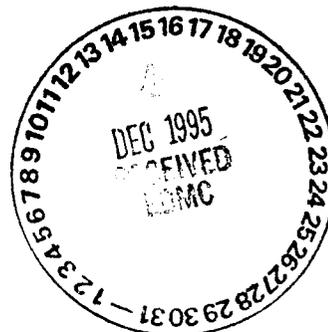


## HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

Revised Meeting Summary  
 March 2, 1995  
 Seattle, Washington

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*Note: Attachments are numbered according to the order in which they are mentioned in the summary. The attachments that were distributed at or before the Hanford Advisory Board meeting are not routinely distributed with this summary. If you need a copy of an attachment, please request it from Debbie Kaufman at Confluence Northwest (503)243-2663 or Celaine Hadley at Westinghouse Hanford (509) 376-5856.*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **Dialogue on Budget Issues**

The Board had a discussion with John Wagoner, DOE-RL on the budget outlook in which he reiterated the prioritized management strategies presented at the February meeting, and described key items funded and not funded in the proposed '97 budget. Dan Silver, Ecology, and Randy Smith, EPA, gave important perspectives of their agencies on the DOE-RL budget and management strategies. Dollars and Sense Committee members shared the issues they have discovered so far in the specific program budgets, and the relationship with HAB values. The Board had considerable dialogue, focusing extensively on the issues related to privatization. The goal was to understand the DOE priorities as reflected in the management strategy and in the proposed budget, and to identify HAB values that might be missing or not supported by the budget.

### **K-Basin and Spent Fuel**

The Board adopted a recommendation from the Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee regarding expediting the availability of reprogrammed funds for FY '95 as consensus advice #16. It deferred until next month, a recommendation regarding expediting the process of bringing a new spent fuel storage facility on line by identifying procurement requirements that may be unnecessary for assuring the quality of the facility or minimizing worker health or safety risks.

### **Update on the Proposed Approach to the 100 Areas Remediation**

The Board heard from DOE and EPA on what the agencies have come to agreement on, as well as the areas where they have not reached agreement. Plans are underway to develop a proposal for two interim remedial actions (IRM) for the first three operable units in the 100 Area. In April, the Board will have the proposal on the three operable units at a final level of detail as the agencies want Board feedback before it goes to the public on April 15.

### **Tank Safety and Emergency Response**

The Board heard a presentation on the history of problems with tank C-106 as well as proposed recommendations. Greg Morgan, DOE, gave an oral response to the recommendation covering them point by point. The Board decided the meeting summary should fully cover the recommendations and response given. Concerns about the specific language of the recommendations should be communicated to the Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee which will bring the revised advice back to the Board briefly in April for formal adoption.

### **Critical Report on the Consortium for Environmental Risk Evaluation (CERE) Process**

Ralph Patt explained the CERE process to the Board and highlighted the concerns he has with the process that was used to draft the initial conclusions made in the CERE process. Ralph proposed sending Carol Henry a draft letter of recommendations which captured his concerns in greater

detail. The Board discussed the recommendation, modified the letter slightly and adopted the proposed recommendation as consensus advice #15.

**Columbia River Impacts Study Technical Review Panel**

Mike Thompson explained the concept of this "Blue Ribbon" Technical Panel to the Board. The idea is to have a peer review of the study being done by PNL. That study is looking at the data on the Columbia River and is doing a type of a risk assessment to determine whether the contamination in the Columbia River today from Hanford represents an unacceptable risk to human health and welfare as well as to the environment. Mike then explained the process for selecting the peer review. There was no objection to going ahead with the process as outlined.

**Draft Meeting Summary  
March 2, 1995  
Seattle, Washington**

**Thursday, March 2, 1995**

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Marilyn Reeves. The meeting was open to the public. Two public comment periods were provided. Members present for the meeting are listed in *Attachment 1*. Seats not represented were: Franklin County (Local Government Seat), Grant County (Local Government Seat), Nez Perce Tribe (Tribal Government Seat) and one Public-At-Large Seat. Members of the public and others in attendance are listed on the sign in sheets included in *Attachment 1*.

The Board was welcomed to the Seattle meeting by Charles Kilbury. Seattle, he explained, is the largest suburb of Pasco!

Tom Carpenter, Government Accountability Project (Labor/Work Force Seat ) provided the coffee for the Board meeting.

Marilyn pointed out that Ralph Patt, Oregon Department of Water Resources (State of Oregon Seat) had asked Bill Ferris to attend the Board meeting. Mr. Ferris brought with him a display on risk assessment and was available to explain it to Board members.

Tim Takaro announced that Physicians for Social Responsibility would be hosting a panel discussion at its meeting this Saturday in Seattle with DOE-RL, Washington Department of Ecology and a National PSR representative.

A Facilities Transition Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. this evening in the Seattle Center.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: AGENDA REVIEW AND CORRECTIONS TO THE MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agenda Review**

Facilitator Elaine Hallmark reviewed the agenda and explained that it was being slightly revised in order to free up the morning and early afternoon to spend in dialogue with John Wagoner on the fast breaking budget related issues. The 100 Areas discussion, agenda item 6, was shortened and moved to follow the budget discussions, and the K-Basin and Spent Fuel update, agenda item 4, was folded into the morning budget discussion. Following the afternoon break would be: Tank Safety, agenda item 5, CERF, agenda item 3, the Columbia River Impact Technical Review Panel, and the internal Board issues, agenda item 8. This meeting summary reflects the original agenda item numbers, and reflects the order the items were actually taken up by the Board.

Elaine also explained that the morning discussion would be structured somewhat differently than it is when the Board is hearing a presentation, asking questions and coming to a decision. Instead, the goal is to have a dialogue with John Wagoner and other Board members. The Board does not have to come to a decision nor convince anyone on any issue. The focus was twofold: to understand the DOE priorities reflected in its proposed budget and what that means for cleanup; and, how DOE's decisions connect with adopted Board values, Board priorities and Board member values.

Elaine also pointed out that this is not really a Dollars and Sense Committee agenda item and that the Committee did not ask for any time on the March agenda. The Dollars and Sense Committee is, however, a strong resource as they have been closely analyzing budget issues. The Board will first hear the broad view from John Wagoner, then hear from some of the specific programs that Dollars and Sense Committee members are tracking to see the trend within that program.

Dick Belsey, Physicians for Social Responsibility (Local/Regional Public Health Seat) mentioned that it was fine to fold the K-Basin discussion in with the budget discussion but noted that the Committee did have a specific document they would like the Board to consider.

#### Meeting Summary

Chair Marilyn Reeves referred to the Committee meeting summaries, pointed out their importance and encouraged members to read them. Committee meeting summaries are interwoven with Board issues and are rich with information. The Committee discussions mirror what she expects will take place in the budget discussions.

Several minor corrections to the meeting summary were noted, and the meeting summary was approved as corrected.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ON '96 - '97 BUDGET CONCEPTS, ISSUES, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OR PRIORITIES**

#### Introductions of Budget Resource People

Marilyn introduced John Wagoner and asked him to introduce the DOE people who help him so the Board knows who is out there and what resources are available. The following DOE people were introduced:

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Greg Morgan    | TWRS, C-106                    |
| Charlie Hansen | Spent Nuclear Fuel             |
| Beth Sellers   | Spent Nuclear Fuel             |
| Mike Talbot    | Office of Communications       |
| Linda McClain  | Assistant Manager              |
| Mike Thompson  | 100 Area                       |
| Jon Yerxa      | Wagoner's Board representative |

Randy Smith introduced the EPA people who were here and are available to the Board:

Carol Rushin Associate Director of Hazardous Waste  
Doug Sherwood Hanford Project Manager

Dan Silver, Ecology introduced the people present who work on Hanford issues in Ecology:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Mike Wilson     | Program Manager for Nuclear Waste (replaced Dru Butler)           |
| Jeff Breckel    | Section Manager in Lacey, Office for Outreach, Policy and Support |
| Joe Stohr       | Section Manager in Lacey for Technical group, Health physicist    |
| Steve Alexander | Section Manager in Kennewick, 100 and 300 Areas                   |
| Dave Lundstrom  | Section Manager in Kennewick, 200 Area                            |
| Roger Stanley   | Project Manager for the TPA                                       |
| Toby Michelena  | Lead Technology person in Lacey, Vitrification                    |
| Dan Josue       | Lead Analyzer on DOE budget, Works with Dollars and Sense         |
| Max Power       | Public Involvement, Ecology's principal Board representative      |
| Chuck Cline     | Lead Technical person in Lacey, Groundwater                       |

Glenn Paulson was also introduced by Gerry Pollet, who explained that Glenn has been contracted to work with the Dollars and Sense Committee to review DOE's proposal to build six new million gallon double shell tanks.

#### Budget Dialogue

John Wagoner began the discussion on the budget by explaining that he did not intend to provide a briefing; he did that last month. Instead, he would like to touch on several items that he mentioned last month and would like to have a dialogue with the Board to get a sense of whether the Board thinks DOE has its head on straight in how it made priority choices faced with having to do more work with less money. He also noted that having to do more with less was presented in the Secretary of Energy's press conference, which DOE-RL has on videotape and may be viewed by Board members or anyone inquiring.

John Wagoner reviewed the management strategy he presented last month (*Attachment 2*), and shared what that meant in terms of specific items that were funded or not funded. The Board's dialogue with him centered primarily on privatization concerns. Dan Silver, Ecology, made a significant presentation of Ecology's position on the budget. His key points were:

- Cuts in the Hanford budget are good for driving efficiencies. The cuts are "doing us a favor".
- The state has not asked Congress to increase Hanford cleanup funding since 1990. Overall, USDOE's environmental management program has grown too fast for anyone to manage it well.
- Significant cuts have been and can be made at Hanford without affecting the scope of work committed in the TPA.
- Efficiencies are "where the action is". Go after them before asking to reopen TPA.
- Don't manage for process; manage for results.
  
- Ecology's nuclear waste program will take a cut.

- Ecology is "avid" for getting environmental results--protection of soil, air and water.
- USDOE and WHC see Ecology's regs as more restrictive than Ecology does. People on the site are scared--take no risks. They're hamstrung by DOE orders.
- Decisions need to be made at Richland, not at headquarters.
- Ecology is working on priorities internally; will be ready to share with the Board in April.
- Ecology doesn't manage the site; it is a regulator; that is a different role.
- Agencies need the HAB to help them work through issues--not micro-manage, but to look analytically to see where are the tradeoffs across the site and various programs.
- Agencies need the Board's help to build management risk back into the system--allow people to make mistakes

Randy Smith, EPA, added the following points:

- He appreciated the blunt language of John Wagoner and Dan Silver. We need to be blunt about decisions and impacts if we are to get through this. We have to find ways to talk to one another.
- EPA continues to push on efficiency. Need to do a better job of accounting for the efficiencies that have been achieved--showing how the real costs of doing work have gone down.
- Concerned that focus on '97 budget reductions will cause slow down of necessary and funded work in '95 and '96. There must be a focus on delivering on the environmental restoration work committed to in the ER refocusing negotiations.
- Renegotiated TPA commitments resulted from extensive public process; any efforts to change them need similar public process.
- When an organization is under stress, its members retreat to what they're comfortable with. Concerned that Board members will move to defensive postures and allow the consensus built up over time to blow apart. The region needs to build bridges, come to consensus; otherwise it will be disadvantaged on the national scene.

The program leads from the Dollars and Sense Committee presented the issues they had discovered so far in the proposed budgets of each of the program areas and further discussion ensued. Dan Josue had planned a presentation to explain to the Board the regulator and stakeholder involvement in USDOE's priority and budget decisions. Due to time constraints, however, Dan Josue briefly explained that most of his presentation was in handout form which was then distributed to the Board (*Attachment 3*). He noted that the Board will have to deal with complicated issues in a short time and that he had been asked to outline how the budget process works, what the key impacts are, and what the regulators look for, in order to help the Board figure out how to look at the overall budget issues and to help the Board focus its attention in working with the budget. He then explained that the regulators look at the same issues with which the Board is grappling and do so in more detail than most Board members are able to. They work by having focal points which look at the same programs that the Dollars and Sense Committee members are looking at. He informed the Board that he is more than willing to help them understand the issues and urged them to call him with any questions.

### Summary of Budget Related Dialogue and Comments

*This summary attempts to integrate the Board's and agencies' discussion/comments with John Wagoner's stated management priorities and to group statements of principles and values so as to be more useful in identifying the HAB values that are represented in the DOE management strategy and budget proposals and those that are not represented. This summary was distributed to all the Committee meetings held on the Friday following the Board meeting. Committees were encouraged to review Thursday's dialogue and discuss issues of concern to them to assist in developing the Board's advice to the Agencies which will be acted on at the April meeting. **Bold print** = DOE-RL Management Strategies taken from John Wagoner's Briefing; **Normal print** = HAB concerns and questions taken from HAB feedback and discussion (also includes some comments from regulators); *Italic print* = headings.*

### **DOE-RL Priority #1 - Urgent Risks**

This is a scope of work priority

#### **Tanks**

##### Included in the Budget Proposal

- **Privatize TWRS waste treatment proof of concept for Vitrification**
- **Upgrades Tank Farm safety systems**
- **Continues single shell tank pumping**
- **Operations of 222-S Laboratory and Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility**

##### Excluded From the Budget Proposal

- **TWRS disposal program minimally supports TPA**
- **222-S Laboratory Radioactive Waste Transfer Line not supported**
- **No new double shell tanks** Inform Board on the reallocation of the money when the tank project is stopped - reallocate to meet TWRS milestones
- **Treatment disposal is not being funded; privatization is the only option under consideration**

#### **Spent Nuclear Fuel - Proceed with path forward (storage by late 1997)**

- **New path forward will accelerate schedule and cost less**
- **Includes a treatment facility near TWRS for dry storage; makes use of existing partially built facility**

#### **Plutonium - Plutonium Finishing Plant stabilization - streamlined EIS process; 8 year target to stabilize all plutonium**

### **DOE-RL Priority #2 - Reduce/eliminate costly mortgages**

This is an efficiency priority

**Budget supports PUREX, FFTF, and B plant (except WESF) deactivation**  
**UO3 plant has been officially transferred to Bechtel now, reducing a \$4 million annual cost to \$40,000 annual cost.**

**DOE-RL Priority #3 - Stabilize and contain wastes**

This is a scope of work priority

**DOE-RL Priority #4 - Streamline the workforce - Have a new stable level by the end of this calendar year--reduction of 4,000 jobs**

This is an efficiency priority

**DOE-RL Priority #5 - Reduce Overhead costs**

This is an efficiency priority; will not change results for clean up

Need independent auditing to examine costs

Find efficiencies in such things as design costs, contingencies, public relations, legal costs

Eliminate subsidies provided for other programs, such as legal costs for defending defense

weapons contractors against down winder suits, plutonium clean up

Verify that reductions are real and not just shifting costs to departmental budgets

**DOE-RL Priority #6 - Reduce infrastructure costs**

This is an efficiency priority

**DOE-RL Priority #7 - Minimize retrieval or excavation of low-risk waste**

This is a scope of work priority

**Supported in DOE-RL Proposed Budget**

**Operate first two cells of Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility**

**Operation of 200/300 Area Effluent Treatment facilities**

**Not supported in DOE-RL Proposed Budget**

**Phase II Streams ("clean streams" of liquid effluent) and 340 Facility upgrade deferred indefinitely**

**Initiation of WRAP 1 operations delayed up to one year**

- Liquid waste delayed or deferred

- Reprogramming funds requires federal action and cannot be assured; stove piping may remain

**DOE-RL Priority #8 - Focus pump and treat to high payoff areas**

This is a scope of work priority

Groundwater treatment is largely unfunded; intercept groundwater to protect the Columbia River

(a clear value of the HAB)

**DOE-RL Priority #9 - Don't invest in government owned treatment facilities - use private sector**

This is an efficiency priority. Considerable concern and uncertainty was expressed in regard to a commitment to privatization as the only path for tank waste treatment. The following question areas were raised:

1) Is capital available?

private capital - for what kinds of obligations and risks?

public capital - trust fund or advance appropriations to pay contractual obligations when due several years hence

- 2) Are there really efficiency improvements? How is effective control maintained?  
What criteria will be used to assess whether efficiency will be improved?  
How will M&O contractors and "process" contractors relate?
- 3) Is it technically feasible? Can standards and performance be effectively specified? What does it look like?
- 4) What regulatory standards will be applied? By whom?
- 5) Is this just deferral of costs? Government puts no money up front for capital investment, but must pay it later under terms of the contract. Will the money be there when due?
  
- 6) What is the analytic for comparing costs (and other risks and benefits) of public vs. private? How is retrieval accounted for (who is responsible, and what are the potential failures at the intersection of "public" control and "private" control)? How is D&D accounted for - who is responsible? How do you look at the whole system and decide which is more expensive? Are we just putting it off to another generation?
  
- 7) What kind of throughput commitments are required? If the government fails to deliver, or fully or timely perform its obligations, what is the contractor guaranteed, what do they recover, and what is the impact on total cost? How is the waste stream (or other input) specified? How is the performance or output specified? If the contractor fails to perform, or is delayed, or only partially performs, what relief is available to the government?
- 8) Where do the paths between the public baseline and privatization diverge? How is the transition phased in, within the '95, '96 and '97 budgets (i.e. across budget years)? At what point do we lose an effective fall back path?
- 9) What, besides single tanks with representative wastes, are being thought of for privatization?
- 10) What delays are inherent in the contracting process - especially with uncertainty about what regulations will apply?

**Hanford Advisory Board Principles/Criteria/Values to be Reflected in Budget Decisions**

- Look for all possible efficiencies before reducing scope of work
  - Clearly account for efficiency achievements; show that actual, real cost has gone down
- Achieve efficiencies from real numbers, not inflated ones
  - Little confidence in projected numbers because of tendency to inflate due to the human phenomena of: 1) Fear of liability from regulators; 2) bureaucratic mandate to ask for all you can get; and 3) problems in integrating such a large system
- Focus on getting desired outcomes/results rather than on following certain procedures
  - DOE Orders are too cumbersome and cause inefficiencies; let DOE be regulated by laws of the US and the State-don't need to create their own
  - Let decisions be made at the site
  - Don't use a totally risk averse system; empower risk taking where appropriate; covering every risk is expensive, and is not the measure of success.

- Need to see the specific accomplishments to build trust in capacity, then may be able to relax requirements; communicate about the results; what does success look like
- Maintain current work scope and strategy commitments until firm and open commitments are made to change them. Don't let fear of future cuts restrict performance now. Don't address value disagreements in the guise of efficiencies. (I.e. if disagree over focus on Columbia River bring it out for discussion and change, don't just change focus and call it an efficiency move.)
- Maintain focus on cleaning up along the Columbia River.
- Under pressure to tighten budgets and make hard choices, continue forward on building the bridges among varying interests to reach consensus on the best way to move forward.
- HAB should tell DOE how to do things in a different way. Should not just stick with milestones in TPA without differentiating those that just tell how to get there (which could be replaced by a newer, better way) and those that spell out a result.
- Maintain methods for quality control and safety assurances (now are all in DOE Orders)
- Grapple with prioritization grid and how it is being used; how are stakeholder and regulator values being represented and scored

**Non-Budget Related Suggestions Regarding Development of Possible Future Advice**

- Public Involvement Committee could assist in advising agencies on what success is and how it could be effectively communicated to stakeholders.
- Have a quarterly report from DOE on the significant activities on the site.
- Develop a program for encouraging employees to identify efficiencies and safety practices and to make managers accountable to those suggestions; employees are the best source of such ideas. Need a worker involvement program as sophisticated as public involvement. Help people get past denial of failure. See failure as an opportunity to learn.
- Clarify what really happens in Tank Waste since it costs 33% of budget; what is the product; need yearly measurable results
- Have a further and more complete dialogue about the issues and conflicting values in regard to the Columbia River area. What is the role of decay and dilution?
- Address how managing for results will really happen when procedures go to lowest common denominator and regulators look to verbatim compliance rather than results

Before closing off the dialogue, Elaine checked to see if there were any burning issues that had not been raised in the budget discussion. She stressed that all the programs with which the committees are dealing are affected by the budget, and encouraged all committees to check in about whether they want to say anything about priorities or values reflected in the proposed budget, or whether anything is left out. March 23 was noted as the drop dead date for real input on the budget, as the agency's budget must go in to Headquarters in mid-April.

Chair Marilyn Reeves reported that Grumbly told the Board representatives at the SSAB meeting that he would be seeking advice from all the Boards on the totality of the budget, and he asked for their assistance. It will increase the workload and has a short time frame.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: K-BASIN AND SPENT FUEL**

This topic was addressed during the budget discussion as it had to do with budget priorities. Dick Belsey presented the topic for the Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee. A slightly revised Committee report on spent fuel was distributed (*Attachment 4*). The Committee recommended expediting the availability of reprogrammed funds for FY '95 and expediting the process of bringing a new spent fuel storage facility on line by identifying procurement requirements that may be unnecessary for assuring the quality of the facility or minimizing worker health or safety risks. The Board decided to add a sentence to the first paragraph explaining that the source of funds for reprogramming should not affect the scope of work of the Tri-Party Agreement. The Board then adopted the first paragraph of the recommendation as consensus advice # 16 (*Attachment 5*). The Board deferred consideration of the second paragraph to April, for consideration as part of consolidated advice on the FY '97 budget.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: PROPOSED APPROACH TO 100 AREAS REMEDIATION**

The purpose of this presentation was to update the Board on what the agencies have come to agreement on, as well as on the areas where they have not reached agreement in terms of the 100 Area remediation. A memo outlining the cleanup levels, timing for cleanup and removal of contaminants was distributed (*Attachment 6*).

Linda McClain, DOE, explained that the agencies do have a consensus type proposal and want to check in with the Board to get feedback as to whether they are on the right track. She explained that the agencies take the values from the Board and attempt to interpret them into actual work. The underlying values they have been working with are: to protect the Columbia River, "get on with it," and keep options open for future land use. DOE plans to develop two interim remedial actions (IRM) for the first three operable units in the 100 Area, focussing on the radioactive liquid waste disposal sites in those units. She mentioned the Streamline Approach For Environmental Restoration (SAFER) and explained that there may be times when not all the answers are known and SAFER is applied to help assess whether clean up can proceed without knowing those answers.

Carol Rushin, EPA, presented the regulator's perspectives on the proposed plan. She indicated the agencies would have ample opportunities to get additional comment from the Environmental Restoration (ER) Committee, the Board, and the public. In April the Board will have the proposal on the three operable units at a final level of detail. The agencies hope to take the IRM to the public around April 15. The agencies want Board feedback before that period. Ms. Rushin remarked that the agencies are trying to look realistically at the exposure issues and that there were not a lot of easy answers in terms of tradeoffs. Finally, she noted that about 80% of the issues had been resolved and that 20% were hotly debated and being worked through.

The Board had a short question and answer period. Many of the questions dealt with using the Model Toxic Control Act (MCTA) to generate chemical/metals clean up levels. There was a fair

amount of concern by several Board members that this standard was too low. Other feedback had to do with whether there were hot spots in the area which would continue to affect groundwater. Also, a comment was made suggesting that the speed at which reactors are dismantled be reassessed.

Chair Marilyn Reeves pointed out that it would be helpful to visit the 100 Areas on the proposed site tour in April. The proposed IRMs for the three operable units will come before the Board at a more detailed level in April.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: TANK SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (C-106)**

Tom Carpenter, Government Accountability Project (Labor/Work Force Seat) presented for the Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee and reviewed the history of problems with tank C-106. He is not as worried about specific safety concerns of Tank C-106 as he is about the management of the tank farm and tank problems generally. The Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee proposed the following:

1. The Department of Energy should take enforcement actions to establish accountability with Westinghouse Hanford Company to emphasize the importance of adhering to the established protocol.

2. Westinghouse Hanford Company should implement all recommendations of the WHC Senior Management Review Team, the WHC "Lessons Learned" Report, as well as the DOE-RL 1994 Process Test Event Review. Additionally, Hanford officials should review and appropriately implement or respond to the recommendations of the 1991 Stone & Webster report and the 1992 Department of Ecology report. HAB should be informed of the timetable for implementation of the recommendation and the progress made.

3. Further upgrading of the tank farm data gathering equipment should be implemented as necessary, particularly in terms of leak detection and structural integrity studies.

4. USDOE and its contractors must strive to better communicate issues of grave concern, including:

- more timely notice of significant events and problems of the sort that surfaced during the process test;
- quicker response to requests for information;
- honest and direct communications that do not "sugarcoat" or minimize the concerns;
- development of an effective early alert system to communicate to the public issues concerning projects involving "watch list" tanks or other sensitive issues.

5. USDOE should formally designate a single point of contact for obtaining recent, complete and accurate information about C-106 and other tank farm activities to the HAB Major Waste, Health and Safety Committee.

6. USDOE should review and respond in writing to the concerns raised in the 1991 Kaiser Engineers Hanford memorandum by Sonja Anderson. Ms. Anderson should be given an opportunity to contribute to this response.

7. Understanding that Hanford's tank monitoring is unreliable (due to the use of obsolete and failed equipment, inadequate procedures, etc.), the burden for tank leaks in Tank C-106 should be

shifted, rather than "innocent until proven guilty," this tank should be assumed to be leaking absent proof to the contrary. Therefore, Hanford officials should characterize Tank C-106 as a leaking tank and approach all future actions regarding this tank accordingly.

8. DOE should respond to the State of Washington Department of Ecology's August 1992 report concerning 106-C, especially focusing on progress made in addressing the violations noted in that report.

Greg Morgan, DOE Program Manager, East Tank Farms, then responded to each of the recommendations as follows:

1. DOE did write the award fee which criticized WHC, and DOE enforced it by taking some of the award fee away. The Board, of course, could recommend that there be more enforcement.
2. DOE has formally initiated the recommendation and is implementing it in full.
3. DOE has installed a much more reliable way to monitor the tank as well as to provide DOE with better data gathering methodology.
4. Greg agrees there must be better communication especially with issues of grave concern.
5. Greg is the single point of contact for the tank farms.
6. This morning Greg gave the requested written response to Tom Carpenter. Greg feels that response addresses one third of Sonja's concerns. He will continue to work on responding to the rest of her concerns.
7. Greg disagrees with this recommendation and responded that while DOE cannot prove the tank is not a leaker, he believes it is not. He described the DOE monitoring process and data.
8. Greg informed the Board that he will be responding to those parts of the report with which he is concerned.

The Board welcomed Greg Morgan's direct response. One member noted that inherent in the recommendations is that when something goes wrong, there will be quicker notification of people in the management who would quickly focus on the problem. Another comment questioned whether there were other ways to sanction WHC.

In response to a question inquiring as to what the normal response to a tank classified as leaking is, Greg explained the process is risky. The tank would be pumped dry, which would cause the tank to heat up in a short time, so a chiller is placed on the tank, and water is sprayed to keep the tank moist.

In response to whether the schedule for removing the tank could be speeded up, Greg said that it is his personal judgment that the removal is being done as fast as it can be done.

The Board then had a fairly lengthy discussion over whether these recommendations should be formally adopted or if the discussion and response were sufficient Board action. It was decided that this meeting summary should fully cover the recommendations and responses. Concerns about specific language and recommendations should be communicated to the Health, Safety and Waste Management Committee which will bring back to the Board briefly in April revised advice for formal adoption.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: CRITICAL REPORT ON THE CONSORTIUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK EVALUATION (CERE) PROCESS**

Ralph Patt, Oregon Department of Water Resources (State of Oregon Seat) presented for the Environmental Restoration (ER) Committee. He briefly explained the topic: the Consortium for Environmental Risk Evaluation (CERE) process. CERE, he explained, was established to conduct a review and evaluation of risks, costs and public concerns for remediation, waste management and decontamination and decommissioning associated with compliance agreements linked to cleanup of the DOE weapons complex. Information developed will be used to prepare a June 1995 report to Congress describing the risks and costs associated with the weapons complex cleanup. A final draft of the CERE report will be released in early March. The review period on the final draft that will be released in early March is over March 23. The ER Committee plans to review the draft and will present its recommendations to the Board in April.

Ralph then highlighted the concerns he has with the process that was used to draft the initial conclusions. The concerns are:

- Limited scope of input in that many agencies and Tribes were not contacted
- Conclusions drawn from incomplete data
- Inaccuracies in CERE technical reports
- Insufficient time for credible evaluation
- Cross-site risk evaluation is not an obtainable goal

Ralph then referred to the draft letter of recommendations which essentially captured the above concerns in greater detail. He suggested that this letter be sent to Carol Henry who last month gave a presentation on risk assessment to the Board, and asked the Board to review the CERE process. The Board discussed the recommendation, modified the letter slightly and adopted the proposed recommendation as consensus advice #15.

### **COLUMBIA RIVER IMPACTS STUDY TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL**

*(Note: This topic was not on the agenda but was addressed during the Internal Board Matters. Because, however, it is an ER Committee Topic, it is summarized here.)*

Mike Thompson, DOE, presented and explained that in the 1993 negotiations, the Tri-Parties agreed that DOE would perform a comprehensive Columbia River impact assessment. The idea is to look at the data on the Columbia River and do a risk assessment to determine whether the contamination in the Columbia River today from Hanford represents an unacceptable risk to human health and welfare and to the environment. Mike explained that DOE is using Pacific Northwest Labs (PNL) as the contractor to do the work. In 1993 it was also decided that a peer review group should look at the scientific basis of the work, the assumptions and approach that PNL would be using, to determine if the science is appropriate.

In choosing a peer review, Mike explained that the desire is to find a group of unbiased scientists who are not connected to the project. DOE made a recommendation to the ER Committee that the Directors of Oregon and Washington Water Research Center/Institute select the peer group. DOE would thus step out of the selection process. He mentioned a list of minimum qualifications that are needed, as well as a list of desired qualifications. DOE has drafted a letter to send out to stakeholders and Tribes asking for nominations which will go to the Directors for final selection. Mike also noted that DOE is open to having the Tribes jointly choose a single peer reviewer who meets the qualifications to be on the panel.

Mike explained that this process would not supplant the Board or Tribes for giving advice. He reassured the Board that there will be plenty of opportunities for public and stakeholder interaction. Mike asked the Board for its approval in proceeding with establishing the peer review group on this basis. Tim Takaro, Physicians for Social Responsibility (Local/Regional Public Health Seat) asked about the relationship between the peer review and the Hanford Health Effects Committee, which is a committee designed to review scientific studies regarding Hanford. Mike Thompson responded that he was not aware of any connection.

Chair Marilyn asked if there was any objection from the Board in recommending that the process for establishing the review begin. Tim Takaro noted that if this recommendation were made, the Hanford Health Effects Committee should be included in the process. There was no objection.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: INTERNAL BOARD MATTERS**

##### Report from members attending National SSAB Meeting

There was no official report. Betty Tabbutt, Public-At-Large, briefly reminded the Board that there is an effort to evaluate the SSABs. She explained that those SSABs that are up and running will be developing criteria based on stated goals of the SSABs in order to develop indicators of success. This Board, she noted will have an opportunity to refine them. Because doing this may take some effort up front, she thought it may be a topic that the Public Involvement Committee could take up to work on first and bring it to the Board. Chair Marilyn agreed.

Marilyn also pointed out that a report regarding the visits to members of Congress was made available (*Attachment 7*).

##### Internal Board Budget

Gerry Sorenson, Batelle, PNL (Labor/Work Force Seat) explained that the Budget Committee prepared a financial summary of the actual payments paid out in February, the FY '94 actual payments, the FY '95 year to date, and the FY '94 charges costed in FY '95 (*Attachment 8*). He pointed out that the amounts reflected for the current month represent what was paid out and do not reflect the actual costs that were accrued for the month. The Committee is proposing to do such a report each month. Finally he mentioned that the Budget Committee will meet on Friday to continue to look at how to cut back on the Board budget and will report to the Board in April.

Chair Merylyn Reeves asked the committees to analyze what services they feel they will need. She also asked the Board to think of ways individual expenses could be reduced and gave the example of car pooling to meetings. As another cost saving idea, she announced that in July, all the conference rooms are filled and asked the Board to consider not meeting as the full Board in that month although committee meetings could be maintained.

Gerry Sorenson announced that phone cards may be issued to Board members for use in making telephone calls associated with official Board business. A proposed policy on the use of the cards was distributed (*Attachment 9*). The policy was quickly adopted by the Board.

It was announced that on March 10, there will be a hearing in the US Senate with Assistant Secretary Tom Grumbly to discuss site specific Boards and their budgets. DOE-RL was asked to and did provide the HAB's '94 and '95 budgets and the projected '96 budget, including the cost of the staff. Chair Merylyn informed the Board that she has asked for a copy of Grumbly's statement on behalf of the whole Board.

Merylyn announced that it was hoped that part of next month's Board meeting would include an on site tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

***This summary is an accurate and complete summary of the matters discussed and conclusions reached at the Hanford Advisory Board meeting held on March 2, 1995 in Seattle, Washington.***

***Certified by:*** \_\_\_\_\_  
***Merylyn B. Reeves, Chair***

***Dated:*** \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTACHMENTS LIST

- | <b>Number</b> | <b>Item</b>   |
|---------------|---|
| 1.            | March Board Meeting Attendance List   |
| 2.            | Copies of Visuals from John Wagoner's presentation on budget issues                         |
| 3.            | Copies of Visuals/handout from Dan Josue's presentation on budget issues                    |
| 4.            | Health, Safety & Waste Management Committee Revised Report on Spent Fuel                    |
| 5.            | Adopted Consensus Advice #16 - Expediting availability of Reprogrammed Funds for Spent Fuel |
| 6.            | 100 Area Clean Up Information Sheet   |
| 7.            | Report-on Visits to Members of Congress   |
| 8.            | HAB Financial Summary (data as of February 1995 month end)                                  |
| 9.            | HAB Proposed Policy on Use of Government Issued Phone Cards                                 |

Note: Attachments are numbered according to the order in which they are mentioned in the summary. The attachments that were distributed at or before the Hanford Advisory Board meeting are not routinely distributed with this summary. If you need a copy of an attachment, please request it from Debbie Kaufman at Confluence Northwest (503)243-2663 or Celaine Hadley at Westinghouse Hanford (509) 376-5856.