

Hanford Communities 2024 Issue Agenda

Section 1 – Top Priorities

Cleanup Funding

Significant additional resources will be needed for the next several years as tank waste treatment begins at Hanford's Low Activity Waste (LAW) facility, design, engineering and construction moves forward for the High Level Waste (HLW) facility, and remediation/risk mitigation work continues across the Site. Adequate funding must be provided for all of these efforts, not just the ones supporting tank waste treatment. The Administration and Congress should work to proportionately increase the total amount of funding for DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) to ensure the additional needs at Hanford don't negatively impact progress at other cleanup sites.

Long-Term Cost and Schedule Reduction

The *2022 Hanford Lifecycle Scope, Schedule and Cost Report* estimates the total cost of cleanup to be between \$300.2 and \$640.6 billion, with active cleanup complete in the year 2078. These projected funding levels are likely not realistically achievable or sustainable. Therefore, DOE, its regulators, tribes, and other key stakeholders should actively seek and achieve alignment on new technologies and approaches that have the potential to safely expedite cleanup while reducing overall costs. These opportunities include utilizing DOE's revised High Level Waste interpretation at Hanford and exploring alternative methods to treat Hanford's supplemental tank waste, beginning with Phase II of the Low-Level Waste Offsite Disposal effort (also called the Test Bed Initiative).

Sitewide Risk Reduction

Sitewide risk reduction is critically important to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment. DOE should therefore move as quickly as possible to complete remediation efforts at the 324 Building, the 100 K Area, and to move the cesium and strontium capsules at the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF) into dry cask storage.

Regulatory Environment

Alignment between DOE, its regulators, tribes and other key stakeholders is critically important in order to enable the most effective and efficient cleanup of the Hanford Site. There have been significant concerns in the past that the regulatory environment created an unnecessary barrier for cleanup progress. This situation appears to be improving, and we encourage DOE and its regulators to continue striving for agreement on priorities, cleanup technologies and approaches, and the appropriate use of regulatory discretion.

Hanford Workforce

There is a recognized need for additional skilled workers across the Tri-Cities, including at the Hanford Site. We encourage DOE and its contractors to continue growing and strengthening their partnerships with local educational institutions, unions, community organizations, and other employers to support community-wide workforce development efforts.

Cleanup to Clean Energy Initiative

As DOE considers options for siting clean energy projects on up to 19,000 acres of Hanford land, we strongly encourage consideration of the community's vision for an 'Advanced Clean Energy Park' in that area (as communicated in TRIDEC's RFI response). Furthermore, we ask that DOE make a significant portion of those acres available for community partners to develop accordingly.

Manhattan Project National Historical Park

Hanford Communities strongly supports efforts to grow and maximize the potential of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Hanford, including legislative efforts to expand the Park boundary. We also support efforts to preserve and restore the B Reactor and the pre-Manhattan Project facilities within the Park. During the time that the B Reactor is closed for public tours, we encourage DOE and the National Park Service to focus their efforts on retaining public interest in the Park, including through virtual tours and tours of the pre-Manhattan Project facilities.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

In 1996, DOE entered into agreements with Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties to provide PILT payments based on historical use of the site before the lands were expropriated by the Manhattan Project. PILT funds are distributed by the counties to local entities including school districts, library districts, and hospital districts, among others, to support the provision of basic public services. A new formula for calculating Hanford PILT billings has been implemented. DOE should request adequate resources to fully fund the PILT program in their federal budget request.

Economic Development and Diversification

Hanford Communities supports transferring surplus Hanford assets, including land and facilities back to the community via CFR770 and the local Community Reuse Organization (CRO) to foster creation of private-sector jobs and diversification of the regional economy. Additionally, we encourage TRIDEC and DOE to put in place a new agreement and procedure to replace the incentive funds that TRIDEC previously generated through the TARC program. These incentive funds are critically important to the continued economic growth of our community.

Hanford Advisory Board (HAB)

Hanford Communities encourages the Tri-Party Agencies to ensure that the HAB serves as an important voice for Tri-City community members, Tribal representatives and other key stakeholders to meaningfully make their voices heard regarding Hanford cleanup, and to feel like their time is being well spent. We also encourage DOE to streamline the nomination process for the HAB to ensure appointments are made in a timely manner, and explore expanding membership terms from two years to three.