

Hanford Advisory Board



Susan Leckband, Chair
Shelley Cimon, Vice Chair

Consensus

How the HAB Works



- HAB is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
 - Part of the national SSAB (Site Specific Advisory Board consisting of citizen advisory boards from other USDOE office of Environmental Management)
- HAB provides policy advice and recommendations to DOE, EPA and Ecology
 - TPA agencies develop workplan priorities list requesting HAB input. The HAB works that list through the committee structure
- HAB Website: <http://www.hanford.gov>

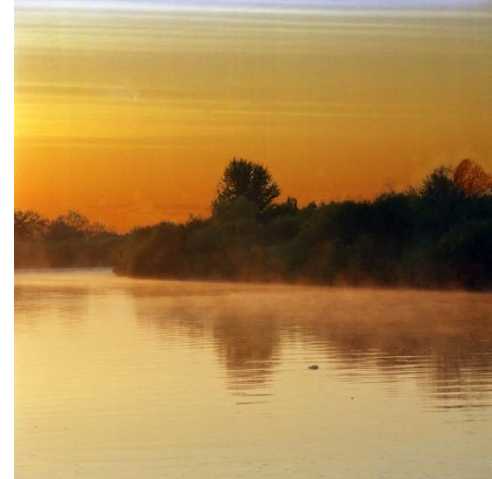
HAB – A Board of 32 Interests



- Seven representatives of local government interests
- One representative of business interests from the Tri-Cities area
- Five representatives of the Hanford workforce: 2 Union, 2 non-union/non-management, 1 other
- Six representatives of local, regional citizen, environmental, and public interest organizations
- One representative each of local and regional public health organizations
- One representative from each of the three tribes that have treaty rights that are affected by Hanford cleanup decisions: the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Indian Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe;
- Two representatives of the interests of the citizens of the State of Oregon including one appointed by the Governor of Oregon or the agency that has the lead role for the State of Oregon on Hanford cleanup issues; and one representing the broad interests of Oregon citizens appointed by the Oregon Hanford Waste Board
- Four at-large (members of the public).

Sub-Committees

- River and Plateau
- Tank Waste
- Health, Safety & Environmental Protection
- Public Involvement
- Budgets & Contracts



River and Plateau and Tank Waste committees meet the most often. Other committees meet as the work/issues require.

Occasionally the committees will meet jointly for share topics or a Committee of the Whole will be convened to focus on and discuss an overarching important issue where all HAB members need the opportunity to weigh in and hear each others concerns. The HAB may determine that a task force is needed to work a particular issue over some period of time. The HAB remains nimble enough to address issues in whatever manner is required to provide all the membership with equal opportunity to engage in the process.

Cleanup Values/Concerns

- **Safety**
 - Worker – Public - Environmental
- **Groundwater**
 - Protect the Columbia River
- **Tri-Party Agreement Milestones**
 - Governs cleanup schedule and actions
 - Renegotiated frequently
- **Funding**
 - Yearly appropriations – not adequate to meet TPA
- **Tank Waste Treatment Plant**
 - Low Activity Waste to be stabilized first via Direct Feed Low Activity project
 - Current underground tank storage system integrity concerns
 - Disposal of WTP HLW output, where?
 - Hanford should not become a default repository



Balance & the HAB



The HAB established a consensus process from its inception. Like the LOWV HAB members recognized the power of advice when it is developed via a consensus process. In order to achieve this – with such a variety of interest groups and stakeholders on the HAB - a working process was developed. Like many organizations, the HAB has matured but has maintained its integrity through education and informed, balanced advice and recommendations – always with the best Hanford cleanup possible in mind.

In the 24 years the HAB has existed the “process manual” has matured and changed as needed. Members engage in civil discussion – even during disagreements, when passions and energy are high because finding common ground is the ultimate goal that leads to consensus.

Each member input carries the same weight and has equal value. I take that personally as the chair and work to engage and encourage members to participate as much as they can.

League & the HAB

As many of you are aware the League of Women Voters Education Fund published a handbook for citizens “The Nuclear Waste Primer”, (last revised in 1993).

I was first introduced to this book by former League representative on the HAB, Betty Tabbutt. I was then a non-union/non-management employee representative on the HAB. I had been a previous League member and when Betty wanted to resign from the board she put my name forward to be the League Rep. Since my values regarding education, citizen engagement in government and a cleaner environment mirrored those of the league I happily accepted. I have been elected to be chair or vice chair of the HAB for about 15 of the 24 years the HAB has existed. I am as committed to a Hanford safe cleanup, information transparency, public and HAB engagement as I was when I started work at Hanford in 1988.

I employ LWV citizen engagement, public and environmental values at every HAB meeting as chair.

Balance & the HAB

Some of the members are paid by the organizations they represent but over 60% are total volunteers – none are paid by DOE.

The dedication of members is extraordinary. Because we work through a sub-committee process to bring advice and recommendations to the full HAB it takes many hours of attending meetings – many are all day, asking questions and developing advice based on HAB, stakeholder and public values and input. The HAB works to empower each member to become as engaged as possible – some members have full time employment but their input is as valuable as those who are able to participate at a higher level.

Through the Public Involvement Committee, the HAB advises the Tri Party agencies to be open, transparent and to engage and educate the public on Hanford cleanup. We consistently encourage public meetings around the region – not just in the Tri-Cities.

In Conclusion

The cleanup of the environmental damage created by past operations will continue to require billions of dollars in future funding, innovative solutions, and persistence to complete. The real challenge will be to maintain the momentum and funding to complete the cleanup efforts and provide for long-term stewardship for generations to come. Given the magnitude and longevity of the cleanup operations, it is imperative that we remain mindful to adhere to our most crucial priority, which is protection of public health and the environment, now and in the future. As a citizens' advisory board, we keep those values in mind as we advise the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology to complete the Hanford cleanup mission in a timely, safe, and cost-effective manner.