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

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Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

Red Lion Hotel at the Park
303 West North River Drive
Spokane, Washington 99201

THE FACILITATOR: JUDY SMITH

ATTACHMENT: Spokane City Council

Resolution No. 2011-0090

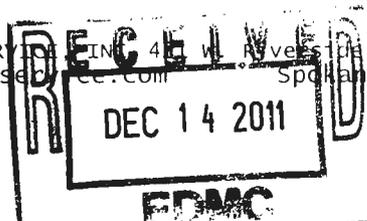
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JUDY SMITH: Well, I'd like to welcome everybody to this evening's public meeting on the Tri-Party Agreement Hanford Public Involvement Plan. And I don't know if I just mangled that title or not, or if I got it fairly close. And hopefully, we'll have a few more people join us that maybe just were held up by traffic or roads or something.

My name's Judy Smith. And I am a facilitator for this evening's meeting. And I just joined the Hanford and -- can I just call you guys the Hanford team or the Tri-Party Agreement team? I don't really know whatever --

EMY LAIJA: The agency for the Tri-Party --

JUDY SMITH: The agencies, whatever. But I joined you



1 guys just for the meeting in Seattle last night and tonight.
2 I work in Portland Harbor in Portland, Oregon. And I'm an
3 EPA facilitator and community involvement coordinator. And
4 so it's nice, I lived in Post Falls, and St. Marie's, and
5 worked at Red Ives Ranger Station for four years, for those
6 of you who've been around the area for awhile. So I have a
7 lot of local connection to this community.

8 But my purpose tonight rather than ramble on is to
9 kind of keep the meeting just on track. And, of course,
10 we're gonna be able to be a lot less formal, since we have a
11 small group tonight. And so I think that what we can do is,
12 yeah, we can kind of introduce and -- how we are gonna do
13 this is have, you know, we were set up to do kind of a
14 meeting in three parts, is that we had kind of a short
15 summary presentation, which included the local perspective
16 from the Heart of America Northwest. And then just
17 questions and answers. And I think we'll probably just be
18 able to spend of time in conversation and question and
19 answers tonight.

20 And then the, actually, the primary purpose of
21 tonight's meeting was to get public input, and to provide
22 direct comments to the agencies, so that they can make,
23 consider those changes and, and make any improvements that
24 are needed in the Draft Public Involvement Plan.

25 And kind of the way we like to do it is that, you

1 know, the question and answer period is a lot of back and
2 forth. And once we get to the public comment part of it, I
3 think it's important for just the agency folks to listen and
4 absorb. And what they will do is they do a written
5 responsiveness summary to all the public comment that they
6 receive, whether it be spoken here in oral testimony or
7 written. And then -- and so that they can, can really give
8 a detailed response to that.

9 So that's why, you know, during the public comment
10 time sometimes we don't, you know, we try not to engage in a
11 lot of back and forth. After it becomes the input to the
12 agency's part of the meeting.

13 So -- and I usually have a few guidelines that I
14 offer. And I don't think that we'll have too many problems
15 tonight, since we have a small group. But if you have a
16 cell phone, if you could turn it on stun. And it works a
17 little better. And just have one person talking at a time.

18 And then I always say it's, you know, you're here, you
19 know, because you care a lot about the Hanford cleanup and
20 the public involvement that surrounds it and the issues.
21 And it's, sometimes it's hard to be -- you know, we get
22 passionate about things we care deeply about. And I think
23 it needs to be a safe place to ask hard questions and
24 discuss things. But if it becomes an attack on an
25 individual, then I'll point that out and ask us to refrain

1 and redirect it to be about the issues not about
2 individuals. So that's just kind of one of my hard and fast,
3 things. And that's really how -- you know, because the
4 process isn't to tear individuals down. What we want to do
5 is to make the cleanup and the public involvement that goes
6 into it a better process.

7 So that's more than my 5-minute introduction. So why
8 don't we go around the room first, and we'll let everybody
9 introduce themselves. And then we'll, we'll cycle back
10 to -- I think, Dieter, you kick it off on the whatever, if
11 you want to. So why don't we just go around this way.

12 MARK LOPER: My name's Mark Loper. I'm the field
13 organizer at Heart of America Northwest.

14 TOM FLANAGAN: My name's Tom Flanagan. I'm a
15 chemistry teacher, actually, school chemistry teacher in
16 Spokane. I'm also involved with Heart of America Northwest,
17 as well.

18 GERRY POLLET: Gerry Pollet with Heart of America
19 Northwest.

20 BOB APPLE: Bob Apple. I'm actually with the Spokane
21 City Council.

22 BILL JOHNS: Bill Johns, civil engineer locally.

23 DIETER BOHRMANN: Dieter Bohrmann, Department of
24 Ecology, Washington State.

25 PAULA CALL: I'm Paula Call with the Department of

1 Energy. And I work in public involvement, work with the
2 Hanford Advisory Board, and a little bit of Outreach.

3 GERRY POLLET: Just a little Outreach?

4 PAULA CALL: Well, yeah, above and beyond the Hanford
5 Advisory, yeah.

6 EMY LAIJA: My name's Emy Laija. I work for the
7 Environmental Protection Agency. Half of my job is doing
8 public involvement, and the other half is regulating cleanup
9 at the Hanford site.

10 JUDY SMITH: And you can go ahead and just introduce
11 yourself, as well.

12 (The court reporter identifies herself as Rita Ketza,
13 Spokane Reporting Service)

14 JUDY SMITH: All righty.

15 DIETER BOHRMANN: Do you want me to go ahead and --

16 JUDY SMITH: Sure. And what we can do is -- see, and
17 again, you know, I don't know if you want us to go through
18 the formal presentation, or if you just want to, you know,
19 we can kind of kick off --

20 DIETER BOHRMANN: I don't think we need a formal
21 presentation.

22 JUDY SMITH: No, no. And that's kind of what I was
23 saying, is that --

24 DIETER BOHRMANN: I think we can just have a, you
25 know, in-depth discussion and feel free to ask a lot of

1 questions. But like I said, I'm Dieter Bohrmann. I'm with
2 the State and based down in Richland at our field office
3 there. I'm our public involvement lead in the office.
4 There's four of us that do public involvement and education
5 outreach there.

6 I'm interested to hear you're a chemistry teacher.
7 Because we, we focus a lot on students. In fact, we were in
8 Spokane last month talking to the American Chemical Society.

9 TOM FLANAGAN: I was at --

10 DIETER BOHRMANN: Oh, okay.

11 TOM FLANAGAN: I had my students come for extra
12 credit, the senior in AP Chemistry. Cuz some of them
13 just --

14 DIETER BOHRMANN: I was gonna say, yeah, we talked to
15 some students there at Whitworth.

16 TOM FLANAGAN: Yep. Yep.

17 DIETER BOHRMANN: So that's awesome. So, yeah, that
18 was our, our most recent foray to Spokane. And we went to
19 University of Washington, Portland State, and a bunch of
20 places in Tri-Cities, as well. So we like to go out and
21 talk with students, get their take on it. Surprisingly, a
22 lot of students in Tri-Cities even don't know that much
23 about Hanford. So it's important that we talk with not only
24 locally but regionally, so --

25 Another thing that we can talk about tonight, if you

1 have any questions, you may have heard about the proposed
2 reductions in public participation grants that the State
3 administers and, and has paid to public interest groups for
4 the last two decades, at least. And the State was asked to
5 cut up to 15 percent. The agencies were asked to cut up to
6 15 percent of their budgets. And among the cuts on the
7 table are the cuts to this grant program.

8 Obviously, that's very unfortunate. We don't know
9 what the final decision is gonna be. But these groups, like
10 Heart of America and others across the state, do a lot of
11 good work and offer valuable service with their outreach and
12 what they are able to do with that grant, so --

13 And I don't know, maybe you are already signed up for
14 our Hanford listserv. We have an agency, the Tri-Party
15 agencies have an e-mail list that we use to send out
16 information about comment periods of upcoming public
17 involvement opportunities, Hanford related news. So if
18 you're not signed up for that, we do have a signup sheet in
19 the back here. So --

20 JUDY SMITH: Yeah. And Dieter, is there a website?
21 Can they self-sign up for that, or do you have to --

22 DIETER BOHRMANN: They can. The Department of
23 Ecology's website we do have a serve. I can send you that
24 link, too. But I don't know if -- presently Department of
25 Ecology has a couple different lists here you can sign up

1 for.

2 EMY LAIJA: On this handout, the Frequently Asked
3 Questions About Public Involvement, on the back page you'll
4 see the link for the listserv. It is on there. So --

5 DIETER BOHRMANN: Okay.

6 EMY LAIJA: -- if you want to do just do it yourself
7 by e-mail, that's possible, too.

8 DIETER BOHRMANN: Yeah, that's it for me. Paula.

9 PAULA CALL: Thanks. So I just wanted to add on to
10 that. We also have a hard copy mailing list. And that's
11 got 20, about 2,300 on it, Sharon?

12 SHARON BRASWELL: Yes.

13 PAULA CALL: So we also -- you know, we didn't push
14 that very much last night. I don't know why we didn't think
15 of it. But that's where we actually show formal comment
16 periods. We mail out fact sheets. So if you're not on that
17 list, you my want to get on that, too.

18 So I just wanted to take a couple minutes to talk
19 about this comment period and how we went about deciding the
20 public meetings for this comment period. We weren't sure if
21 we needed to do public meetings or not. So we checked in
22 with some of the stakeholder groups. And we were told by
23 some no, you know, this is not a cleanup decision document.
24 We don't think you should try to pull the public out to talk
25 about this, this document. From others we heard absolutely,

1 we want numerous meetings around the region.

2 So the other thing that we always do before we plan
3 any public outings in Oregon, we check in with the Oregon
4 Department of Energy, because we have a special memorandum
5 of understanding with them. And one of the elements in that
6 requires us to coordinate with them before we come into the
7 state of Oregon with any kind of outreach.

8 So we did that. And they thought about it and said,
9 you know, our public are getting weary of coming out to
10 public meetings. And -- because we've been, we've been to
11 Oregon several times last year. Ken Niles, the director of
12 the Oregon Department of Energy, said nah, I don't want you
13 bring this one to Oregon. Thank you, but I want to wait
14 until there's a cleanup decision meeting. And knowing that
15 there are some coming up, he deferred.

16 But he did encourage us to try other forms rather than
17 just coming out to the face-to-face evening meetings. So we
18 actually tried a webinar for the first time ever, STPA's,
19 last week. And it was a small turnout. But the ones who
20 were on were encouraging and said don't give up, keep trying
21 this. Cuz it's a new way. It's more convenient. And, you
22 know, work out the kinks and keep trying it. So we will do
23 that.

24 But again, it's not a substitute for face-to-face
25 meetings. And we understand that. We get that. And we

1 know that when it's warranted, we need to keep coming out to
2 face-to-face meetings. So we, we settled on -- there wasn't
3 an interest in the Tri-Cities, so we settled on Spokane and
4 Seattle for these meetings.

5 And I guess the last think I'd like to say is I, I'm
6 hoping we can actually have some in-depth conversations
7 tonight. And because of the small crowd, maybe we can
8 really communicate more than we often get to at public
9 meetings, where it's very, it's much more formal. So I'm
10 looking forward to it. Thanks.

11 EMY LAIJA: Okay. So I had a formal presentation
12 going on. But just since we're so small, I figure I can
13 just talk a little bit about the Public Involvement Plan.
14 And then we can get into questions and answers, if that's
15 okay with everybody.

16 JUDY SMITH: And, and you have printed copies from
17 your presentation in there?

18 EMY LAIJA: Yes. Yes.

19 JUDY SMITH: I guess I should say, would you like Emy
20 to go through it up on the screen, or do you --

21 EMY LAIJA: I can go through it --

22 JUDY SMITH: -- just want to talk from the paper?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can go through it up on the
24 screen. I think it's worth it.

25 EMY LAIJA: Yes, absolutely. So I'll just give some

1 background information. Talk about key changes that we're
2 proposing to the Public Involvement Plan. And then go over
3 how people can submit your comments, and how we're going to
4 use those comments in finalizing the document.

5 So one of the first questions people may have asked
6 themselves is what is the Hanford Public Public Involvement
7 Plan. Well, this is a document that identifies the way
8 that, the ways the public can be involved with the decision
9 making process at the Hanford site. It just, it serves as
10 the overall guidance document for public participation.

11 When I first started working for EPA a couple years
12 ago, my boss handed me the Public Involvement Plan and said
13 here, read this. You're gonna need to know what's in here
14 for the public involvement aspects of your job. I was brand
15 new to Hanford. It's so large and so complex I actually
16 found the document to have enough history that it was useful
17 to orient me as to what exactly Hanford was and to start
18 getting an understanding of how we incorporate the public's
19 input into this whole process.

20 So another question we're assuming the public is
21 asking themselves is, okay, I may know what the Public
22 Involvement Plan is, but why should I care about it. Well,
23 really, this is the opportunity for us to take your input,
24 hear what your concerns are, and consider that when we're
25 finalizing the document.

1 So the Tri-Party Agreement agencies are the people who
2 are the groups that are proposing changes to the document.
3 And we entered into the Tri-Party Agreement in 1989. And
4 that's a legally binding agreement that we've all signed up
5 for. It includes a completion schedule for Hanford cleanup.
6 And it also requires that we have a public involvement plan
7 for the Hanford site. That comes from a Federal regulation.
8 And the regulation really says just that, you need to have a
9 Public Involvement Plan. But the details and content are
10 really left up to each individual site to determine.

11 So why are we revising this plan? We signed the
12 Tri-Party Agreement in 1989. The Public Involvement Plan
13 came out in 1990. So as you can imagine, over time it can
14 become outdated. That's quite a bit of time has passed
15 since the first one was issued. We have revised it a couple
16 of times. This is the fifth revision, the last one
17 occurring in 2002.

18 So as material becomes outdated because we're using
19 new technologies or the cleanup is progressing, we have to
20 update the plan. And we've been talking about updating the
21 document for over a year now. And we have received some
22 input from the Hanford Advisory Board, that's our citizens
23 advisory board, with suggested changes to the plan. And
24 some of that has been incorporated in the version that's out
25 for public comment right now.

1 Getting to the changes in the document, the first one
2 is the title. The title was incredibly long, the Hanford
3 Site Tri-Party Agreement Public Involvement Community
4 Relations Plan. Okay. I mean, that -- we just want to make
5 it more straightforward. So I think this is the most simple
6 change that we're proposing, is changing the title to the
7 Hanford Public Involvement Plan. That just makes sense.

8 Another thing we've done is we've identified a public
9 involvement section. And we've already identified public
10 involvement goals. The 2002 version didn't have this
11 section clearly identified. It was just material within the
12 text. So we tried to bring that out more. And we've also
13 updated the public involvement evaluation process. The
14 process that was described in the 2002 version was headed up
15 by an individual that doesn't work at Hanford anymore. So
16 that process has lost some of its stability. It's not -- it
17 wasn't working without the key component or the key person
18 who was doing that. So we've updated that. So now Ecology
19 and EPA are responsible for evaluating how our public
20 involvement is going.

21 We've also tried to arrange the flow of information
22 that it's more, I mean, flows in a logical order, is more
23 streamlined. We've removed anything that is was old or
24 outdated. Since 2002, it was extremely outdated. For those
25 of you who know Hanford, we use terms like river corridor

1 and central plateau. And those terms were not in the 2002
2 version. And now we spit out those terms all the time.

3 So we just updated the material. And we've also added
4 links for people who are looking for additional information,
5 and photos to the document, as well, to make it a little
6 more easy on the eyes as you're going through it.

7 This here is just a Table of Contents (Indicating).
8 The sections I'll draw your attention to are Sections 1
9 and 3. Section 1 is titled the TPA Public Involvement Plan.
10 This talks about why public involvement is important, what
11 the goals are, and what the opportunities are to be involved
12 at the Hanford site. So people who want to be involved are
13 probably gonna be really interested in Section 1.

14 Section 3 is good for people who are looking for more
15 information, more detailed information. We provide the
16 online sources, our online calendars. Just if you want to
17 do some research, we try and provide you with this
18 stepping-off point for that.

19 And then Section 5 is just overall site history, which
20 is good for people who maybe don't even know what Hanford
21 really is.

22 So what do we do now. We're in the comment period
23 right now. We originally were gonna end it on November
24 28th. But we have extended our public comment period to
25 December 15th. We had a formal request for that on our

1 webinar last week. So we've agreed to that. All the
2 comments that are received are going to be finalized before
3 we, or excuse me, are going to be considered before we
4 finalize the document.

5 And you might be wondering, if I give you input, what
6 are you gonna do with it. Well, we identify what we did
7 with that input in a Comment and Response document. So we
8 take all of your public comments, list them, and then we
9 provide a response to those. Sometimes we'll provide
10 responses by themes, or we'll individually respond to a
11 single response, if it's very unique and doesn't fit into a
12 larger category.

13 So that's really where you go to say, okay, how was my
14 input used. If it was used we can say, oh, yes, we agree
15 with this input, this is how we incorporated it. Or we
16 might say, you know, this was your comment, however, for
17 these reasons we don't agree, and that's why it wasn't used.
18 We try and give you an answer as to why or how your comments
19 were incorporated.

20 And you can definitely provide formal comments here at
21 this meeting. If you need more time, you can mail those
22 comments or e-mail them to us, as well. And again, we'll be
23 taking these through December 15th.

24 And this is just our Hanford Events Calendar. If
25 you've been to hanford.gov, that's really where we post

1 links to information, fact sheets or videos. Anything that
2 we have on a document that's out for public comment we try
3 and put here. So if you're not familiar with our Events
4 Calendar, I would just ask you to check it out. And that's
5 it.

6 Oh, and we have --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Do you have a copy of
8 the Plan here, we can look through it? Maybe not.

9 EMY LAIJA: We have a couple of copies, if you're
10 interested in looking at the Draft Plan. Unlike other
11 Hanford documents, this is about 30 pages long versus
12 hundreds or thousands of pages long. So it's a little more
13 readable.

14 SHARON BRASWELL: I only brought 10 with me.

15 JUDY SMITH: I can give mine up.

16 GERRY POLLET: We wanted to start the alternate
17 viewpoint with Council Member Apple, who will present a
18 Resolution. Go ahead, Councilor.

19 BOB APPLE: I have lots of excuses as to why no one's
20 here. We do have a Resolution from the Spokane City
21 Council. It's unanimous, passed unanimously. And it is to
22 ask, basically, that hearings be scheduled in Spokane
23 regarding anything involving Hanford, virtually. And, of
24 course, this meeting would be so appropriate.

25 I have to point out, there's been a number of, there's

1 a number of reasons why probably we don't have a turnout.
2 It has -- I've noticed it to the public in our Council
3 meetings. And Amber Waldref, also, who was involved, we
4 co-sponsored this, she's at another meeting. There are a
5 lot of other meetings. And that's one of the problems.

6 The other one, it's snowing. You may have noticed, if
7 you looked outside. It's early for us even to get snow, and
8 it's snowing. It kind of shies a lot of people off.

9 Now, I love this hotel. But you may have noticed on
10 the way in there's a gate. A lot of people are scared to
11 death to come in, because they can't get out. And so it's
12 not probably the best place to have a public hearing, unless
13 you have a commitment that the gate will be open, and
14 actually notice, put it in your notice that the gate, there
15 will be no gate imposed when you're here. Because the
16 parking is restricted now. And this just happened in the
17 last year or so. A lot of people aren't aware of it. So
18 that kind of makes it difficult to have a purpose hearing
19 process.

20 You know, I'm aware that the little cards we get when
21 you come in the gate, they're good for an hour and a half.
22 And after an hour and a half, they don't work anymore.
23 There's a fee included. So unless there's an arrangement
24 with the hotel, there's a problem for people who park.

25 EMY LAIJA: And I'll just note, we do have an

1 arrangement with the hotel.

2 BOB APPLE: I assume you do.

3 EMY LAIJA: But it's not advertised. So I see your
4 point there.

5 BOB APPLE: And a lot of people know there's a, that
6 this is here nowadays.

7 EMY LAIJA: Yeah.

8 BOB APPLE: So it really does make a problem. And so
9 I just wanted to point that out. But still in all, I would
10 have actually expected a lot more people. However, I'll
11 point out, just two weeks ago we had a hearing, you may have
12 heard, coal trains coming through Spokane. There's talk
13 about coal on the coast and shipping it. And we were
14 looking at a lot of trains. They had 70 to 80 people show
15 up for that sort of hearing. Which is concerns for the
16 public and transport through Spokane.

17 And, you know, people get meeting-out to some degree.
18 So we just came off a big, contentious election in Spokane,
19 municipal election. And there's been a complete twist in
20 the results of what was and what is. So people burned out
21 from working hard on both sides of political campaigns.
22 It's mostly the same people, as you're well-aware, that get
23 very involved in the issues.

24 So putting all those things together, I'm sorry we're
25 not all here. But I do think that Spokane is good, a good

1 crowd when, when we can get them all together, and they are
2 not burned out.

3 So I will go ahead and hand you this. It's our
4 Resolution. And that's saying the Spokane City Council
5 would really like to make sure that we're having hearings
6 here. We miss a lot even from the legislature. So it's all
7 across the board. But primarily for Hanford we're very
8 concerned.

9 GERRY POLLET: Let me follow. And then you want to
10 talk about the survey results?

11 MARK LOPER: Yeah.

12 GERRY POLLET: You want to show slides?

13 MARK LOPER: I don't need to show slides.

14 GERRY POLLET: But this room, if I recall correctly,
15 was the hearing room that we had for the hearing on the tank
16 waste management also in Spokane. And it was filled to
17 overflow. And we know from other locations that if you
18 don't hold regular meetings, you lose interest. But when
19 you're holding regular meetings, you start building up the
20 knowledge, and people come to the meetings.

21 And there are -- it's important to really appreciate
22 the Spokane City Council passing the Resolution that
23 mentions holding an annual, I forget the word used there,
24 but it's something like holding at least an annual meeting,
25 as well as on major proposals. So holding public meetings

1 in Spokane on key cleanup decisions, and to have at least
2 one annual meeting for public feedback and discussion of
3 public concerns.

4 I think it's, it's a building process. And if
5 Portland or Seattle only had one meeting every few years,
6 the first meeting would only have a few people. And the
7 second aspect of that is, as Dieter is well-aware, public
8 participation grant cut ended all funding on November 4th.
9 So like our travel over to help on this, no phoning. The
10 only thing that got done, you know, is, and we're not sure
11 if we'll reimbursed, is the mailing of the Citizens' Guide,
12 but no follow-up. Because we all got cut off from the
13 public participation grants.

14 And we know in the past we've had a turnout in
15 Spokane. Phone banking -- because it's so sporadic having
16 meetings, phone banking really works. We have a network of
17 people that we ask, and we could activate that. We're
18 looking forward to having more regular meetings in Spokane
19 and for restoring support, so we can do the turnout for
20 them. Mark.

21 MARK LOPER: Sure. So back in March, Heart of America
22 Northwest along with Seattle Youth Students did a survey of
23 the public. We surveyed 143 members of the public asking
24 them different public involvement questions. And of those
25 143, it was about 70 percent had attended public meetings.

1 Just so that you get a basic understanding of who these
2 people were and --

3 GERRY POLLET: Public meetings on Hanford, right?

4 MARK LOPER: On Hanford, yeah. And we asked them
5 about like their trust in the officials' presentations. So
6 that would be like the EPA, Oregon, DOE, and so on. And
7 there was a clear lack of trust in the Tri-Party agencies,
8 and a much higher trust in Oregonian officials. And then I
9 think it was around 82 percent placed their high or highest
10 amount of trust in the alternate viewpoint of the citizens
11 groups that do presentations. So I think that was really
12 telling.

13 And we asked if their voice, if they felt like they
14 had an impact or if their voice was heard. And it was
15 around 42 percent felt like their voice had little to no
16 impact. Which again, is the main reason for a public
17 hearing, I feel like.

18 And there was a large portion of our respondents that
19 said e-mail would be their preferred method of receiving a
20 notice. But we did do some of the surveys via e-mail, so
21 that's kind of skewed a little bit.

22 What other survey questions did we ask. Preference on
23 receiving materials in the mail. Clearly our Citizen's
24 Guide, which is partially funded by the PPG grant, was
25 overwhelmingly, I think it was 42 percent said they would

1 open that compared to around 18 percent for the Tri-Party
2 agency mailing. So I think that's something that should be
3 worked on. Hiring an independent professional for sending
4 out notices is, I think, something that isn't as expensive
5 as it sounds and would be a really great solution for that,
6 that problem with the mailings.

7 And then we have different recommendations that I
8 think we can go through one by one later.

9 GERRY POLLET: I'm curious, Bill, and Bob, and Tom,
10 did you get the official mailing for tonight?

11 BILL JOHNS: Yep.

12 BOB APPLE: Yep. Sometime ago, though.

13 TOM FLANAGAN: I got all of them.

14 PAULA CALL: Do you open them?

15 BILL JOHNS: Yep.

16 PAULA CALL: That's good to know.

17 TOM FLANAGAN: I knew about it from your mailing
18 through Heart of America Northwest. Which I happened to
19 finally open and read last night.

20 GERRY POLLET: I mean, that's, we know that that's a
21 big advantage of, to mailing something instead of just
22 e-mailing it, is it hangs around. As I heard on an NPR
23 interview the other day with the editor of the Onion --

24 JUDY SMITH: Uh-huh

25 GERRY POLLET: -- he said you can't replace the

1 ability to take your paper into the bathroom with you and
2 read it. And it's true. So there is that huge value of
3 having a hard copy coming to you U.S. Mail as opposed to
4 just relying on it from an e-mail.

5 JUDY SMITH: Okay.

6 BOB APPLE: Well, I'd prefer to spend the money on
7 notices to the meetings here in the community. You know,
8 I'll take the e-mail.

9 JUDY SMITH: And where would you, where would you put
10 notices, as far as --

11 BOB APPLE: Media

12 JUDY SMITH: Media.

13 BOB APPLE: You've got to get it out to the community
14 media.

15 JUDY SMITH: Which --

16 BOB APPLE: Well, here in Spokane, like it or not, we
17 have the Spokesman-Review. It does only reach a portion of
18 the public. The TV networks, otherwise, we've got KXLY,
19 KREM and Q6, which is also part of Spokesman-Review.

20 JUDY SMITH: And do, do they still do public service
21 announcements in this market --

22 BOB APPLE: Yes, they do.

23 JUDY SMITH: -- for this point type of thing?

24 BOB APPLE: Yes.

25 JUDY SMITH: Cuz I was just thinking -- may I have

1 permission to take my facilitator hat off once in a while
2 and be part of the discussion today?

3 BOB APPLE: But you've got to have a canned form that
4 would be allowed.

5 JUDY SMITH: Yeah, 30 seconds.

6 BOB APPLE: Right. Or less

7 JUDY SMITH: Yeah, gotta be - yeah. Cuz that was kind
8 of what I was going to ask is that, you know, I think that,
9 you know, one thing that you guys just described was, you
10 know, having an annual meeting, you know, kind of a, I don't
11 know if it would be kind of a state-of-the-cleanup report or
12 something, but just that people could look forward to every
13 year.

14 But what, what are the cultural things in Spokane that
15 make people come to a meeting, as far as the time of day or,
16 you know, does it -- would it be helpful if it was sponsored
17 by a group, and we came to it or tacked onto the end of
18 somebody else's meeting? I'm just, I'm just guessing. You
19 know, what's, what's the culture of --

20 BOB APPLE: It might work if it was actually tagged to
21 another meeting, you're right. But you've got to realize,
22 the City Council meets on Mondays. But today you've got
23 both the County Commissioners and the Valley City, which I
24 believe is still the fifth largest city in the state, has
25 their council meeting this evening. So to some degree limit

1 those participants.

2 But yeah, you know, there's a lot of possibilities of
3 what organizations you could work with to actually, you
4 know, get a crowd to show up. I know Bill probably isn't
5 happy with the Community Building. They call that the
6 Community Building downtown. It's a nonprofit corporation
7 group that, that has a lot of environmental interests. And
8 coordinating with them might be a good idea, as far as
9 getting a turnout of people with like interests. But, of
10 course, you've got to get a mix. And I'm not sure how
11 you're gonna do that. You have probably other groups. But
12 it really just needs some notice. And that's one of the
13 things that's difficult.

14 And really, you need to pick really the right times,
15 which is not after a major election, and people are just
16 getting used to the changes. Not on snow nights at the
17 beginning of the season. You can't pick, these things
18 happen. Unusual but bad. And we noticed we had a little
19 snow flurry last Friday. And I know a lot of businesses in
20 the town just shut down. Usually Friday night with the
21 restaurants and downtown and bars are booming. But the fear
22 of snow right at the beginning of the season - it's probably
23 a little different in Seattle - just shuts everything down.

24 GERRY POLLET: Or even if there's a chance.

25 BOB APPLE: They hear snow, and everybody's gone. At

1 the beginning of the season, we have the same exact problem
2 here. So it's, it's unfortunate. I don't think anybody
3 could have guessed, but here we are. Usually we've got
4 balmy 40 maybe even 50 degree weather in the day, and it
5 might get down to 32, you know, this time of year. But
6 we've got this cold coming in, so --

7 DIETER BOHRMANN: So I saw a KREM TV report on the
8 Reservation, which also highlighted this meeting. And it
9 was also picked up by Northwest Cable News, that there was
10 this meeting in Spokane. So there was some media on this.

11 BOB APPLE: Sure. Sure.

12 DIETER BOHRMANN: So we, we --

13 BOB APPLE: That's what this was all about.

14 DIETER BOHRMANN: But you, that's a good idea to -- I
15 mean, that's a good station, that one --

16 BOB APPLE: KREM is, it is a good station. I'll give
17 you that. They're, they are a good station.

18 DIETER BOHRMANN: One other suggestion I heard was the
19 Inlander.

20 BOB APPLE: That's one of the papers, yes. But
21 they're, they're a weekly.

22 DIETER BOHRMANN: Right.

23 BOB APPLE: So yes, keep that in mind.

24 DIETER BOHRMANN: You've got to consider the timing,
25 yeah.

1 BOB APPLE: Yeah, timing for --

2 DIETER BOHRMANN: So we left messages with the
3 Inlander trying to get an ad. And we -- and they never
4 returned my call. Didn't want my money, I guess. Amazing,
5 isn't it? So, okay --

6 BOB APPLE: Well, I'm sorry to hear that.

7 JUDY SMITH: So did anybody have any questions about
8 things that were in the Community Involvement Plan, you
9 know, changes or additional things that you'd like to see?

10 BOB APPLE: I'd still like to clean the whole place
11 up.

12 JUDY SMITH: Yeah.

13 GERRY POLLET: Let me ask a couple questions. One is
14 there used to be a TPA newsletter.

15 EMY LAIJA: The Look Ahead, Look Back, is that what
16 it -- I think it's had several names.

17 GERRY POLLET: Oh. It, it was like a quarterly.

18 PAULA CALL: No, there was a newsletter, yeah. Yeah,
19 it was still in existence when I started back in 2009.

20 GERRY POLLET: What happened to that? And one of the
21 things that is on my particular list is that the Energy
22 Department, actually, and this is for you to take back,
23 Paula, had a legal settlement with us in the 1990s
24 committing to provide notice through the newsletter of any
25 tank leak developments. But it was an opportunity, it was

1 used at the time not just to put out like, you know, the
2 fifth melter has been installed in the Vit plant, or a door
3 has been sealed and, you know, nice photos, but there was an
4 alternate viewpoint page often used by the Advisory Board,
5 et cetera. But it provided updates to people.

6 And I'm just wondering why that's gone and why not
7 have that in the Public Involvement Plan as a means of
8 bringing people up-to-date? Like Tom was asking me about
9 the Vit plant and safety problems with it.

10 PAULA CALL: So I started in the fall of 2009 with
11 DOE. And remember there was conversation going on at the
12 time between the Public Involvement folks about the
13 newsletter. Apparently, and Sharon, if there's a way that
14 you can add to this, but, apparently, it had become very
15 laborious to come up with articles that then each Tri-Party
16 agency would then review and agree upon the wording. And
17 there were, there were issues about what would be, would be
18 put in the article, and then how it would be presented.

19 And there was a short, you know, a small staff. It
20 just became one of those things where it seemed like why are
21 we spending all this time and energy on something that we're
22 not doing very well. And there's so much quicker more
23 effective ways of getting the word out about Hanford than
24 writing articles, sending it around for review, laying it
25 out, printing it out, mailing it out. So I think it was the

1 labor intensiveness and the expense, and then the belief
2 that there's a quicker, better, more efficient way to get
3 information out. Which were, I mean, that's about the time
4 we started using facebook and twitter and YouTube and
5 pushing, reorganizing our websites to push information out
6 more.

7 That's my perspective on it. I was not aware that
8 there was any legal settlement, where we actually committed
9 to do that. I do know that the old, I think the Tri-Party
10 Agreement Section 10 may have mentioned a newsletter.

11 EMY LAIJA: Yeah. It, it identifies newsletters as
12 the potential way to, something we would issue through our
13 mailing list to help spread information on Hanford.

14 PAULA CALL: Right. So, you know, that's, that's the
15 perspective I have on that. It was, in my mind, you know,
16 it was, it was something that the Tri-Parties had done.
17 They'd done it for a few years. It kind of, you know, time
18 had outgrown, you know, technology took over. And it seemed
19 like an archaic thing to keep doing. So --

20 GERRY POLLET: How many people are on your facebook
21 list? How many people like you on your facebook list?

22 PAULA CALL: I cannot give you a number right now.
23 But I can sure get back to you with that. I do not do
24 social media. We have someone else in my department who is
25 continually pushing things out. I know, you know, once in a

1 while I'll hear, you know, wow, we got 8,000 hits on this
2 one. But outside of that, I have no idea how many folks are
3 involved.

4 GERRY POLLET: I mean, I, I don't think a facebook
5 posting is going to replace a newsletter. And it certainly,
6 if, you know, my guess is that you don't get 2,300 people
7 just like it would service one-third the size of your
8 mailing list. And that, you know, with the reduction in
9 grants, where you've got an alternative source of
10 information getting newsletters out from, for different
11 groups, not just our Citizens' Guides, and if the agencies
12 don't have a newsletter, then you lack a mechanism for
13 something that is longer than a tweet or a facebook posting
14 and may actually have some different perspectives in it,
15 which your facebook postings are fairly, is, you know --
16 this week's facebook posting, we installed X. But I've
17 never seen a facebook posting from any of the agencies
18 saying the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board said the
19 Vitrification Plant has serious safety problems.

20 DIETER BOHRMANN: We've posted that on ours.

21 GERRY POLLET: On your facebook --

22 DIETER BOHRMANN: We've put that on our facebook,
23 yeah.

24 GERRY POLLET: Okay, good. That's incredible. That's
25 excellent.

1 BOB APPLE: You know, interestingly, the Department of
2 Labor -- or not -- excuse me. The unions have a website
3 that they post. And they actually send out e-mail. And I
4 do get it, obviously, while I've been official. And I do
5 hear about Hanford every time there's a problem with an
6 employee. I do hear about them. And there are some
7 problems out there, I hear about them constantly. I think
8 about once a month there's, there's something that comes up.

9 PAULA CALL: So I, I guess I'd like to get a little
10 bit more perspective. Now in, you know, 2011 in the fall
11 going in, we don't have a budget for next year yet.
12 Congress is struggling very, very, you know, hard to come up
13 with something that would have bipartisan support. We have
14 been seeing this coming for quite some time. And we have
15 been scrubbing our budgets looking very hard at all of our
16 activities and saying what is a luxury, what is mandatory.
17 What do we have to do. What do we have to do to follow the
18 law, to be compliant, to get the cleanup done, and what is
19 in excess.

20 And so we've -- I mean, we've taken some pretty
21 stringent measures to really trim down our expenses and, and
22 focus our resource on the cleanup. That's our main goal
23 right now. So when you --

24 BOB APPLE: So tragic when all those cleanup costs
25 have been really hacked, too. Because the layoffs down

1 there are pretty terrific.

2 PAULA CALL: People have been laid off. Some cleanup
3 work has been delayed. I mean, it has come to that. So
4 when you say, well, but we really like this newsletter,
5 because it's a good mechanism, well, sure, if we had plenty
6 of money. If, you know, if that wasn't an issue, sure, it
7 would be great to do that, as well as a lot of other things.
8 I think we are doing a lot of things, though. And I could
9 go into those, but I won't take the time right now. But I
10 do -- we are, you know, we hear you about the newsletter.
11 And maybe there is --

12 BOB APPLE: Not a count point, a point, counterpoint
13 issue, but being with the City, you know, I sit also on the
14 Parks Board, and we are constantly pressed to get
15 information out to the public, classes, whatever, events,
16 activities. And we found that, yes, we go through the, like
17 you said, the facebook and internet sites, make up a page
18 and add stuff to it regularly.

19 We have one staffer that that's her job, dedicated to,
20 just keep popping it out periodically as needed. And it's
21 usually at least monthly. Actually, I think maybe even
22 bimonthly she's kicking one out. And it's just got all the
23 events and activities that are there that are happening.
24 So, actually, I think that would be very beneficial to have
25 something that just keeps everybody up-to-date.

1 PAULA CALL: Right. That sounds like our Tri-Party
2 Agreement Calendar, which we do keep up-to-date. Well, at
3 least four times a year, if not more. So every, every event
4 that could involve the public, or like even the Hanford
5 Advisory Board meetings, those are all on this calendar.
6 They're posted on the Ecology website. We e-mail it out to
7 the Hanford Advisory Board Public Involvement Committee. We
8 do have something like that. But it doesn't have articles,
9 like news articles.

10 BOB APPLE: Okay. Look that over, too, if you do have
11 that ability. Well, even the Chamber of Commerce, they get
12 their news over -- not the Chamber of Commerce. Whatever
13 they call it. But they, they sent it out. And, you know,
14 I'll get the face page. And we'll talk kind of this, this
15 and this. We're discussing it.

16 PAULA CALL: Right.

17 BOB APPLE: You click, it sends you off to an
18 article --

19 PAULA CALL: Right.

20 BOB APPLE: -- or something. And that's great.
21 Because if you really want to know more, there it is. And
22 you could actually do the same thing.

23 PAULA CALL: Yes. Yes.

24 DIETER BOHRMANN: There is a group in Richland called
25 Hanford Communities. And they have a grant with Ecology

1 which is at this point not effective by these new cuts. But
2 they put out a quarterly newsletter with top stories,
3 stories of interest at Hanford. Usually has about four
4 stories per newsletter under various links. And information
5 about Hanford Advisory Board activities and stuff like that.
6 It's not a Tri-Party newsletter. But we review the articles
7 before they go in. So that's a regular publication. And --

8 BOB APPLE: But you don't really need -- that's the
9 expense. If you don't have to print, you can get it online
10 or get it directly from the media, that's whether you save a
11 fortune. I've learned with the City, boy we had a huge
12 publication mailing and print budget. And we have whittled
13 that down to that much of what it was (Indicating). And we
14 do use terrific lists of not employees, not just employees
15 but friends of employees can disseminate. Plus the City's
16 now built up a facebook, or actually a website that can be
17 popped into facebook or anything to get the word out. And
18 that doesn't -- actually, facebook is phenomenal. I use it
19 constantly. I hear more in the news in Spokane about what's
20 going on on facebook than I do through the media sources.

21 DIETER BOHRMANN: We struggle with that, too, whether
22 to just put it out on our e-mail listserv, or should we also
23 mail hard copies, which gets a lot more expensive and
24 raises --

25 BOB APPLE: Save the money.

1 DIETER BOHRANN: On the other hand, our physical mail
2 list is larger than our e-mail list at this, at this point.
3 So that's something we struggle with. And that's something
4 we're trying to rectify.

5 BOB APPLE: But see, if you get it into the media, the
6 media, they get it into their system, then you don't even
7 have to deal with it. They just pop in, and then they're
8 there. And then you hop to them the next time you have a
9 newsletter. And they can either reject it or look at it, or
10 whatever.

11 DIETER BOHRMANN: Tracy Earl (phonetic spelling) used
12 to be pretty good about picking up --

13 BOB APPLE: Those of us who read the Spokesman-Review
14 occasionally, we can pop onto their, follow the links. And
15 I get it from everything from the Restaurant Association to
16 contractors to whatever. They all have their own little
17 thing. And you can, if there's an article there, sends you
18 right to it. So you could -- once you're there, you're
19 there. Once somebody accesses your site, you've got their
20 e-mail address. They're automatically -- and you can, you
21 know, automatically send them your monthly or whatever
22 notices. No cost.

23 GERRY POLLET: What would, what would work for getting
24 your students and others --

25 TOM FLANAGAN: Well, I think Bob was saying, I very

1 much agree with that. We have a subscription to
2 Spokesman-Review. That's something I would have caught and
3 noticed in that. The thing out at Whitworth, that just was
4 through the American Chemical Society, which is kind of
5 interesting. And then I relayed that to my students. So
6 one way is word of mouth.

7 Bob had mentioned the Community Building. And yeah,
8 that is kind of a nest for various environmental
9 organizations. I guess I would just assume that the various
10 environmental organizations in Spokane, like the Lands
11 Council --

12 BOB APPLE: Yeah.

13 TOM FLANAGAN: -- would somehow --

14 BOB APPLE: They're down there, I think, aren't they?

15 TOM FLANAGAN: Yeah. They're right, they're right
16 next door.

17 GERRY POLLET: If we -- normally we would have worked
18 with them on their lists, et cetera. But we cut off all
19 that on November 4th. And so we didn't have that. But in
20 the past we've done meetings at the Community Building. And
21 it's actually a good location. In our survey results that
22 include the people in felt that was a good location.

23 JUDY SMITH: What's, what's the capacity?

24 GERRY POLLET: It's not very large. It's 25 to 30.

25 BOB APPLE: Oh, they've had, they've had, I think, at

1 least 50 in that lobby

2 GERRY POLLET: Stuff them in for a party.

3 BOB APPLE: I noticed your meeting here, you said
4 7:00 o'clock. You know, downtown in our core area there's
5 plenty of meeting areas for small groups. Our parking
6 meters shut off at 7:00 o'clock.

7 GERRY POLLET: But the parking down there's horrible.
8 There's a lot of bars and stuff down there that people go
9 to.

10 EMY LAIJA: By the Community Building?

11 BOB SMITH: During the week like this, it wouldn't be
12 a problem parking downtown.

13 TOM FLANAGAN: I was very surprised about the response
14 from the Inlander. Because that would be -- a lot of people
15 use that as an alternative news source, I think.

16 BOB SMITH: I'll mention it to them. They turned down
17 an ad.

18 EMY LAIJA: Maybe they didn't think you were gonna pay
19 them or something. Like you were asking for a free ad or
20 something.

21 DIETER BOHRMANN: I filled out the form on their
22 website. And then I e-mailed the ad to the design rep and
23 the graphic on their, you know, the rate sheet.

24 BOB APPLE: Wow.

25 DIETER BOHRMANN: Because we, we advertised in the

1 Seattle Weekly for the meeting last night. And we had a few
2 people there that said, yeah, I saw the ad. So I think that
3 Inlander is kind of the Weekly in Spokane.

4 GERRY POLLET: Actually, I actually think it has more
5 of an impact than Seattle. Seattle Weekly is, has, is so
6 thick, it has so many ads second to Stranger, that
7 (inaudible name) said use The Stranger instead. But it's so
8 hard to have an impact there, because there are so many
9 people competing. Whereas the Inlander, it'll stand out.
10 It's not so thick. And it's a good choice.

11 DIETER BOHRMANN: We'll try that again.

12 GERRY POLLET: Yeah.

13 DIETER BOHRMANN: There I was, thinking that nobody
14 turned down money.

15 TOM FLANAGAN: Part of it is also through word of
16 mouth. I think I keep, you know, going back to that thing
17 about my students. I had some parents show up, too. So, I
18 mean, even as a high school chemistry teacher, I mean, I
19 have my own little web page through the school. And, you
20 know, now that I know, because I didn't know about the
21 listserv, that's something I can also share with my
22 students, to just do my part as a citizen to just keep
23 people informed.

24 GERRY POLLET: When the agencies do the school
25 presentations, do you then send out notices of the meetings

1 to the faculty or the teachers saying --

2 DIETER BOHRMANN: Yeah, we try, we try to. I guess it
3 depends on the school. I mean, like this project we did
4 with Washington State University Tri-Cities, that we worked
5 with two classrooms to, their assignment was to create a
6 project that they then took out to other classrooms. And I
7 think it was a good strategy just, you know, by reaching
8 just a few people, and then empowering them to go, you know,
9 it just spreads. So we got good use of resources.

10 GERRY POLLET: What, what I'm asking is like let's
11 say, you know, Tom has you come to his AP chemistry class.
12 You do then add Tom to your list and send an e-mail, you
13 know, next year when you're having a meeting. Would you let
14 your students know and keep that up?

15 DIETER BOHRMANN: We do. We have a, we recently
16 started a Hanford Education and Outreach listserv, as well,
17 separate from the Tri-Party e-mail list. But yeah, as we
18 contact more teachers and more students, we're encouraging
19 them to subscribe to that. And then notices we send out on
20 that go to everybody that we've met with before. So --

21 GERRY POLLET: Do you have other suggestions for us?
22 Bill?

23 BILL JOHNS: The formal part.

24 JUDY SMITH: You're waiting for the formal part, so
25 you can give your comment?

1 BILL JOHNS: Yep.

2 JUDY SMITH: Okay. And that's -- why don't we do that
3 then and --

4 GERRY POLLET: Can I ask one more question?

5 JUDY SMITH: Sure.

6 GERRY POLLET: Which is Section 4 is Other Groups.
7 And I've been meaning to ask this. How come the citizen
8 groups around the region are not listed in Other Groups
9 involving Hanford?

10 EMY LAIJA: Well, I don't believe we had them in the
11 2002 version. And so that would be one reason why it wasn't
12 here. Having -- I'm just not sure. I don't think there's
13 a --

14 PAULA CALL: I could guess why it wasn't there, but I
15 don't know for sure.

16 EMY LAIJA: Yeah.

17 PAULA CALL: I mean, the citizens groups have changed
18 over the years. So maybe there was a, there's, you know,
19 there's a desire to keep things, to not put things in here
20 that could be dated as soon as you put them in. I'm not
21 sure if that's it or why. But that's --

22 EMY LAIJA: These seem like more official, officially
23 recognized groups, the Washington State Department of
24 Health, the Fish and Wildlife. So I just don't think that
25 they had ever ventured into identifying public interest

1 groups for this section.

2 DIETER BOHRMANN: We have local involvement briefings
3 for elected officials and --

4 BOB APPLE: And 23 neighborhoods in the City of
5 Spokane, as well. And it's easy just to notify the City
6 Community Development. And they'll automatically send that
7 out to all the neighborhoods. Most of them have monthly
8 meetings. So you can count, basically, the 30-day period,
9 they're gonna get notice. So if you do it a month before,
10 let them know, they can pass the word out to all the
11 neighborhoods, so the people can participate.

12 EMY LAIJA: Gerry, getting back to your question. I
13 don't think we've had ever a discussion as to whether or not
14 the, the public interest groups should be listed. So I
15 don't think that's an answer we've, we've ever compiled. I
16 don't think it's a discussion we've had.

17 PAULA CALL: No, we have not.

18 GERRY POLLET: Mark, where's the section that you've
19 been referring to, where it used to have a commitment, or
20 the prior version had a commitment to meet with the
21 organizations?

22 MARK LOPER: That was in like Section, in like the 8
23 through 12. It was -- I'm not sure which section it was
24 actually in. But where it said that, quote, regularly
25 scheduled meetings with citizens' groups

1 EMY LAIJA: And you're thinking that was in the 2002
2 version?

3 MARK LOPER: Yeah, that --

4 EMY LAIJA: Or was that in an earlier --

5 MARK LOPER: No. That was in the 2002 version. That
6 one sentence was taken out.

7 PAULA CALL: Was that the old -- that's what Ecology
8 did.

9 EMY LAIJA: Oh, okay. That's -- there is language
10 specific, specifically referencing that.

11 DIETER BOHRMANN: Yeah, those -- when I got here,
12 those meetings, I don't know exactly why, but they stopped
13 doing that. But I understand some of them were pretty
14 contentious. I don't know if that was part of the reason,
15 but --

16 EMY LAIJA: I mean, I think that said whether or not
17 the commitment is in here, if a group asks me can you
18 participate in this event, or the agencies or any one of the
19 agencies was asked, I think that for the most part, we would
20 try and meet with that group and discuss whatever their
21 concerns were, if that request came in. We're not against
22 that at all.

23 GERRY POLLET: Well, let me just say that, please
24 don't take offense, but we have no problem, and I know the
25 other public interest groups have no problem going over to

1 EPA and meeting with EPA staff. You know, Deiter, that
2 we've asked, for the last year we've had several requests to
3 Ecology to have such scheduled meetings. And they haven't,
4 you know, been responded to.

5 And, you know, I, I think that with Energy, it's a
6 matter of, you know, a citizen group asking to meet with
7 senior management, sometimes it happens, sometimes it
8 doesn't. But there was a time when we actually had more
9 regular meetings with senior management, as well.

10 And it makes a big difference in terms of
11 contentiousness if you're actually meeting on a regular
12 basis and having coffee with senior management than you've
13 got a punch list and about two hours, and we haven't had a
14 meeting in ages. So you've got to push there and deal with
15 it.

16 JUDY SMITH: Well, I have a, a suggestion as far as, I
17 know Bill kind of asked for our formal comment period to
18 start. And I think, and I see, I was just noticing your
19 address is from Cheney. So you have a drive in the snow
20 ahead of you, too. And so why don't we go ahead and kind
21 of, we'll kind of open and just take, we'll start just doing
22 a listening and take comments for the record. And then what
23 we can do is close that and continue chatting after that,
24 after a while, if we want to have more back and forth. So
25 does that sound like an okay --

1 TOM FLANAGAN: I apologize that I have to leave.

2 JUDY SMITH: And do you have anything -- well, you
3 didn't sign up to --

4 TOM FLANAGAN: No, I didn't.

5 JUDY SMITH: So, hopefully, you will send in your
6 ideas in writing or --

7 TOM FLANAGAN: I put my name on the list right now.
8 Thank you, very much.

9 PAULA CALL: Thank you.

10 EMY LAIJA: Thank you.

11 JUDY SMITH: And so Bill, would you like to have an
12 opportunity to offer your comment? I know that Paula and
13 Emy and Dieter are very interested in hearing them.

14 BILL JOHNS: I think one of the problems with the
15 meetings that people come to like me, I mean, I'm usually
16 the onion in the petunia patch at meetings. People have
17 been pushed ahead of me, when I've signed up on the sheet,
18 once the rules were set. I've been sworn at, talked behind
19 my back. The time limits aren't necessarily kept for some
20 people, the people that you react with all the time. It can
21 be intimidating for somebody who's on the other side.

22 I mean, there's a lot of people out there, the public,
23 I think I represent more of the public probably than some of
24 your interest groups. Because the public is sitting here
25 working, can't come to the meetings. The public that's

1 generally in tune with what's going on down there is
2 satisfied with it. Wants it done efficiently. Doesn't want
3 all the dirt dug out of the, the entire area and put in
4 another place that we're gonna have to deal with at another
5 time.

6 It's intimidating to be on the other side. Not in
7 this meeting, but in some of the other meetings it's like,
8 you know, the roomful and me. I'm against -- I've had
9 public meetings, myself. I'm against looking at some of the
10 comments coming up, like a straw vote. Like if one group
11 can bring a bunch of people to it, you have a straw vote. I
12 would hate things down there to be decided by, on a straw
13 vote at a meeting in the middle of Spokane in a snowstorm,
14 or when Gonzaga's playing or something. You know what I
15 mean. Public meetings are fine. But it's not the public,
16 necessarily.

17 Another thing that I have is Seattle's always one of
18 the meeting places, no matter what happens. And Spokane is
19 downwind, Tri-Cities is in the middle of it, Portland and
20 the towns along the Columbia are downstream. What, what
21 horse does Seattle have in this race? I mean, I don't, I
22 don't understand why they're always in it, other than some
23 of the things I see, the comments that if you have 20
24 people, then you go to that. Well, that's not a good way, I
25 don't think, to look for participation from, from the whole

1 area that's affected. I mean, I don't know what scenario
2 Seattle would be affected by what happens at Hanford other
3 than getting electricity from Energy Northwest.

4 You already have one great public involvement thing,
5 it would be reactor tours. Which unless you're there
6 instantaneously, you can't get into it. So I would suggest
7 that you use one that is very, very successful, maybe even
8 charge for it, if you've got to, you know, pay the people
9 who give the tours. I'm sure people would pay for that.

10 I'm not part of Heart of America. I was not contacted
11 with a survey. So surveys that special interest groups may
12 give, unless you see all the detailed questions and know
13 exactly who it came from, et cetera, can be slanted. I'm
14 not saying that it is. But it's the same with meeting
15 downtown at that, at that building. It's pretty much just
16 the environmental group. I would feel even more
17 intimidated, although, I've been to bike meetings there.
18 But then I'm not the onion in the petunia patch.

19 That's about all I have.

20 JUDY SMITH: I appreciate those. Thank you.

21 And let's see. Gerry, you were next on the card.

22 GERRY POLLET: I'll defer to the other Spokaneite.

23 BOB APPLE: Good. Mr. Johns, very, very good points.
24 He's probably right, we should use the Community Centers for
25 meetings. Those are less -- we have those around here. We

1 have three community buildings in the city, plus City Hall,
2 and they probably would be -- and you're right about
3 citizens feeling browbeaten almost when they come to speak.

4 We have had really for at least a year now a Council
5 president who has raised the ire of the entire community for
6 the way he's treated citizens who have come down to testify.
7 And so it has really put people off. I really believe that.
8 We haven't had that problem with the County. We haven't had
9 that with the Valley City. As much as we try to, you know,
10 calm this guy, get this guy into line, it just hasn't
11 worked. So he's been very detrimental to the public
12 testimony, to the hearings process as a whole, so --

13 You know, and I have to take some blame in that,
14 because I haven't been able to get him in line. But he's
15 supposed to be in charge. So he's pointed that out to me
16 numerous times. So we don't have a lot of say about that.

17 I, I am, though, as far as cleanup in Hanford, my
18 biggest concern is reduction in funding. The promises are
19 made, and the goals to bring the waste to the site are
20 ramping up. But the actual ability to get to that point, I
21 don't see, I just don't see it happening.

22 Vitrification plant, how far are we from actually
23 operating it. Very far. In fact, I don't think we're any
24 closer than the last two times they tried to get that thing,
25 you know, up and running. I don't think we're any further

1 along than we were the first -- now, this is actually the
2 third or more times they've tried to get this to that point.

3 I do not want to see just a big huge storage dump of
4 waste there. And I do not want it to be the national waste
5 dump. I'm very concerned that Arizona has changed their
6 mind. And, apparently, politically with all the money
7 spent, they win. They changed their mind. And everybody in
8 DC is willing to say go, you're out. Okay, we'll play ball
9 now.

10 Well, you know, we're not getting the money spent at
11 Hanford to clean up this site, to take care of the problem.
12 It cannot be a storage depo. It's just not built for it.
13 And I'm very concerned about the ramp-up.

14 There's a bigger problem, and I think you people have
15 to play a bigger part in it, and that is right now we're
16 storing on nuclear generating sites all over the country.
17 More waste than should be there. We've seen the articles.
18 Plants are old, they're starting to leak, the plumbing,
19 anyway. And they're not being maintained to the point to
20 prevent that. So groundwater problems could occur. They've
21 got storage tanks with Japan's problem. We found out the
22 storage tanks are a problem all over the country now. And
23 there's, there's a lot of it.

24 We hope we don't have a disaster, but it's not free to
25 me or the people in this community. We saw what happened in

1 Japan and the sheer lack of responsibility from that
2 government in dealing with it, and still lacking to deal
3 with it. You know, from what we hear, they're still,
4 they've still got a major problem going on and reactions
5 going on in that plant. And it's been a long time now. So
6 they really haven't taken care of it in any way, shape or
7 form. It's probably the worst national disaster, nuclear
8 disaster in the world. I think it's, I think it's easily
9 now beat out Chernobyl.

10 So we need to look at new nuclear in a different view.
11 And quite frankly, we need to start, you need to start
12 voicing, I think, the real costs of maintaining the waste
13 after the fact. You know, because they're, they're not
14 being calculated. We haven't spent enough. We've spent a
15 lot. If you double and triple the expenditures down there,
16 you still wouldn't be able to catch up to the point we
17 should be at.

18 But there's been delays. But the problem is big. And
19 it's, it's that nationally the electrical generators from
20 nuclear are not contributing to taking care of a solution
21 for the waste. And that has got to be addressed nationally.
22 It's not being addressed. It's, it's subsidized.

23 And I have to tell you, just like wind power, it
24 sounds great. But when I talk to the utilities, it's
25 subsidized, too. And anytime they can lock down the fins so

1 they don't run, it saves them money. Because they spend 3
2 million to put one up. They know over the course of the
3 life, they're gonna generate 2 million dollars worth of
4 electricity. And that's the best they're gonna get,
5 provided there's no disaster and have to replace a big motor
6 operation. So they would rather lose money a little bit
7 than have to go up and do major repairs on one of those. It
8 just -- even in today's economy, it does not pan out.

9 We have in the Northwest a huge surplus of
10 electricity. You've heard that, but I haven't.
11 Bonneville's not selling all of the electricity from the
12 dams alone. And we have a garbage incinerator that
13 generates electricity. We are going to take a third of the
14 revenue that we have previously received under contract,
15 because really, nobody wants the electricity. We also own a
16 dam, Upriver Dam, same, same story.

17 So nuclear is, it's got some real problems. And I
18 don't -- I think the environmental agencies have got to
19 start facing up to the fact there are real costs to dealing
20 with the waste. And they're going to have to, you're going
21 to have to start expressing those nationally. And you're
22 going to have to start really telling the truth. Because
23 we've got to clean up Hanford. And even if you wanted to
24 make it a national waste dump, I certainly don't want that,
25 I don't think anybody here wants that, you have no ability,

1 even if you glassify the waste to store it there. So this
2 needs to be expressed.

3 The real costs need to be talked about. And a real
4 solution needs to be found. I'm not a fan of nuclear. And
5 I never have been. But that's my bigger concern. And this
6 economic times of cutting back both at the State, and that's
7 one of the articles, the State made a little promise, and
8 now they can't even keep their promise in this deal, and
9 then you've got the Fed, which is ramping down dramatically.

10 And it's, it's becoming a nightmare. To me it's, it's
11 Chernobyl. It's, it's a Japanese reactor, but there's no
12 nuclear, at least, release at this point. It's just a
13 nightmare that could happen anywhere in the country. And
14 that's what really bothers me.

15 JUDY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

16 MARK LOPER: Okay, I can go. So I'll just renew my
17 call for a commitment to the plan. And then the, I don't
18 have it with me, but the, the fact sheet that you passed out
19 with frequently asked questions about Hanford, I think that
20 document should be an appendix in it or something like that.
21 That document has exactly what I was looking for in the
22 Plan. And I think if it's after the introduction or
23 somewhere in the meat of the Plan between Page 8 and Page
24 12, that Frequently Asked Questions on Public Involvement
25 answers, I think it's more important than the whole document

1 that I've read.

2 JUDY SMITH: Okay. Gerry.

3 GERRY POLLET: Well, Bill raised an interesting point.

4 Although, I know we've been on opposite sides of many a
5 hearing. But you're very right that Spokane is the most
6 affected downwind community in event of a major accident.
7 So while I would say there's good reasons for having
8 meetings in Seattle, we've been advocating that there needs
9 to be at least one meeting a year, and on major decisions
10 meetings in Spokane.

11 And it shouldn't be a popularity contest. It
12 shouldn't be which city will have more people come, because
13 Spokane is affected. As we see tonight, fewer people may
14 come to meetings in Spokane. Spokane also has a smaller
15 population to draw from. So we, we can't allow it to be a
16 popularity contest or whether or not we choose not to have
17 meetings in Spokane. And that's what I want to congratulate
18 the City Council for kind of passing this Resolution
19 recognizing that and the unique role Spokane has.

20 So how do we incorporate that into the Public
21 Involvement Plan? There should be clear criteria that says
22 here's an affected community and the second largest
23 community in the state with downwind major population sector
24 affected by the river, here's the criteria for why we have
25 meetings in Spokane and our commitment to hold them.

1 The second thing is looking at the notice section of
2 the Public Involvement Plan. So when there's a decision,
3 for instance, to extend the time period for which single
4 shell tanks will hold wastes by 40 years, until the year
5 2040, the notice needs to say and commit that it's going to
6 identify the potential impacts to downwind or down river
7 communities.

8 And that's traditionally the definition of effective
9 notice and public involvement. We've talked about it a lot.
10 There was a commitment in prior plans the language of
11 effective notice that informs people not just about the
12 proposals, which is nice, this one does say it's going to
13 inform people about the proposal, but how the proposal will
14 affect public values and concerns. And that would include,
15 for instance, if we keep wastes in tanks that these domes
16 can collapse in whose integrity we are uncertain of for the
17 next 30 to 40 years. These could have impact on everyone in
18 Eastern Washington in the event of a serious earthquake,
19 fire, other accident.

20 There are other facilities at Hanford that have the
21 same type of potential impact. The storage facilities for
22 the, essentially, swimming pool, not for spent fuel, but
23 the, which is an issue at Energy Northwest, but the swimming
24 pool in which at Hanford has the highest concentration of, I
25 believe, of radiation in the entire country. It's an

1 ancient swimming pool that no one's going to claim is
2 designed to withstand the earthquake that at least the
3 Northwest Energy reactors would be able to withstand.

4 So when we make a decision about that, effective
5 notice will be to tell the people, you know, say up front in
6 the headline, this could affect downwind communities in the
7 event of major earthquakes, and here are the choices.
8 That's what effective notice is. And we'd like to see a
9 comment in the Plan to effective notice.

10 And secondly, they're part of the criteria for when
11 you hold the public meeting to ask does this potentially
12 affect downwind communities in the event of an accident or
13 release. In which case, come to the people in Spokane and
14 ask them if they want to have a public meeting. That's the
15 criteria we'd like to see for a downwind community.

16 And I'd also like to say it's not just Spokane. I am
17 unaware of the Tri-Party agencies ever holding a meeting in
18 Walla Walla, except for when we organized them. Walla Walla
19 is totally the next downwind community. And the same
20 criteria should apply. And the same questions should be
21 asked. Occasionally we get people to come from Walla Walla
22 over to Richland for public meetings. But that is a long
23 drive, 45 to 50 miles each direction. And it's too much to
24 ask. And there are people there concerned and interested
25 enough to come to a public meeting once or twice a year.

1 And every other year, at least, in Walla Walla.

2 So those are some of the thoughts we want you to add
3 to the record in Spokane tonight. And I appreciate that you
4 held a meeting here. Sorry that more people aren't here.
5 We wish we could have done more, but this is the future of
6 public involvement. We know from survey results that, and
7 just from asking people to raise their hands at public
8 meetings, you know, 80 percent sometimes of the people who
9 come, come because of the work that we're doing, because of
10 the turnout work.

11 And in terms of the survey, Bill, if you're on the
12 listserv, the survey was sent to everyone on the listserv.
13 Everyone. If you, if you didn't have an e-mail address on
14 the listserv that ended in like nor or, you know, one of the
15 contractors at Hanford --

16 MARK LOPER: The Tri-Party listserv, that's what
17 you're talking about?

18 GERRY POLLET: Right. Yeah. You were not sent a copy
19 of, to participate. And then we took a sampling of the
20 lists with, actually, pretty good rigor for the survey in
21 terms of taking a sampling and polling people who did not
22 respond electronically and asking them. So it sounds like
23 you were not one of the people who we sampled by phone. But
24 that's what happens when you do a sampling of the people on
25 the list.

1 JUDY SMITH: All righty. And I guess we can go over.
2 If you had any additional comments, you can offer them. And
3 I hope if you have additional thoughts later, you know, you
4 could also send in things by writing if there's other, you
5 know, something occurs to you in the middle of the night
6 between now and December 15th on the comment deadline. So
7 we're not limited. So should we go ahead and kind of close
8 our comments for the record, and then we can continue to
9 talk, if we want?

10 BOB APPLE: Are you guys gonna try and drive back
11 tonight? See if you can make it over the pass?

12 JUDY SMITH: No. I'm on an 8:00 o'clock flight.
13 Well, thank you.

14 BOB APPLE: Well, I want to thank you for having a
15 meeting here. As much as I'd love to yell and scream, I
16 guess I'm not gonna. And I don't think most people in
17 Spokane would. But I'm glad you're here to listen to us and
18 take comments. And I hope we see you again.

19 JUDY SMITH: And I also -- and I've got to ask this
20 question on behalf of the team, and it's just because I do
21 this type of work in the Portland area, but do you have, is
22 there like the community TV type of thing here, like your
23 City Council meetings or --

24 BOB APPLE: They're televised

25 JUDY SMITH: Televised. And are those ever -- is that

1 ever open -- is that limited to City business, generally,
2 or --

3 BOB APPLE: Well, we can put other things on. We
4 have a -- if you have a program, you know, it's public
5 access. But we're limited to Cable 5, which is strictly a
6 public access channel. And that's only available through
7 Comcast, our cable provider, you know, that has a contract
8 with the City of Spokane. So the Dish people and people
9 over the airwaves don't get it. So it's very restrictive.

10 JUDY SMITH: Okay. But is it a tool, though, that,
11 you know, would it be, should they reach out to cable access
12 TV to maybe film Hanford meetings, or would that be --

13 BOB APPLE: Yes. In fact --

14 JUDY SMITH: -- a way to get information out?

15 BOB APPLE: -- if the City knows, on occasion they can
16 arrange -- you know, if you had your meeting down at City
17 Hall, it can actually be taped right there and, and then
18 rebroadcast.

19 GERRY POLLET: Wasn't there one that we held at City
20 Hall several years ago, wasn't that broadcast?

21 BOB APPLE: It probably was. We've been, we've been
22 doing it for years. So there's actually -- you know, you
23 can have people come up to the microphone and testify.
24 You've got plenty of seats there. Like a council for all of
25 your personnel and whoever you need up there. And it's a

1 great hearings setup, because that's what it's meant for, is
2 the City Council. And the equipment, the tape and recorder
3 all there. And the disc, you can actually take a copy of it
4 with you. And I've always offered it, you know, as I've
5 been on the Council. Amber's going be there for quite some
6 time, April Waldref, the other Council member whose husband
7 was here. So I'd be happy to, to pass that word on. And
8 I'm sure she'd be happy to arrange it, if you guys would
9 like. And it's a very well-known meeting place, our Council
10 Chambers. Except Joe's been a little nasty as council
11 president.

12 JUDY SMITH: Why I ask is, I actually have a number
13 Superfund sites. And I have one of them that's actually
14 winding down. But there's a neighbor that goes and talks to
15 the Vancouver City Council. And he'll call, you know, once
16 a month and say I'm gonna be on TV talking about the
17 Boomsnub Superfund site. And, you know, and he keeps, you
18 know, helps keep the site in the public view. And it's
19 really a tool that I would have never thought about.

20 BOB APPLE: We've got, you know, like every city,
21 we've got ours, too. And we've got one that's asbestos.
22 And we have up on Hillyard the rail. Which, hopefully, will
23 be gone as soon as we get the freeway through. Which, you
24 know, that'll be a real plus. A lot of work's been done.
25 And, of course, Kendall Yards was many years ago. It is now

1 cleaned up and finally getting developed. So we're trying
2 to get rid of our Superfund sites. We're gonna be down to
3 very few shortly.

4 SHARON BRASWELL: Mr. Apple, can I ask how big the
5 Council Chamber room is? How many people could we --

6 BOB APPLE: It holds, it holds like 200 people. It's
7 set up so you can -- you know, it's set up, they're not
8 moveable. It's fixed. More than here. Oh, yeah, much more
9 than here. On occasion we fill it. Most of the time we
10 have little groups like this.

11 JUDY SMITH: Yeah. And that's the, you know -- and is
12 the large meeting format something, I guess I can ask this
13 of all of you, is that, is that kind of the best format for
14 this City, or things that are more small group discussions
15 sometimes of interest to people in the community to come and
16 learn more from small group conversations, maybe a number of
17 groups of this size?

18 BOB APPLE: I rarely see them this small. But we
19 usually get at least 20 to 30 people to a, to a meeting. We
20 get can a lot more from time to time. So it just depends on
21 the issues. You know, if you had had a nuclear issue or
22 discussion while that Japanese, needless to say, that place
23 would be packed. Because radiation was getting here, and
24 everybody knew it.

25 JUDY SMITH: Yeah. And that's -- and I think I heard

1 you guys, you acknowledged that at the last meeting, is
2 that, you know, the Public Involvement Plan isn't something
3 generally that will bring out huge numbers of people.
4 Because, you know, it's not perceived as such a risk but
5 more of an opportunity. And so -- but we're happy that you
6 all came out.

7 DIETER BOHRMANN: I wanted to add, too, that Ecology
8 and the State's gonna, is getting ready to issue its Hanford
9 site-wide permit this spring. And we have already committed
10 to coming to Spokane for a lot of meetings here.

11 BOB APPLE: Good.

12 DIETER BOHRMANN: So appreciate your input on the
13 resources we can tap when we come out again. Whether it's
14 Ecology or Tri-Parties, there's lot of different resources
15 we can look into, media, meeting spaces, and conflicts with
16 other meetings, and other communications that --

17 BOB APPLE: We won't let you use it on Monday nights.
18 And, you know, there's a few other scheduled meetings. But
19 we have a lot of open time and a little bit flexible. And
20 I'm sure the City will help you out. If you wanted to tape
21 it, you could. And it's easier than minutes, so --

22 JUDY SMITH: Okay. Well, anything else?

23 BOB APPLE: I learned a lot. And I appreciate you
24 coming over.

25 (The hearing concluded at 8:45 p.m.)

