

**Meeting Minutes**  
**U.S. Department of Energy and Oregon Office of Energy**  
**Bi-Monthly Forum**

December 2, 1998  
Metro Building 600 N.E. Grand Ave., Portland Oregon

Distribution:

M. L. Blazek	OOE	Oregon
M. Graine	OOE	Oregon
J. S. Hertz	FDH	H8-67
D. Huston	OOE	Oregon
K. Lang	DGE-HQ	
R. Lightner	DOE-HQ	
G. M. McClure	DOE-RL	A7-75
F. R. Miera	DOE-RL	A5-15
R. D. Morrison	FDH	G3-27
N. B. Myers	BHI	H0-14
K. Niles	OOE	Oregon
K. K. Randolph	DOE-RL	A7-75
J. E. Rasmussen	DOE-RL	A5-15
G. H. Sanders	DOE-RL	A5-15

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December 2, 1998  
Metro Building 600 N.E. Grand Ave., Portland Oregon

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Apprvl.: *George H. Sanders* Date: 2/9/99  
George H. Sanders, Administrator  
*for* Tri-Party Agreement  
U.S. Department of Energy

Apprvl.: *Mary Lou Blazek* Date: 2/9/99  
Mary Lou Blazek, Administrator  
Nuclear Safety Division  
Oregon Office of Energy

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Attendees:

M. Blazek	OOE
J. Hertzell	FDH
G. McClure	DOE-RL
F. Miera	DOE-RL
R. Morrison	FDH
N. Myers	BHI
K. Niles	OOE
K. Randolph	DOE-RL
J. Rasmussen	DOE-RL

# **AGENDA**

## **DOE/OREGON BI-MONTHLY FORUM**

**DECEMBER 2, 1998**

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Privatization Public Involvement Plans – Peter Bengtson (by phone @ 9:10)**
- 3. NRC Regulation Plan – Pilot Projects... Why not Hanford?**
- 4. Follow-up from Wagoner/Oregon meeting – Blazek/Randolph**
- 5. GW/Vadose Zone Integration status – Mike Graham (by phone @ 10:00)**
- 6. Status of 1999 budget – Tibbatts (by phone @ 10:15)**
- 7. Projections for 2000 budget – Tibbatts (by phone @ 10:15)**
- 8. Scoping meetings for Pu238 and TGA from Mound - Blazek**
- 9. Status of FFTF comment response document - Sanders**
- 10. C-106 initiate sluicing briefing - Rasmussen**
- 11. John Wagoner/Gov. Kitzhaber mtg., conference call w/ John Savage (@10:30)**
- 12. Oregon Office of Energy Quarterly Report – RL Feedback**
- 13. Status of “Wyden Watchlist Tanks” press release - Randolph**
- 14. Status of INEEL High Level Waste Environmental Impact Statement, i.e. alternative for moving the waste to Hanford - Rasmussen**
- 15. Tri-Party Agreement status – Sanders**
- 16. Action items**
- 17. Next Forum meeting date**

## **MEETING MINUTES, December 2, 1998 (Portland, Oregon)<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. Introductions.**

F. Miera introduced Jeff Hertzfel, Assistant Director of Tri-Party Agreement Integration for Fluor Daniel Hanford Inc.

### **12. Oregon Office of Energy Quarterly Report.**

M. Blazek provided copies of the latest Oregon Office of Energy Quarterly Report for the period July through October 1998 (Attachment 1) per the requirements of the August 1997 Memorandum of Understanding. M. Blazek requested specific comments be provided on the adequacy and frequency of the report.

**Action:** F. Miera committed to provide an evaluation of the Quarterly Reports volume of information and whether to change the frequency of the report from quarterly to semi annual or possibly annually.

### **3. NRC Regulation Plan – Pilot Projects.**

F. Miera provided a summary of the “External Regulation Pilot” (Attachment 2). M. Blazek stated that the State of Oregon had been briefed at the last Oregon Hanford Waste Board meeting and that the briefing described a very robust program. M. Blazek asked why the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Pilot Project is not part of the Tank Waste Reg. Unit? F. Miera stated that he was not certain what extent the NRC may be involved in the Privatization effort. J. Rasmussen pointed out that W. Dixon could be a possible contact on this subject. It was suggested that Roger Christensen might be able to address this in the next scheduled Forum meeting.

### **2. Privatization Public Involvement Plans.**

(R. Gilbert and P. Bengtson participated in this discussion via a telephone conference call). P. Bengtson provided copies of a draft presentation (Attachment 3) “Tank Waste Treatment Project Public Involvement Strategy Overview”. P. Bengtson stated that it is anticipated that the development of a public involvement strategy will be an iterative process and the State of Oregon’s input will be sought along the way.

P. Bengtson walked the attendees through the presentation (Attachment 3) and pointed out that British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) has released copies of an Integrated Master Plan which lays out the schedule, inputs and outputs during the B-1 phase of the contract. M. Blazek requested a copy of the subject Plan.

**Action:** P. Bengtson to provide copy of the Integrated Master Plan to M. Blazek.

P. Bengtson stressed it is recognized that regional support is essential in order to be successful with the high risk approach being utilized. The State of Oregon’s inputs to the process will be appreciated.

<sup>1</sup>Note: agenda items are presented in the order in which they were addressed during the Forum.

M. Blazek asked if the activity “development of information products” on page 5 of the presentation had started. P. Bengtson responded that it had not formally begun. M. Blazek stated that this information is what is desperately needed. J. Rasmussen asked if a public involvement plan will be coming out and if so when. P. Bengtson replied that a strategy should be coming out by the end of December and a draft should be available for review by the State of Oregon. This strategy will include appropriate dates, issues and deliverables. J. Rasmussen reiterated that the State of Oregon’s input will be very valuable and must be factored into the strategy and future planning.

G. McClure stated that it would be advantageous to have the Reg. Unit and the Tank Waste Remediation System forums linked for efficiency. J. Rasmussen agreed, adding that if they are not linked it will be large source of frustration, for the public, due to lack of a coordinated effort.

M. Blazek asked if there is any publicly released information available on Privatization. P. Bengtson responded that there is some available on the Internet but, not a lot of new information since last July, though it is recognized that more must be made available. At this point two informational documents relating to Privatization were provided to M. Blazek. These documents were a “Report to Congress – Summary of Key Points” and an “Outline for the Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Project’s Decision and Notification Process” (Attachments 4 and 5).

#### **8. Scoping meetings for Pu238 and TGA from Mound.**

M. Blazek noted that DOE Headquarters representation was not present.

M. Blazek pointed out that the DOE has informed the State of Oregon that it is premature to hold scoping meetings in Oregon however, a meeting was held in the Tri-Cities, Washington on this subject.

G. McClure explained that only the sites possibly involved in the waste transfer held meetings. If Hanford remains on the list of possible sites then regional meetings will be held. We are currently trying to get a representative from Headquarters, EM-22 to work with us on the Public Involvement aspects of the Environmental Impact Statement.

K. Niles stressed that it seems premature to decide to bring waste from Idaho to the Hanford Site before we really know what we will be doing at the Hanford Site.

F. Miera agreed that that is a concern.

#### **4. Follow-Up From Wagoner/Oregon Meeting.**

Both M. Blazek and K. Randolph concurred that the meeting had gone well. M. Blazek stressed that the State of Oregon should be involved in the proposed Summit if one is held.

#### **5. GW/Vadose Zone Integration Status.**

A telephone conference was established with M. Graham and D. Butler of Bechtel Hanford Inc. to discuss progress on the Hanford Site Groundwater and Vadose Zone Integration Project. A

presentation on the project status (Attachment 6) was provided and discussed by M. Graham. A public involvement plan was also discussed with a copy to be provided by Nancy Myers to M. Blazek. M. Blazek also requested a copy of the "Draft State of Knowledge" document referenced on page 10 of the presentation (Attachment 6). M. Graham agreed to provide 2 copies of the draft document.

#### **Status of 1999 Budget and Projections for 2000 Budget.**

A telephone conference was established with R. Tibbatts of the DOE to discuss the status of fiscal year 1999 budget and projections for the fiscal year 2000 budget. R. Tibbatts explained that at a fiscal year 1999 budget meeting on November 10, 1998 it was learned that virtually every activity at the Hanford Site was potentially subject to an overall \$71 million reduction with Hanford's share being \$19.2 million of that amount. Funding for Tribal grants is included in the budget. The \$9 million reduction will not affect the Hanford Site. Up to \$12 million should be available for groundwater activities. The requested Hanford budget was \$1,004,500,000 and the actual budget will be \$990,000,000 plus an expected \$5.1 million for single-shell tank stabilization and vadose work (under the single-shell tanks). All fiscal year 1999 Tri-Party Agreement milestones are expected to be met.

M. Blazek inquired whether R. Tibbatts could address the State of Oregon's list of activities and budget needs. R. Tibbatts responded that it was unlikely that there will be any relief on the \$543,000 budget number, plus carryover. M. Blazek asked if this situation can be revisited. R. Tibbatts responded that it was doubtful. M. Blazek pointed out that the \$543,000 amount probably is viewed as level funding by the DOE but is in reality a decrease for the State of Oregon since it is the same dollar amount as in the previous two years.

Regarding the fiscal year 2000 budget R. Tibbatts expressed the need for support from all interested parties to assure compliance level funding.

#### **9. Status of FFTF Comment Response Document.**

F. Miera informed the attendees that the DOE is waiting for the State of Washington to close some issues on the comment response document. A Secretarial decision on use of the Fast Flux Test Facility for production of tritium is expected to occur any time now.

M. Blazek suggested that a statement be made to the public about where the subject stands in light of all the comments received. The suggestion was well received by the other attendees.

#### **10. Tank C-106 Initiate Sluicing Briefing.**

F. Miera reported that sluicing retrieval of Tank C-106 (per Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-45-03A) had begun on November 18, 1998. However, retrieval pumping was stopped due to higher than expected levels of volatile organic carbons which exceeded allowable limits. Discussions will also occur with the State of Washington to resolve outstanding issues surrounding the Pollution Control Hearings Board's final decision on this activity.

#### **13. Status of "Wyden Watchlist Tanks" Press Release.**

K. Randolph committed to determine the status and schedule for a meeting planned to take place on this subject.

## **15. Tri-Party Agreement Status of Activities.**

### Groundwater/Vadose Negotiations.

The parties are continuing negotiations toward the deadline of December 4, 1998 to reach agreement on an acceptable series of commitments.

### Single Shell Tank Interim Stabilization.

Current target is to complete the development of a consent decree by mid December. A public comment period will be conducted on the consent decree and related Tri-Party Agreement Class I change request.

### Privatization.

A draft change request was submitted by the DOE to the State of Washington in July 1998 proposing modifications to the Tri-Party Agreement reflecting privatization. The State of Washington has submitted a draft Agreement In Principle on negotiating privatization related changes to the Tri-Party Agreement. The DOE has developed a counter proposal which is currently undergoing review by DOE Headquarters.

### Spent Nuclear Fuel.

The public comment period on the Tri-Party Agreement Class I change request was completed on November 18, 1998. Meetings with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency are scheduled to work on the resulting comments and proceed with finalizing the change request.

### U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Multi-Media Inspections.

The DOE is expecting enforcement actions in the next couple of months as a result of last summers inspections. There are expected to be shortcomings in three areas: emergency preparedness, waste storage, and waste designations. J. Rasmussen will provide additional information to the State of Oregon when it is available.

### **Recent Contamination Incidents.**

K. Niles discussed a recent incident in which removable radioactive contamination was discovered on a tarp covering a truck originating at General Atomics. Another incident occurred with a truck originating from Paduca Kentucky, additionally, leaks from shipping boxes were discovered in shipments from Fernald Ohio. It was emphasized that various states are becoming concerned and may find it necessary to use what ever resources are available to address these issues if this represents a continuing problem or are examples of negligence.

## **16. Action Items.**

Outstanding Oregon/DOE action items were statused and discussed see Attachment 7 for details.

## **17. Next Oregon/DOE Forum Meeting.**

It was tentatively proposed that the next meeting take place on January 27, 1999 at 9:00am in Richland Washington.

**The Forum Was Adjourned.**



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Attachment 1

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Office of Energy

625 Marion St. NE, Suite 1

Salem, OR 97301-3742

Phone: (503) 378-4040

Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035

FAX: (503) 373-7806

Web site: [www.cbs.state.or.us/external/oe/](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/oe/)

November 30, 1998

Felix Miera  
USDOE-RL MS-A5-15  
625 Jadwin Avenue  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Miera

Our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in August 1997 calls for quarterly progress reports. As agreed, these reports are made on the same schedule as the reports for the Oregon grant.

Our periodic meetings called for under the MOU have been useful and productive. The report attached covers the final reporting period of the fiscal year, July - October, 1998.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Blazek  
Administrator  
Nuclear Safety Division  
Oregon Office of Energy



**Note:** The Quarterly Report in it's entirety is attached to and is part of the minutes of record for the December 2, 1998 State of Oregon and U.S. Department of Energy Forum. Due to its volume it is not attached to this copy of the approved minutes. Copies of the Report may be requested from Felix Miera of the U.S. Department of Energy (509) 373-7589 or Ron Morrison of Fluor Daniel Hanford Inc. (509) 376-6574.

### Pacific Northwest National Laboratory External Regulation Pilot

- In the original scope of the External Regulation pilots, Congress has tasked DOE and NRC to develop a pilot program addressing whether NRC should be given statutory authority to regulate nuclear safety and DOE nuclear facilities. The purpose of the DOE pilots is to test regulatory approaches which could be used by NRC, determine the status of the pilot facilities, determine the costs related to external regulation, and identify any potential issues or problems.
- Three pilots were conducted by DOE and NRC during Fiscal Year 1998 at Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Savannah River Site.
- The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Conference Report release September 25, 1998, stated that any additional pilots conducted in Fiscal Year 1999 had to include both NRC and OSHA.

*"The Department is currently conducting pilot projects to determine the impacts of external regulation on various facilities. However, several of the pilot projects have included only the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and not the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or affected State and local authorities. Since there are many issues involving the interface between NRC and OSHA and other State and local authorities as well as with DOE, the usefulness of these pilots to determine the full impacts of external regulation is limited. The Department is directed to include all affected regulatory authorities in all future pilot projects."*

- As of November 1998 the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) External Regulation Pilot has a draft workplan addressing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) portion of the pilot. The workplan for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) portion has not been addressed.
- The DOE headquarters chair for the external regulation pilots is currently evaluating the role of OSHA and State and local authorities based on the Appropriations language.
- The September 1998 Appropriations language also stated that the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory pilot be re-evaluated to include OSHA by March 1999. Due to resource constraints at headquarters, the PNNL pilot is on hold until the Lawrence Berkley OSHA pilot is completed.

# Tank Waste Treatment Project Public Involvement Strategy Overview DRAFT



December 1998

# Topics

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- Communicate DOE's public involvement objectives
  - Provide timely opportunities for participation and input at key points and prior to decisions
- Discuss draft public involvement strategy
  - Seek initial comments on the public involvement strategy

# Objectives

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# Strategy - Two-Pronged Approach

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- Strategic activities
  - Involvement in key areas of Authorization to Proceed
    - Deliverable review process
    - Decision process (6 & 24 months)
    - Readiness to Proceed process (DOE & PHMC)
    - Alternative finance reviews
  - Ad Hoc committee
    - Primary avenue for obtaining stakeholder input
  - Approach/techniques
    - Tailor involvement activities to key areas
    - Establish protocols (e.g., non-disclosure agreements, how to provide input, etc.)

# Strategy (con't)

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- Ongoing public involvement activities (upcoming events, progress & updates)
  - Oregon briefings and discussions
  - Development of information products
  - Tribal consultations
  - Hanford Advisory Board standing meetings
  - Public forums, interviews, etc.
  - TPA/regulatory issues
  - Congressional briefings
- Points of Contact - Leif Erickson, Rob Gilbert, Peter Bengtson

# Summary

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- Drafting a public involvement strategy that engages and encourages participation before decisions are made
- Will seek your comments on the public involvement strategy
- DOE will support the HAB Ad Hoc committee
- DOE recognizes that the project must be open to earn regional support
- Next steps include working with Ad Hoc committee to begin strategic involvement activities

## Report to Congress -- Summary of Key Points

### *Summary:*

The Report to Congress describes the Department of Energy's (DOE) plan for taking the next steps to assure treatment of Hanford tank waste. The report was written in response to Section 3132(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 for the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) Phase I Privatization Project at Hanford, Washington.

After Congress has the report for 30 days DOE can authorize the contractor team led by BNFL, Inc. to proceed to the next phase of the contract, a 24-month design period. After the design phase is reviewed and approved, DOE authorizes BNFL to proceed with construction and operations phase of contract that can last an additional 8 years. The DOE believes it has negotiated a contract that (1) provides a viable, realistic path forward to clean up the tank waste and (2) results in cost-effective waste treatment.

Overall, the TWRS project will clean up wastes from 177 large tanks that currently store 54 million gallons of hazardous chemical and nuclear wastes. Sixty-seven of the tanks are known or suspected to have leaked into the ground, and other tanks will eventually leak if the waste is not immobilized. Vitrifying the tank waste into glass reduces the long-term threat to human health and the environment. These wastes were generated as a by-product of 40 years of nuclear weapons plutonium production.

### *How BNFL was selected:*

In September 1996, DOE hired two contractors, Lockheed Martin Advanced Engineering Systems (LMAES) and BNFL, Inc., to evaluate the requirements necessary to clean up tank waste using a private facility. In early 1998, LMAES and BNFL delivered work products that described how they would design and operate such a facility.

Nearly 100 independent, external experts participated in the decision-making process in advisory, contributor, and review roles. They offered specialized expertise from academia, private industry, and the national laboratories.

Based on input from the experts, the LMAES proposal was not pursued due to unacceptably high technical risks. The BNFL proposal was accepted because of its excellent technical merit and because BNFL has successfully applied similar technologies at other sites.

### *Getting the job done:*

Once the BNFL facility is operating, it should clean up about 10% of Hanford tank waste beginning in 2005-2006. The remainder of the waste will be processed later, either by expanding the BNFL facility or by building a second facility.

The tank waste will be processed by using vitrification, a process that immobilizes the waste in glass. The less radioactive waste (known as low-activity waste) will be permanently and safely stored at the Hanford site. The more dangerous waste (known as high-level waste) will be temporarily stored at Hanford. It will eventually be moved for permanent storage to a national repository. Both types of waste will be handled by the BNFL facility.

The low-activity waste vitrified in Phase I will be contained in steel boxes, each measuring 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 6 ft. It represents between 6-13% of the total low-activity waste at Hanford.

At a minimum, the high-level waste vitrified in Phase I will be contained in 600 stainless steel canisters, each measuring 2 ft. in diameter and 15 ft. high. It represents between 3-5% of the total high-level waste at Hanford.

The total tank waste volume at Hanford would fill a football field to a depth of 150 feet (204,000 cubic meters). At the end of the project, the total vitrified low-activity waste will be contained in 98,000 glass boxes (200,000 cubic meters), filling a football field to a depth of 147 feet. The high-level waste will be contained in a total of 13,200 glass logs (14,000 cubic meters), filling a football field to a depth of 10 feet (Note: These calculations do not include the volume of the waste containers themselves.)

### *Schedule implications for the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA):*

The TPA is a contract between the DOE, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the Hanford Site. The schedule negotiated with BNFL keeps DOE on schedule to meet long-term TPA cleanup milestones, but requires delays to some near-term milestones.

The delayed near-term milestone is the start of low-activity waste vitrification (TPA alternate path schedule—12/2003; expected—1/2008).

At the same time, some near-term TPA milestones are expected to be completed early. These include the start of pre-treatment (TPA alternate path schedule—6/2008; expected—4/2006) and the start of high-level waste vitrification (TPA alternate path schedule—12/2009; expected—2/2007).

The long-term TPA milestones are expected to remain on schedule (e.g., vitrification completed in 2028).

### *Costs:*

The 24-month design period will cost a maximum of \$350 million, most of which will go toward project costs (\$250M, financed by BNFL). Some costs may be expended on financing (up to \$25M), fees (up to \$20M), incentives (up to \$30M), and other costs (\$25M). Prices for facility construction and operation will be finalized at the end of this design period.

The initial estimates for facility construction and operation (including treatment) will cost \$6.9 billion, with \$3.2 billion going toward project costs. Approximately \$3.3 billion will be spent for project financing and profit. Known as a risk premium, this money will offset the cost of limited information and high uncertainty to successfully perform the work. About \$0.4 billion will be necessary for other costs.

The cost is approximately twice the target price identified two years ago. However, BNFL is proposing to treat twice the waste originally targeted. Also, it is building a plant with a 30-year design life, rather than the original concept of a 5- to 9-year demonstration facility. The longer-lived facility can treat more than half of the tank waste (by mass) and about 95% of the long-lived radioactivity with limited additional cost.

### *Cost comparison to other DOE vitrification projects:*

The DOE is now operating two other vitrification projects, the West Valley project and the Defense Waste Processing Facility (at Savannah River). It is expected that tank cleanup at Hanford can take advantage of the lessons learned at West Valley and Savannah River. These experiences provide the basis for designing more cost-effective technology and treatment processes.

The Congressional Report and additional tank waste cleanup information are available at:  
<http://www.hanford.gov/docs/twrs-atp/twrs-atp.html>

## **Outline for the Tank Waste Treatment & Immobilization Project's Decision and Notification Process**

### **Decision Process - Prior to Congress' review (late-January 1998 to Present)**

- Extensive DOE-Richland, DOE-Headquarter management briefings on analysis and negotiations strategy.
- Northwest Congressional and stakeholder briefings offered and conducted when accepted.
- Negotiate best possible contract(s) with private (commercial) contractors {BNFL, Inc team includes; Bechtel National, Inc., SAIC and GTS-Duratek. The Lockheed Martin Advanced Environmental Systems team includes; Numatec, Fluor Daniel Inc., Babcock & Wilcox EnVitCo, Duke Engineering & Services Inc., AEA Technology, OHM Remediation Services, LATA, Nukem Nuclear Technologies Corp. }.
- Seek approval on final negotiated package(s) from the Secretary of Energy, Deputy Secretary and Under-secretary.
- Distribute draft press release 48 hours in advance to the Tri-Party Agreement regulators announcing that a Congressional report "has been sent" by the Secretary to Congress.
- Offer briefing(s) to Ecology, EPA, Health and Oregon Office of Energy on specific details of the negotiated package prior to forwarding the report to Congress.
- Notifications and short briefings will be made to Oregon and other key stakeholders, Tribes, etc. just prior or simultaneously to the report being sent to Congress.
- The report addresses specific questions required by Congressional appropriation committees and additional details specific to the proposed agreement, e.g. number of contracts to be offered, schedule and adjusted cost projections.

### **Congressional Review**

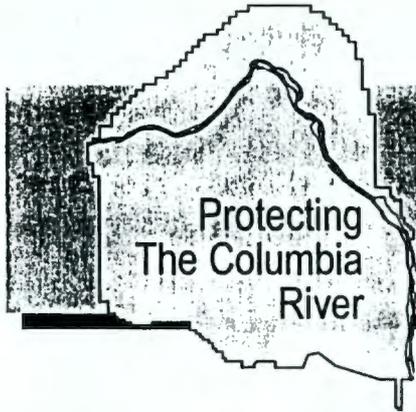
- Congress has 30-days to review a DOE report that outlines the contract package(s). After 30-days the Secretary of Energy can formally announce his decision and the path for treating Hanford's tank waste.
- TPA Regulators will be notified within 48 hours prior to DOE issuing a press release announcing the Secretary's decision.
- Oregon Office of Energy, Stakeholders, Tribes and the Hanford Advisory Board will be offered briefings on the Congressional report.

### **Secretary's Announcement**

- Expected within a few days or weeks of Congress' 30-day review.
- Media event announcing the decision
- Stakeholder, Tribal and media briefings will be made planned or made available

### **Key Dates**

- May 25; current contracts expire (issues September 25, 1996).
- July 31; Tri-Party Agreement Milestone requires DOE to issue authorization for two contractors to proceed with the next phase (phase I, part B)



*Hanford Site*

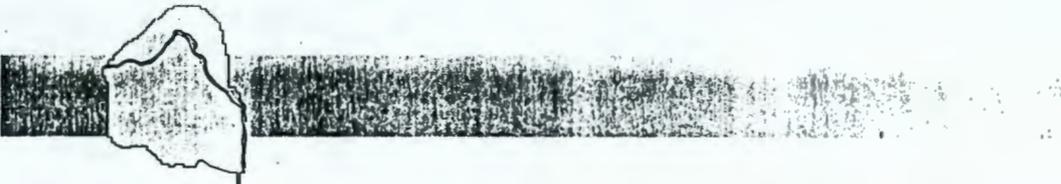
## **Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project**

# **DOE-RL/State of Oregon Meeting - Project Status**

**December 2, 1998**

**Michael J. Graham, BHI Project Manager**

**Dru H. Butler, BHI**



## The Mission

*“To ensure that Hanford Site decisions are defensible and possess an integrated perspective for the protection of water resources, the Columbia River environment, river-dependent life, and users of the Columbia River resources, the mission of the GWVZ Project is to develop and conduct defensible assessments of the Hanford Site’s present and post-closure cumulative effects of radioactive and chemical materials that have accumulated throughout Hanford’s history (and which continue to accumulate). To support this mission the GWVZ Project will also define those actions necessary to establish consistency and maintain mutual compatibility among site-wide characterization and analysis tasks that bear on decisions, receptor impact, and regulatory compliance. The GWVZ Integration Project will identify and oversee the science and technology initiatives pursued by the national laboratories (as necessary) to enable the assessment mission to be successfully completed.”*



## The Vision

*“Completion of the mission will have established broad trust and collaboration that have resulted in credible decisions, based on defensible science, that effectively and efficiently protected water resources.*”



## **Project Drivers**

**Fragmentation of technical work has resulted in key knowledge gaps and inefficient use of technical resources**

**Individual project decisions and end points do not lead to a defensible Hanford end state**

**Lack of trust and credibility**



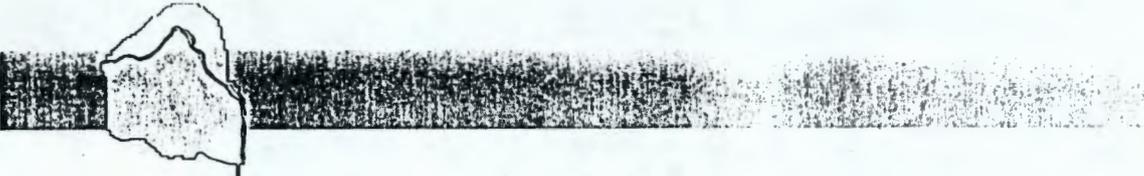
## The Strategic Objectives

- Establish a consistent and integrated approach characterization/assessment for all Hanford Projects for the understanding of the Hanford contamination inventory and source terms, groundwater and vadose zone flow and transport pathways and processes, and the mechanisms for transport through the Columbia River
- Develop a capability for assessing impacts from all Hanford Site wastes on the environment, people and their cultures (System Assessment Capability)



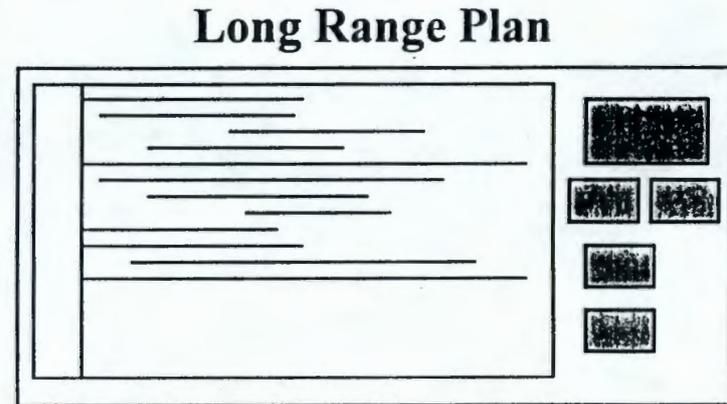
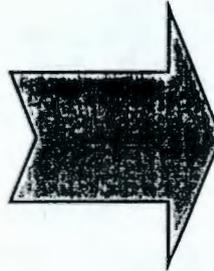
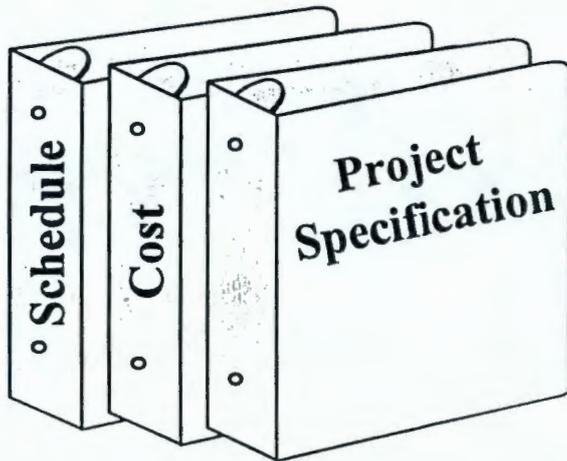
## The Strategic Objectives

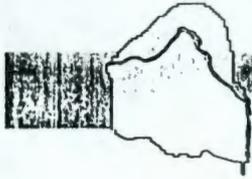
- Develop an applied science program to meet Hanford characterization and assessment needs in support of cleanup and site closure
- Establish a strong and effective independent technical review process that ensures timely closure of technical issues
- Implement an open and inclusive project involvement process that provides meaningful and acceptable ways for the regulators, Tribal Nations, stakeholders and public to be involved in the Project.



# Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Baseline

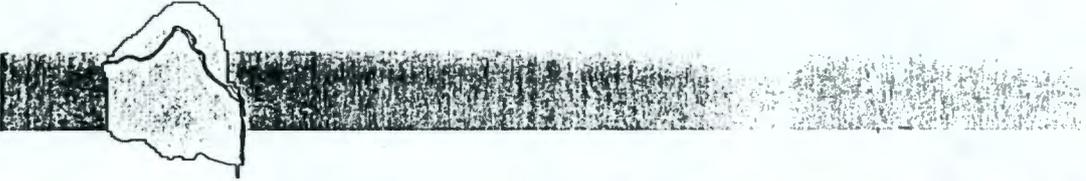
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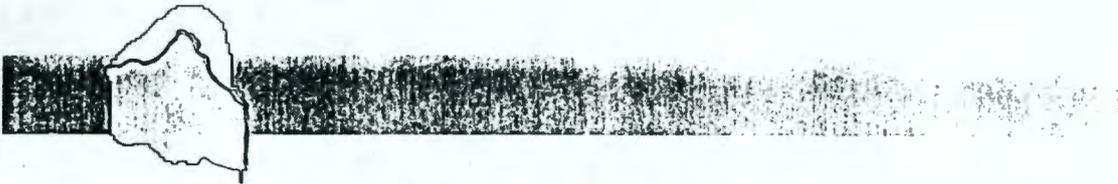
## Purpose of Baseline/Long Range Plan

- Identify and evaluate near and long-term cleanup decisions and TPA Milestones which impact regional water resources. Identify required interconnections and dependencies.
- Outputs:
  - Feeds the Integrated Priority List (3 year program and funding plan)
  - Influences the critical path to Hanford Site closure



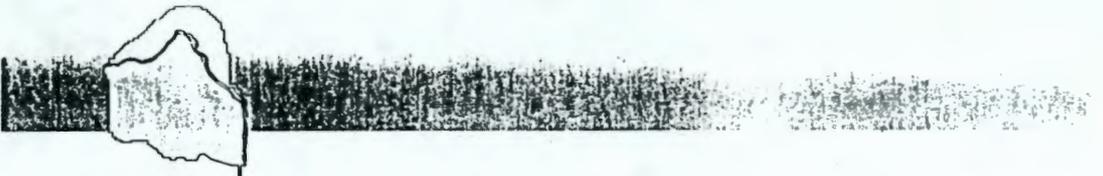
## Status and Accomplishments

- Public Involvement
  - Convened Working Teams to resolve policy and technical issues
  - Three teams in progress - Policy, System Assessment Capability and Strategic/Long Range Planning
  - Good progress, inclusive approach to build consensus
- System Assessment Capability
  - Working with team to define/clarify CRCIA requirements
  - Planning Regional Workshops and Outreach - January and February 1999.



## Status and Accomplishments (cont.)

- Science and Technology
  - A Science and Technology Plan and Roadmap have been developed in cooperation with the National Laboratories
- Project Integration
  - Developed Draft State of Knowledge document in response to DOE-HQ request
  - Identifying opportunities for integration through fiscal year and Long Range Planning



## Status and Accomplishments (cont.)

- Peer Review
  - Expert Panel met in September and November
  - September
    - Background and Issues
  - November
    - Focused on Long Range Plan and Science and Technology Plan
    - Reviewed Draft State of Knowledge and considered it one of the best documents the Panel had seen on the Hanford Site
    - General feedback encouraging but cautious



# Preliminary Observations on Long Range Plan

- Good Start!
- Potential efficiencies of integrated thinking becoming clearer
- Project staff enthusiasm evident
- We are looking forward to reviewing the December 18 draft of Plan
- BUT REMEMBER. . . Planning is NOT Progress. . . It is only the Prelude to Progress



## Preliminary Observations on Applied Science and Technology Plan

- Epic start!
- National Lab expertise integrated into Draft Plan
- Priorities among individual work elements not yet set
- Cost/Benefit analysis and payback not yet established
- Roadmap (December 18) and Funding are key
- Undergoing more careful review by the Panel

Attachment 7

**OREGON/DOE ACTION ITEMS - December 2, 1998**

Note: status changes as a result of the December 2, 1998 meeting discussion are indicated in ~~strikeout~~ and shading with ~~strikeout~~ text indicating text to be deleted and ~~shading~~ indicating text to be added.

1.	M. Blazek requested the DOE to review the Quarterly Progress Report for adequacy. Oregon also requested that reporting frequency be made semi-annual or annual if possible.	F. Miera	OPEN M. Blazek requested input on specific areas of change needed within the report.
2.	M. Blazek asked F. Miera to check on status of outcome of the Glenn Podonski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oversight, visit the State of Oregon.	F. Miera <del>J. Rasmussen</del> <del>K. Randolph</del>	OPEN Letter from the DOE HQ forthcoming on this subject.
3.	Investigate opportunities for a meeting between Governor Kitzhaber and John Wagoner possibly to include visiting the Hanford Site or in conjunction with any future visits to the site by the Secretary of Energy.	F. Miera M. Grainey M. Blazek	OPEN Opportunities may not be feasible until spring of 1999.
4.	M. Blazek requested a one page summary of the TWRS Privatization Contract Announcement from the DOE prior to the announcement.	P. Bengtson	<del>OPEN</del> <del>CLOSED</del>
5.	W. Taylor to review public involvement plans for Privatization effort and discuss with M. Blazek.	W. Taylor	OPEN <del>Still need strategy document</del>
6.	RL took the action to put together a coordinated schedule of meetings and activities to try to find a fit for the proposed public involvement activities (INEEL HLW EIS Hanford Alternative).	<del>L. Roeder-Smith</del> <del>P. Dunnigan</del>	OPEN <del>On hold</del> <del>pending HQ decision with Idaho.</del>
7.			