

# 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 Dept. of Energy Environmental Management superfund sites)
- HAB provides policy advice and recommendations to DOE, EPA and Ecology that consider public values in cleanup decisions
  - 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-mgmt, 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 almost monthly. Other committees meet as the work/issues require.

Occasionally the committees will meet jointly or a Committee of the Whole will be convened to discuss an overarching important issue where all 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
  - Integration of groundwater cleanup actions across Hanford (field offices and contractors) Remediate to highest beneficial use
  - *Potential risks of waste migrating to groundwater (over time), including waste leaked from tanks containing chemical and radiological waste*
- **Tri-Party Agreement Milestones**
  - Governs cleanup schedule and actions
  - Renegotiated frequently

# Cleanup Values/Concerns (cont'd)



- **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
  - HAB has advised that new tanks be constructed to ensure space available if additional DSTs leak
  - Disposal of WTP HLW output, if not YUCCA Mountain then where?
    - Hanford should not become a default repository

# Future: HAB Focuses on DFLAW

- Committee of the whole will be convened April 10<sup>th</sup> at Washington State University in Richland
  - The entire HAB is invited to participate
  - DOE working with HAB and the Tank Waste Committee to develop comprehensive agenda to educate the HAB and the public on the Direct Feed Low Activity Waste initiative

# 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.