Dieter's comments, where he
14 seemed to be indicating this is about something that's being
15 considered in the future, where in reality the funding was
16 cut right in the middle of the project that had been
17 authorized by Ecology for Heart of America Northwest to spend
18 money on.

19 So this whole thing about maybe in 2012, something
20 like this may happen or maybe they'll decide not to do this
21 doesn't make any sense to me. It appears to me that Heart of
22 America Northwest and the other public interest groups are
23 the ones who are doing your job for you in getting any public
24 involvement at all at Hanford.

25 So I can't understand why someone wouldn't

1 immediately step in and say, yes, DOE will find a place in
2 their budget to take this what must be a miniscule amount of
3 money in the overall budget to make sure that these public
4 participation grants are restored to the public involvement
5 group. That's my comment.

6 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you, Jan. Next in line
7 is Liz Mattson. So we'll get you un-muted and would you
8 state your name for the record and begin your comment.

9 MS. MATTSON: Can you hear me?

10 MS. HAYMAN: Yes, we can.

11 MS. MATTSON: This is Liz Mattson and I work for
12 Hanford Challenge, and just I wanted to echo some of the
13 comments about the Webinar turn out tonight and not giving up
14 on this method of involvement just because the turn out is
15 not so good right now.

16 I agree with the comment about adding the video
17 capability so we can see the speakers and make a difference.
18 It adds a somewhat more personal touch to the experience of
19 people. And I think as we experiment with this, it will feel
20 more normal and will allow for more fun ideas to come up for
21 how to get more engaging.

22 Also, I think there is a strong pull for people
23 who are busy and doing a lot of work that they can be on the
24 Webinar and do things like stress and eat dinner and be at
25 home, instead of going out for a meeting.

1 And I urge the agencies to keep trying to give
2 people different options of how they can engage with
3 different comment periods.

4 Then I also agree that having cleanup decisions
5 have a stronger pull, and when we are prioritizing meetings
6 and giving a big pull for members of the public to come out
7 to the meetings, those are the kind of meetings I want people
8 to get contacts on. What is the decision being made and how
9 can we make a difference, and it is concerning given the
10 PW-1-3-6 and CW-5 record of decision following a great deal
11 of public comment asking for more plutonium to be removed and
12 having that not be the case.

13 One idea for how you might be able to generate
14 more turn out in the future at a meeting like that is even
15 just addressing that as an issue or just bringing it into the
16 conversation, as an example. I think that's a scintillating
17 topic, and I think talking about it will help in the future
18 and just finding ways to rebuild confidence that being a
19 participant in Hanford cleanup does actually have an impact
20 or can have an impact.

21 Then just as a side note, I think another aspect
22 of the turn out on this call, I think it has to do with
23 people have the impression that someone is covering this
24 issue, other people from my office, you can cover this one.
25 Having been involved on the Hanford Advisory Board, I think

1 that may be the case with some other people as well. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. HAYMAN: Thank you, Liz. All right, we are
4 going to go to the next, which is Dan Solitz, and I may be
5 pronouncing your name incorrectly, Dan, but we'll get you
6 un-muted here and then if you would, please, state your name
7 for the record and then begin your comment.

8 MR. SOLITZ: Good evening, this is Dan Solitz.
9 Thank you for putting this on. I know this is your first
10 effort. I enjoy a more technical meeting much more but this
11 is the kind of stuff that has to be done to get the job done.
12 I would like to, if you can get the face-to-face capability,
13 I think that would be helpful and also I've seen a technical
14 setting where you can put up more information on the screen.
15 That would also be very helpful.

16 I would like to strongly support public funding
17 for participation. I think particularly in the technical
18 areas, it's extremely difficult to get good quality analysis
19 done and it's not inexpensive to do it. I want thank you for
20 putting this on and I want thank everybody else for being
21 here tonight. I want to thank Ken for sending me an e-mail
22 to invite me to be here. That's the comments that I have.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you, Dan. Okay, I am
25 looking here to see if we have other hands that are raised.

1 I see that Jan's hand is raised. I not sure, Jan, if you
2 have another comment or if you just still have your hand
3 raised. Jan, did you want to make another comment? I'm
4 going to guess that Jan just didn't get her hand down. So
5 let's go ahead and put Dan's or Jan's hand down. I'm looking
6 at, and it looks like, Dan, your hand is up again. So let's
7 un-mute Dan and ask Dan if he had another comment, Dan?

8 MR. SOLITZ: No, I don't, I'm sorry. I left my
9 curser on the hand and then I toggled on, toggled off,
10 toggled on. So now I toggled it off again, thank you.

11 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, very good, thank you. All
12 right, I'm looking to see if we have any other hands raised
13 and I just want to acknowledge we have a couple of comments
14 that we have received that have come in, written, typed in
15 comments so we will be sure to ensure that the agencies get
16 those. So I'm checking to see if we have any other folks
17 that would like to make comment or those who have made
18 comments that may have any other comments they would like to
19 ask. Give me just a minute here.

20 Okay, Gerry, it looks like your hand is up, and
21 we'll get you un-muted and would you like to go ahead and
22 state your name again for the record and please go ahead and
23 start your comment.

24 MR. POLLET: This is Gerry Pollet, and one of the
25 frustrating things here is that people have made some good

1 comments that I think that other people probably would like
2 to say yes or please answer that question, and this format
3 doesn't allow it, and it sounds as if people who have had
4 experience with video formats believe that that might
5 overcome it, and I encourage exploration of that. I am still
6 disturbed at the notion that under this format a moderator
7 can decide not to even ask a question that was sent in, and I
8 believe that is totally inappropriate and would be the death
9 knell of support for continuing this if that is the case.

10 If people could respond freely, there is no reason
11 that I'm familiar with running Webinars, we've run several
12 successful ones from Heart of America Northwest, there is no
13 reason why everyone has to be on mute, but you can't all
14 participate and say, yeah, what a great idea that is. With
15 16 people on-line, it would be very easy to do that, and I
16 would like to make sure that if they are going to be Webinars
17 as formal comment opportunities, there needs to be rules for
18 this in the Public Involvement Plan. Can't just wing it.
19 You're taking formal comment tonight, and I really feel as if
20 the agencies have essentially decided to wing it without any
21 rules.

22 I also have a comment. Well, let me say it is
23 great that people are on the phone, that people are getting
24 their dinner, and enjoying this, and while the more technical
25 issues are essential and sound sexy about leaving plutonium

1 in the ground, and we certainly work hard to get people to
2 those meetings, we won't have those meetings if we don't
3 improve this Public Involvement Plan. That's why it's so
4 important that all of you are on the phone tonight.

5 I have another major issue and I would like the
6 agencies to address this when they come out to the public,
7 which is the interrelationship of this plan and why it
8 doesn't address, after all these years of the Advisory Board
9 and public urging and the state of Oregon I know has urged,
10 that when the Energy Department issues major environmental
11 impact statements that will affect the cleanup of Hanford,
12 there should be clear commitment in this Public Involvement
13 Plan that the notice of those hearings will go to everyone on
14 the Hanford cleanup list, and the elements of this plan will
15 be followed, including commitments from the links around the
16 region.

17 Right now, for instance, when the Energy
18 Department proposes to ship 12,000 shipments of extremely
19 radioactive greater than Class C waste to Hanford, which
20 would have a huge impact and undo everything we are trying to
21 do with cleanup, and we have to fight like heck in order just
22 to have one meeting in Portland, and no meetings were held in
23 Washington State outside of Tri-Cities. That's
24 inappropriate. And the notice was only sent at our urging to
25 people on the cleanup list. Normally, it wouldn't affect.

1 That's wrong. It needs to change. It needs to be addressed
2 in this plan as an enforceable commitment. That's my
3 comment.

4 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you. So, Paul Randall, I
5 see that your hand is up. So we're going to just check with
6 you and see, and we'll un-mute you there and see if you have
7 a comment or if you don't, un-raise your hand.

8 MR. RANDALL: No, it was not accidental and I
9 agree. This is Paul Randall again. I agree with Gerry's
10 comment that this is a good start with Webinars. We have a
11 long ways to go. For instance, the business about voting is
12 frequently implemented with Webinars. So the question will
13 be posed to all of the participants and in a matter of a
14 minute or so, you get the response. They say, Hey, you've
15 got a minute, respond please. So in that way it's like a
16 show of hands, and that should certainly be implemented as
17 should the video. Trivial, it's been done all the time.

18 I agree with him that any failure to notify a
19 reasonable set of people who might be interested in major
20 events, such as shipping large quantities of radioactive
21 materials to Hanford, needs to be very widely publicized.
22 That's my comment.

23 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you, Paul. Okay, check,
24 taking a quick survey to see if we have any other comments.
25 We do -- I'm just going to mention we do have one question

1 that was submitted that we would be more than happy to have
2 it asked. If we're done with comments then we will pick up
3 that last question. And just to mention that all the
4 questions that have been asked or submitted have been read,
5 with the exception of this last one. So I just wanted to
6 bring that to your attention. So, Gerry, your hand is up.
7 So why don't we go ahead and give you another time.

8 MR. POLLET: Sorry, my arrow is pointing down. I
9 thought my hand was off. Sorry.

10 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, that's all right. Okay, since
11 I don't see any other hands up right now, why don't we ahead
12 to this question that did not get asked. I apologize. I
13 think we just overlooked it in the questions that were being
14 asked. So let me get this here. Here is the question.

15 Emy stated they consulted with the HAB on the
16 Public Involvement Plan. What with other ways did the
17 Agencies attempt to incorporate the public before these
18 hearings? Emy, would you like to respond to that?

19 MS. LAIJA: Sure. Sure, Susan. When we, as Susan
20 Leckband stated, part of the HAB role is to provide advice to
21 the Agencies. We have been talking about revising this
22 document for over a year now. So this has been a topic that
23 has come up at the HAB meetings that are held every couple of
24 months. So that's where we had those discussions since we
25 have been working toward revising this document.

1 The formal period for public discussion on these
2 proposed edits is happening right now with this formal public
3 comment period, and that started on October 10th and is
4 scheduled to end on the 28th, but we've already agreed here
5 to extend the public comment period for another couple of
6 weeks.

7 As far as when we involve the public, we did have
8 a stakeholder call when we sent out a message in our Listserv
9 and asked people to call into the conference line so we could
10 gauge the level of interest in this topic. This is when we
11 were trying to identify where we could go out for public
12 meetings. So that call was held a couple of weeks before the
13 public comment period started. We wanted to be able to plan
14 for those in advance.

15 So that was the one call where we invited everyone
16 through our Listserv to join if they wanted to provide input
17 on public meetings. But the document itself has been
18 available since October 10th.

19 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, thank you, Emy. So I am going
20 to just check here and, again, see if they are any hands
21 raised for any further public comment and I'm not seeing any.
22 Excuse me, I do see one, Dorothy Lamp. So if we can un-mute
23 Dorothy, and, Dorothy, if you would, please, state your name
24 for the record and then we'll begin your comment period.
25 Dorothy? Dorothy, we are not able to hear you. It looks

1 like you're on through your computer. So we can't hear you
2 right now. So if you would like to try to dial in on the
3 toll free number with a phone, we may be able to hear you or
4 you may not have microphone turned on. In any event, if you
5 could shoot a message to Adair on the chat or give us a quick
6 call, we'll try to get you so you are able to make a comment.
7 So we'll go ahead and move on from there.

8 Any other additional comments? So seeing none at
9 this point, I would like to suggest that if there any
10 additional questions that we could go ahead and take those
11 and I would like looking for if there are actual written
12 questions or, again, if anyone would like to raise their hand
13 for a question then we can go to them right now. So we'll
14 wait here a minute and see if anybody has an interest in
15 that.

16 Okay, I'm not seeing any hands for further
17 questions and not seeing that we have any other written
18 questions coming in. I would like to maybe just wait one
19 more minute to see if we are able to get Dorothy to join us
20 and if, in fact, she has a question. Just stand by for just
21 a moment, please.

22 So we have Dorothy un-muted again. Dorothy, are
23 you able to ask your question? Okay, I'm not sure that
24 Dorothy has a question. So we are going to just go ahead
25 and, Dorothy, if we did miss you and you actually did have a

1 question, if you would, please, be sure that that gets
2 submitted in writing, that would be great.

3 So at this point, I don't see any other questions,
4 don't see any other hands so I'm going to go ahead and put up
5 the last slide that is thanking you all for your
6 participation and turn it over to Emy to make some closing
7 remarks. Emy?

8 MS. LAIJA: Yes, thank you, again, everyone for
9 participating. I'm very thankful that we had some people on
10 the call. Granted, it wasn't as many as most of us would
11 have liked but that's okay. This was a first step toward
12 trying to branch out from relying on public meetings alone
13 and adding a few more tools to our kit. So I really
14 appreciate that. And, of course, if you have any other
15 questions or follow-ups, you can e-mail us. There is some
16 information on the screen right now on how to get more
17 information on the Public Involvement Plan or just public
18 involvement at Hanford in general. And that's on the Hanford
19 Events Calendar at Hanford.gov.

20 Again, thank you so much for calling in. We really
21 appreciate it.

22 MS. HAYMAN: Okay, so with that we are going to
23 conclude the Webinar. We'll leave this up on the screen for
24 a few moments, but thank you all for joining us and we will
25 be adjourned. Thank you. (WEBINAR CONCLUDES AT 8:15 PM)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DIANE D. NICHOLSON, do hereby certify that prior to the commencement of the examination, the said WEBINAR was taken in Stenotypy by me at the time and place aforesaid and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form; that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony given and proceedings therein had.

That I am not attorney nor counsel, nor in any way connected with any attorney or counsel for any of the parties in said action, nor otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my signature this 2nd day of December, 2011.

DIANE D. NICHOLSON, CCR
CCR NO. 2362
Notary Public in and for the
State of Washington, residing
in the City of Richland.

My commission expires January 19, 2015.