

Karin Engstrom

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for accepting my comments on the Holistic Settlement Agreement. After four years of closed-door negotiations, I expected a robust public involvement plan that was created with input from groups and entities working on Hanford, materials that are transparent and easy to understand, enough time to review documents, and an opportunity to comment and table at public meetings in major cities. I am incredibly disappointed. You need to do better.

For all major comment periods in the future:

- **GET INPUT EARLY AND OFTEN:** Consult with groups, organizations, and Tribal Nations on your public involvement plans for materials, public meeting design/timing/location, and presentations. Use that input to improve the plan.
- **DESIGN FOR MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT:** Design regional public meetings with an open house where all interested parties can table, provide information and chat with attendees, incorporate time for a local perspective to provide an alternate viewpoint, and schedule meetings in the fall and spring for maximum participation.
- **USE PLAIN LANGUAGE, PLEASE:** Use plain language in your presentations and materials to provide a high-level overview of the cleanup work the administrative tool (in this case, the Consent Decree & Tri-Party Agreement) covers, instead of overly focusing on the intricacies of the administrative tool itself.
- **BE TRANSPARENT:** If there is important information buried in your materials and presentations, bring it forward and make it transparent. For example, plainly state how much liquid tank waste you are planning to grout and plainly state that instead of delaying cleanup now, cleanup milestones will be delayed in the future. Plainly state when those delay decisions are anticipated as well as what the public process will look like that accompanies those decisions.
- **STOP PUSHING YOUR CRITICS AWAY:** Instead of running from critical feedback and responding with defensive/avoidant behavior, invite your critics to the table and make time to learn from their feedback.

THAT MEANS: Listening to the tribes, the down winders, those who will be affected by any transport of the nuclear waste in the future.

You have the opportunity to access groups that work with students and young adults. This is their world - not ours any longer. They must be included.

I am 83. The bomb has been a story in my whole life. I met women who lived through the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs when I attended meetings on nuclear issues with Helen Caldicott, MD - I wrote letters and demonstrated that the nuclear age come to an end - but it hasn't. Upon moving to Seattle in the early 1990's, I became interested in the issues of the Hanford nuclear waste issues. I've taken tours and visited with people who worked at Hanford. I heard their stories. I've

participated in your presentations. As stated in your public hearings - we have heard the same story over and over. I do not deny you have been given an impossible task - but time is running out.

It is all about the framing. You think in bureaucratize - I understand your story must be promising - but in all, what I hear in public comments is that more reality would be better. Like Gerry says, "Where is Plan B?" None of us have the real answers except we are contributing to the death of our planet with the threat of nuclear waste dripping into our ground water and into the river. The initial team in 1943 already knew that.

So spend some of your money in meeting with community members, young people, students and retired folks who may have good ideas on how you deal with this set of problems.

One of the best experiences I've had was in group meetings to determine what we, as citizens, thought the most important issues facing Seattle. We met in small groups with a facilitator and everyone spoke up about their issues and then we itemized beginning with the most important. The Mayor used that information to develop his plan.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,
Karin Engstrom