

**Tri-Party Agreement**

03-HAB-0006

NOV 20 2002

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2005

EDMC

Dear Mr. Martin:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) CONSENSUS ADVICE #137: PUBLIC NOTICE

We received your advice on public notice (#137) and agree that effective notice is important to gaining broad participation and involvement in Hanford decision making. We believe we have made and will continue to make great strides in providing opportunities for the public to be involved in Hanford issues.

We are pleased to see the Public Involvement and Communications Committee is engaging in efforts to improve public processes and are encouraged by your comments that you will continue helping the agencies get feedback. Here are our responses to your specific suggestions:

1. The Tri-Party Agreement Community Relations Plan (CRP) guidelines should be followed for all Hanford public participation notices and activities, not just Tri-Party Agreement actions.
 - We currently follow the CRP guidelines. We commit to continue this course and make a conscious effort to follow these guidelines for all public involvement opportunities, not just Tri-Party Agreement issues.
2. Likewise, the principles of the Public Involvement Committee White Paper (which was adopted by the Board as a document of record) should be followed.

Substantive

- Again, this is an area where the agencies have made great improvements. We commit to continuously improving notifications. We are making every effort to clearly identify in non-technical terms the importance and potential impacts of cleanup decisions to the public. Language for notifications has never been easy to agree on; however, we will do our best to explain the cleanup action's importance to the environment or public health.

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Timely

- We use a variety of methods to notify the public of upcoming public comment periods, including direct mailings, Internet postings, notices to the HAB, advertisements, fact sheets, face-to-face contact, phone calls, and notices in our regular mailings, such as the "Hanford Update." The agencies committed in the CRP to provide notice as quickly as possible to the stakeholders and general public. However, timing does not always allow for notification to the general public 30-45 days in advance of a public comment, nor do we believe this is always effective. That said, we will strive to meet the goal of providing 30-45 days advance notice of public comment periods as much as possible.

Regular

- While consistency and familiarity do help, some members of the public recognize opportunities for involvement. The agencies believe that repetitive, similar ads or fliers cause other members of the public to tune out the ad and pay little if any attention to the notification. We are working collectively to develop creative ads that entice members of the public to participate in meetings and make comments. Along with this, we will ensure these advertisements are well placed (not just in the classified section) in newspapers in and/or around the area of upcoming meetings. Cost will continue to be a factor in making these difficult decisions. We may have to rely on less costly alternatives when they are available in larger metropolitan areas. At this time, it is unclear exactly how effective newspaper ads are at attracting members of the public to meetings. So, it is often difficult to see a direct benefit of enormous advertisement costs.
3. Notices of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) actions should be included in the regular Tri-Party Agreement publications, and notices of NEPA determinations and comment periods should also be sent to the appropriate Tri-Party Agreement mailing list following CRP guidelines.
 - The U.S. Department of Energy will work to align the NEPA public involvement process with our existing Tri-Party Agreement process as outlined in the CRP. They have already modified our NEPA mailing list and expanded it to include our standard Hanford mailing list.


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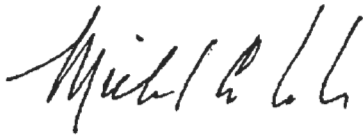
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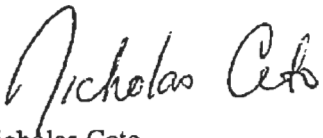
Again, we appreciate the Board's interest in public notices and gaining a broader public for involvement in Hanford decision-making processes. The Board membership was specifically selected because of their membership's interest in Hanford issues. Your organizations are comprised of members who are the most likely citizens to participate in public decision-making processes. The agencies are genuinely interested in your continued efforts to help get the "word out" about public meetings and comment periods. We do appreciate your hard work and could not be effective without your support.

If you need further information or assistance, please contact the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Public Involvement Manager, Yvonne Sherman at (509) 376-6216; Environmental Protection Agency, Dennis Faulk (509) 376-8631; or Ecology, Mary Anne Wuennecke at (509) 736-3036.


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cc: See page 4

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cc: N. Ceto, EPA
M. A. Wilson, Ecology
P. Mabie, EnviroIssues
M. Crosland, EM-11
G.M. Hughes, USF&W

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H. Smith
Ron Wyden

State Senators (OR)

Tony Corcoran
Mae Yih

U.S. Representatives (OR)

Earl Blumenauer
Peter DeFazio
Darlene Hooley
Greg Walden
David Wu

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

State Senators (WA)

Pat Hale
Mike Hewitt

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Brian Baird
Norm Dicks
Jennifer Dunn
Jay Inslee
Richard Hastings
Rick Larsen
Jim McDermott
George Nethercutt
Adam Smith

State Representatives (WA)

Jerome Delvin
Shirley Hankins