

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board

Virtual-WebEX

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Meeting Summary Notes

Members In Attendance:

Steve March, Chair
Dan Solitz, Vice-Chair
Lori Brogoitti
Bryan Wolfe
Jürgen Hess
John Howieson
Erica Elliott
Tom Roberts
Marylou Schnoes
Laura Feldman
Justin Iverson, Oregon Water Resources
Department
Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of
Energy
Armand Minthorn, Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
Representative Anna Williams
Senator Bill Hansell

ODOE Staff:

Maxwell Woods
Mark Reese
Tom Sicilia
Sara Lovtang
Jeff Burrigh
Deanna Henry
Erica Euen
Stacy Heuberger

Tri-Party Agencies:

Brian T. Vance, U.S. Department of Energy,
Richland Office of Operations, RL
Gary Younger, U.S., Department of Energy, RL
Lindsay Strasser, AttainX
Dieter Bohrman, CH2M Hill
Alex Smith, Washington State Department of
Ecology
Laura Watson, Washington State Department of
Ecology
Kelly Elsethagen, Washington State Department
of Ecology
Chris Wend, Washington State Department of
Ecology
Ryan Miller, Washington State Department of
Ecology
Randy Bradbury, Washington State Department
of Ecology

Public

Sandra Sampson

Dr. Steve Reese, Oregon State University
Mason Murphy, CTUIR
Sharon Monteiro
Molly McGrew
Padriac Fox
Kelly Ebert

Link to meeting materials:

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/safety-resiliency/Pages/OHCB-Meetings.aspx>

[Refer to the meeting audio files for further details and discussions](#)

Administrative

Chair Steve March opened the meeting at 9 a.m.

Director Benner took a few minutes to address the Board and to thank everyone for their service in support of Hanford cleanup and oversight.

After introductions, the meeting summary from the November 2019 meeting was approved.

DOE Hanford Site Update

Brian T. Vance, U.S. Department of Energy, Manager, Richland Office of Operations and Office of River Protection.

Purpose: To provide the Board with an update on cleanup activities at the site.

COVID-19 shutdown and Site Remobilization: Brian gave the Board an update on the status of this year's work shutdown due to COVID-19, as well as the challenges they faced to suddenly have to send thousands of support and site staff home to keep the workforce safe. [Site Remobilization](#)

Brian said that the workforce is returning to several sites across Hanford. Safety and health protocols are being enforced. He also added that there were many lessons learned from COVID-19. He was thankful for the dedication of both DOE and contractor staff to continue operations as best they could under the circumstances.

Direct Feed Low-Activity Waste, DFLAW: Brian said that part of the remobilizations and return to work includes working on the DFLAW projects including getting ready for the Tank Side Cesium Removal, TSCR, project as well as the Low-Activity Waste Facility and Effluent Management Facility. [DFLAW](#)

FY 2021 Risk Reduction: Brian told the Board that 2021 projects will include finishing work at the PFP. Retrieval work at Tank AX-104 will begin as well as working on the Z-Crib. [PFP area](#)

Budgets and management changes: Brian discussed the fiscal situation facing the site for FY2020 and FY 2021. He also provided updates on the Direct- Feed Low-Activity Waste progress that was impacted by the temporary shutdown due to COVID-19. Brian also talked about site activities for the upcoming year and leadership changes within the Richland Operations Office.

Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, WESF: The current status of the transfer of the cesium and strontium capsules from the pool at the WESF facility to dry cask storage was a concern for the Board. Brian took a few minutes to discuss the timeline for moving the capsules with the Board and to also answer a few questions. [WESF](#)

Washington Department of Ecology Update on M-91 Milestone

Alex Smith, Kelly Elsethagen, Laura Watson, Washington State Department of Ecology

Purpose: To provide the Board with Washington's perspective on cleanup, Milestone M-91 and introduction of new staff.

Alex Smith introduced herself to the Board and she took the opportunity to provide the Board with an update on the Tri-Party Agreement, which agencies are part of it, and how she sees Oregon's role.

This was Alex Smith's last meeting with the Board (Alex served as the manager of Ecology's Hanford office in Richland). She is moving on to a new position within Washington State Government. There is a recruitment process underway to fill Alex's position.

Alex also introduced Laura Watson; the in-coming agency Director appointed by Governor Inslee in January. Laura took over the agency just before the COVID-19 lock-down. She worked in the Attorney General's office prior to her appointment and she was very involved in environmental litigation on behalf of the Department of Ecology. Laura thanked the Board for continuing to stay involved in Hanford cleanup.

Kelly introduced herself to the Board and she provided the Board with an update on the M-91 Milestone for Transuranic ("TRU") and Mixed Waste. Kelly explained what the current status is with this Milestone and the potential end date change from 2030 to 2050.

There were a few questions from the Board and staff about the delay in shipping TRU waste that has been accumulating at the site for several years to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project ("WIPP") complex in New Mexico.

Kelly indicated that the State of Washington is still evaluating the date change, and if they will challenge it with DOE.

There was discussion amongst Board members and staff about weighing in to support Ecology's challenge to possibly encourage DOE to move the timeline up for TRU waste removal from the site.

Board Questions for Staff

(Board and ODOE staff)

Purpose: To discuss Board impressions from today's presentations as well as recent comment letters and Milestones.

Board members and staff interacted about today's presentations.

Board Business

(Board and Staff)

Discuss action (if any) based on discussion at this meeting

- OHCB HAB appointments
- Upcoming Board vacancies
- Confirm date and location of the next Board meeting

Chair Steve March led the discussion to address the HAB appointment primary and alternates. Steve will continue in that capacity next year with Dan Solitz as his alternate.

There was discussion about when the next meeting should be held (to be held virtually). The Board asked to possibly meet again in January to discuss the M-091 Milestone, and if the Board wants to support a letter or seek more public comments to address the 2050 date for removing the TRU waste on the site.

Both Laura and Jurgen asked for a staff presentation about radioactive waste shipments in the state at a future meeting.

Chair March also reminded the Board that there are several upcoming vacancies in 2021 for Board members that will have completed their second terms. They include Lori Brogoitti, John Howieson, Steve March and Dan Solitz. Tom Roberts and Laura Feldman are both eligible for re-appointments in 2021.

Mark Reese, staff, reminded Tom and Laura to submit an e-mail asking for re-appointment to the Board. Mark also reminded the Board that they can forward the names of interested people, who might want appointment, to contact the ODOE staff.

Mark also reminded the Board that two of the upcoming vacancies are the Chair and Vice Chair. Interested Board members should start considering this as we will need to have an election in early 2022 or sooner.

Public Comment Opportunity

Chair March offered the public an opportunity to make comments or ask questions.

Sharon Monteiro addressed the Board. She thanked everyone for continuing to focus on the important cleanup work that is going on at Hanford.

Adjourn for the Day

Chair March adjourned the meeting for the day at 1 p.m. Staff stayed on the webinar and phone until 1:15 p.m.; no additional public comments were provided.

F E M N A L