

Tri-Party Agreement Agencies Annual Hanford Public Involvement Summary

2013



**U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington State Department of Ecology**



Introduction

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology – work together on cleanup of the Hanford Site. The Hanford Site is a 586-square-mile site in southeastern Washington created in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The weapons material production mission ended in the late 1980s. More than 40 years of plutonium production led to hundreds of square miles of contaminated soil and groundwater, resulting in one of the nation’s largest and most complex sites. Today, waste management and environmental cleanup are the main missions at the Hanford Site. The public has opportunities to participate in Hanford cleanup decisions. The TPA agencies’ goals for public involvement are to:

- Engage the public by providing timely, accurate, understandable and accessible information.
- Ensure open and transparent decision-making.
- Consider public values when making decisions.
- Provide educational forums to enable informed engagement and participation.

The TPA agencies strive to accomplish the following as part of public involvement planning:

- Consider input on the design of public involvement activities.
- Publish advertisements and advance meeting notices that are easily understood.
- Develop creative and innovative ways to communicate information.
- Ensure meeting locations are convenient, easily accessible and cost effective.
- Provide speakers who can communicate clearly and concisely and are sensitive to different views and opinions.
- Provide decision-makers who listen to comments and consider input to decisions.
- Provide timely feedback after public involvement activities.
- Work with public individuals and organizations to identify public information needs.

The TPA agencies conduct a variety of public involvement activities, which include public meetings, workshops, public comment periods, and informal feedback periods. In order to evaluate these activities against the goals listed above, the TPA agencies conduct an annual survey. This year’s survey was available to the public online from February 3 through March 3, 2014. Several messages were sent to the Hanford email list requesting people take the survey, and it was also shared on the agencies’ websites and social media accounts. A total of 165 people responded. This evaluation is based on the results of that survey. A summary of the 2013 Hanford public involvement activities is provided in the following pages.

2013 Meetings and Workshops (6 topics, 10 total meetings)

Activity: Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins Public Meeting

Date: March 13, 2013

Location: Richland, WA

The purpose of this activity was to share information on Class 2 permit modifications on the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins. These basins were removed and closed in the mid-1990s. The proposed permit modification was to allow replacement of a groundwater well that is being used to perform post-closure monitoring. In August 2013, Ecology approved the modification to the permit to replace a groundwater monitoring well that was blocking soil cleanup work at nearby waste sites and to install a new monitoring well.

Activity: 2015 Hanford Budget and Cleanup Priorities Public Meeting and Webinar

Date: May 8, 2013

Location: Richland, WA

The purpose of this activity was to involve the public and stakeholders in the DOE Richland and Office of River Protection budget formulations and cleanup priorities discussion. At this meeting, the TPA agencies discussed the impact of budget decisions and DOE took public comment and questions on cleanup priorities. DOE submitted their budget request and comments from the public to their headquarters office in June 2013.

Activity: 300 Area Proposed Plan Public Meetings and Webinar

Dates: July 30 & 31; August 8, 2013

Location: Richland, WA; Seattle, WA; Hood River, OR

The purpose of this activity was to provide information, answer questions and collect public comment on the 300 Area Proposed Plan for cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater along the Columbia River in the 300 Area of the Hanford Site. The information provided included descriptions of the cleanup options and the preferred cleanup alternative. Public input was considered when issuing the 300 Area Record of Decision (ROD) in October 2013. Responses to public comments are provided in the responsiveness summary portion of the ROD which is available at <http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/index.cfm/viewDoc?accession=0087180>.

Activity: TPA Quarterly Public Involvement Planning Meetings

Dates: February 6, June 5, September 4

Location: Richland, WA

The purpose of these meetings is for the TPA public involvement staffs to discuss current and future public involvement activities with the public and stakeholders. The agency representatives discuss the TPA Public Involvement Calendar, which is available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/PI/pdf/TPA_PI_Calendar.pdf. These meetings are held quarterly throughout the year.

Activity: Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 242-A Evaporator Public Meeting

Date: October 23, 2013

Location: Richland, WA

The purpose of this activity was to share information on proposed Class 2 permit modifications to the 242-A Evaporator to help prepare for campaigns beginning in fall 2013 to reduce the volume of Hanford's double-shell tank waste. Key changes were to update process information dealing with the tank waste sampling approach and preparedness and prevention measures. In January 2014, Ecology approved the permit modifications.

Activity: Proposed Class 3 Permit Modification to the Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31, 34, & 91; the Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility; and T-Plant Complex Meeting

Date: December 9, 2013

Location: Richland, WA

The purpose of this activity was to share information on proposed Class 3 permit modifications to the Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31, 34, & 91; the Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility; and T-Plant Complex. The proposed permit modifications would close some parts of the mentioned units in Hanford's Dangerous Waste Permit. Parts of these storage areas will not receive future waste shipments and the modifications included submittal of closure plans and inspection/training plans for the areas during closure. This is the first of two planned public comment periods. The next comment period is anticipated to take place in fall 2014.



Archive photo of a public meeting in Seattle with some "Raging Grannies", an activist singing group, in the foreground.

2013 Public Comment Periods (13 total)

The purpose of public comment periods is to allow the public an opportunity to provide input on a specific proposed cleanup decision. Some public comment periods are accompanied by a public meeting or workshop. Comments taken during a formal public comment period are responded to through a Comment and Response document or a Responsiveness Summary, which are issued along with the cleanup decision. The following is a summary of public comment periods held in calendar year 2013.

Comment Period Dates	2013 Documents Issued for Formal Public Comment Periods
January 14 – February 15	Draft Approval Order to Raise Ammonia Emission Limits in Hanford’s 200 East Area
February 4 – March 8	Proposed Changes to two Hanford Air Emissions Permits
February 19 - April 19	Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins
March 11 – May 9	Aerosol Can Puncturing Device at Perma-Fix NW, Inc.
March 25 – May 24	Proposed Updates to Permit for Hanford Dangerous Waste Management Units (Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility, and the Integrated Disposal Facility)
May 8 – June 7	2015 Hanford Budget and Cleanup Priorities
June 30 – August 2	Hanford Air Operating Permit
July 15 – September 16	300 Area Proposed Plan
September 19 – November 17	Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 242-A Evaporator
October 15 – December 20	Hanford Waste Treatment Plant Permit Design Changes
October 30, 2013 – January 6, 2014	Proposed Class 3 Permit Changes to the Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31, 34, & 91; the Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility; and T-Plant Complex
November 10 – December 13	Exhauster System Change for Hanford’s 241-AZ Tank Farms
November 17 – December 20	Hanford Air Operating Permit Renewal

Results of the Annual Public Involvement Survey

The TPA agencies issued a survey consisting of 24 questions. 165 people took the survey. The top responses to each question are provided in the following sections. To see the full results of the survey, including all comments, see Appendix A, beginning on page 16.

Question 1: How do you usually receive information about Hanford topics?

Newspaper:	50.3%
Work Announcements:	42.4%
Hanford Listserv:	35.2 %

Question 2: How would you prefer to receive information about Hanford topics?

Hanford Listserv:	46.0%
Work Announcements:	41.7%
Newspaper:	34.4%

Question 3: Which group(s) do you represent?

Hanford Workforce:	51.9%
General Public:	50.0%
Citizens Group:	12.5%

Question 4: How far in advance are you usually notified about an upcoming Hanford public involvement activity?

I don't usually hear about upcoming activities:	28.8%
2 weeks:	21.5%
3-4 weeks:	18.4%

Question 5: How far in advance would you like to be notified about an upcoming Hanford public involvement activity?

3-4 weeks:	41.4%
2 weeks:	31.5%
More than 4 weeks:	13.6%

Question 6: Please rate the quality of notices you have received from TPA agencies.

Good:	31.3%
Average:	22.1%
I have not seen a notice:	23.3%

Question 7: Did you comment on any of these Hanford-related topics in 2013?

Topics	Yes Responses	No Responses	Unaware of Opportunity
Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins	1	76	78
2013 Hanford Lifecycle, Scope, Schedule and Cost Report	16	70	71
2015 Hanford Budget and Cleanup Priorities Public Meeting	19	75	62
Proposed Updates to Permit for Hanford Dangerous Waste Management Units (Liquid Effluent Retention Facility and 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility, and the Integrated Disposal Facility)	9	78	69
300 Area Proposed Plan	22	70	66
Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 242-A Evaporator	1	71	76
Proposed Class 3 Permit Changes to the Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31, 34, & 91; the Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility; and T-Plant Complex	7	71	76

Question 8: Please select and rate the public involvement activities you attended in 2013.

2013 Meeting/Workshop	Number of Responses from Attendees	Rating with Highest Selection (5-Excellent, 4-Good, 3-Average, 2-Poor, 1-Very Poor)
Public meeting on Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins	4	Average
2015 Hanford Budget and Cleanup Priorities Public Meeting	20	Average
300 Area Proposed Plan Public Meetings	18	Average
TPA Quarterly Public Involvement Planning Meetings	17	Average
Public meeting on Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 242-A Evaporator	6	Average
Public meeting on Proposed Class 3 Permit Modification to the Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31, 34, & 91; the Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility; and T-Plant Complex	8	Average

Question 9: If you did not attend a Hanford-related meeting in 2013, please tell us why.

I wasn't aware of any meetings:	54.9%
The time didn't work for me:	30.1%
The locations didn't work for me:	18.6%

Question 10: In which city are you most likely to attend a public meeting/workshop?

Richland:	80.1%
Seattle:	8.9%
Portland:	5.5%

Question 11: How would you rate the locations of the public meetings/workshops you attended? (For example, hotel, library, etc.)

I have not attended a meeting or workshop:	65.8%
Good:	17.4%
Excellent:	9.4%

Question 12: How would you rate the TPA agencies' presentations at the public meeting/workshops you attended?

I have not seen a presentation:	68.5%
Good:	15.8%
Average:	5.5%

Question 13: How would you rate the dialogue between the public and TPA agency representatives at public meetings/workshops?

I haven't gone to a meeting or workshop:	67.3%
Good:	12.7%
Average:	11.3%

Question 14: If you provided public comment and your contact information, were you notified when responses to comments were available?

Not applicable:	72.1%
Yes, by email:	10.0%
No, I was not notified:	5.0%

Question 15: If you provided public comment(s), how satisfied were you with the response(s)?

Not applicable:	80.6%
Neutral:	7.9%
Satisfied:	4.3%

Question 16: How would you answer the following statement: “I believe that the TPA agencies are interested in my input and participation in Hanford Cleanup decisions.”

Neutral:	35.3%
Agree:	30.2%
Disagree:	16.5%

Question 17: How would you answer the following statement: “I believe my input helps influence Hanford cleanup decisions.”

Neutral:	38.8%
Disagree:	27.3%
Agree	14.4%
Strongly Disagree:	14.4%

(tie for these two options)

Question 18: Will you participate in future activities on Hanford topics?

Likely:	31.4%
Undecided:	31.4%
Very Likely:	25.0%

Question 19: Would you participate in a webinar on Hanford topics?

Undecided:	29.1%
Likely:	27.7%
Very Likely:	20.6%

Question 20: Which Hanford topics would you most want to discuss or learn about in a public forum?

Waste Treatment Plant:	65.2%
Underground storage tanks:	56.5%
General cleanup progress and challenges:	46.4%

Question 21: Would you like to join the TPA agency email list to receive information about Hanford?

Yes:	35.3%
No:	30.2%
I am already on the email list:	34.5%

Question 22: Please provide us with any other thoughts on public involvement at Hanford.

A complete list of comments is provided in Appendix A, beginning on page 16.

Question 23: Geographic Information

City and state of residence of survey participants.

Geographic Area	Total (132 responses)	Percentage
Tri-Cities, WA and surrounding areas	100	75.8%
Portland, OR and surrounding areas	12	9.1%
Seattle, WA and surrounding areas	11	8.3%
Other Cities (Houston, TX; Debary, FL; Bountiful, UT; Oak Ridge, TN)	4	3.0%
Spokane and Cheney, WA	3	2.3%
Idaho	2	1.5%

Question 24: Demographic Information

Demographic information of survey participants.

Age	Under 30	30-45	46-65	Over 65
	6.6%	27.3%	51.2%	14.9%

Race/ Ethnicity	Caucasian	Hispanic	African- American	Asian- American	Native American	Other Ethnicity
	87.8%	0.9%	1.7%	1.7%	3.5%	4.3%

Male	Female
72.3%	27.7%

Lessons Learned

Public input helps the TPA agencies evaluate opportunities for continuous improvement in public involvement. The input received during through the 2013 Annual TPA Public Involvement Survey helped to identify the following areas for improvement:

- Improve materials written to educate and inform the public
 - Consider the frequency at which information is provided to the public
 - Consider use of regular updates on Hanford cleanup for the public and how that information can be shared
- Provide 3-4 weeks of advance notice for upcoming Hanford public involvement activities
 - Make use of the Hanford listserv, newspapers, and Hanford work announcements
 - Identify how to inform more people of public comment opportunities and public meetings/workshops
- Identify how to improve TPA agency notices
- Continue to improve on notifying people when responses to their comments are issued and how to access the responses
- Continue to improve on ensuring comment and response documents and responsiveness summaries clearly respond to public comments
- Improve communications on how public input influences cleanup decisions
- Identify ways to increase participation in future public involvement activities by those who have not previously participated
- Consider the use of webinars for Hanford topics

Conclusion

The 2013 annual Hanford public involvement survey had the largest number of participants compared to previous Hanford surveys, increasing from 94 to 165 over last year. There were a range of people who participated in the survey, 50 percent of which identified themselves as part of the Hanford workforce.

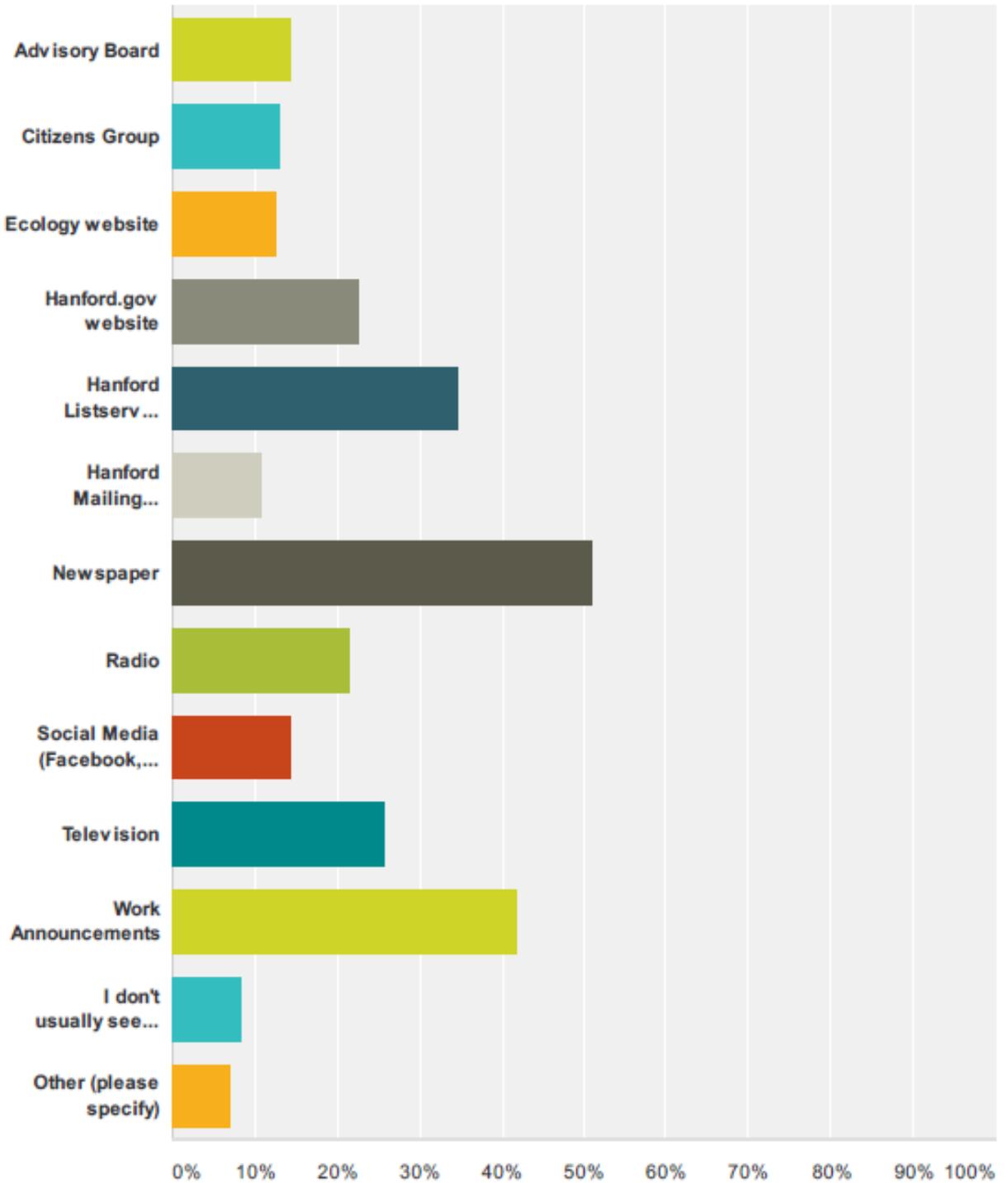
The TPA agencies look forward to implementing the lessons learned from this evaluation and will continue to identify ways to improve public involvement at the Hanford site. For more information, email hanford@ecy.wa.gov or call the Hanford Cleanup Line at 1-800-321-2008.

Appendix A – Raw Data From Survey Monkey

Q1- How do you usually receive information about Hanford topics?

Answered: 167

Skipped: 0



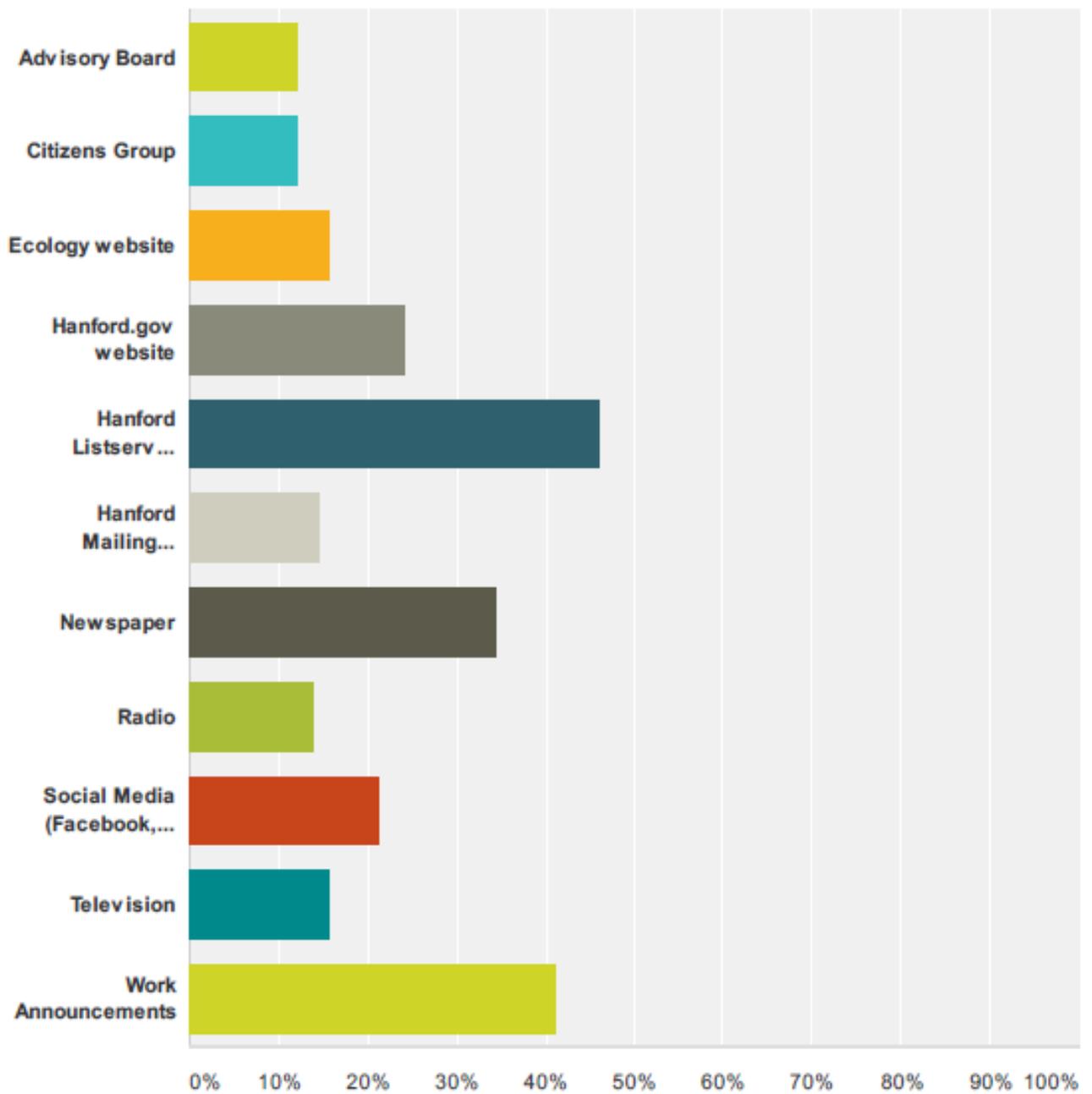
Additional answers to Q1: How do you usually receive information about Hanford topics?

#	Other (please specify)
1	ONLINE NEWS WEBSITES
2	Presentation at Professional association meeting
3	email
4	Conversations with Hanford Site workers
5	Profanity – comment redacted
6	NEI SmartBrief
7	Work email
8	My Management in Staff Meetings or in personal discussion
9	Internet news services (e.g., Google)
10	I work for a Hanford Contractor
11	NGOs
12	Rep. Jerry Pollett



Public meetings are offered to educate the public on a topic and invite input. Public hearings are legally required for some actions. They must be recorded and documented a particular way.

**Q2- How would you prefer to receive information about Hanford topics?
(Please select top 3) Answered: 165 Skipped: 2**



Additional answers to Q2: How would you prefer to receive information about Hanford topics?

#	Other (please specify)
1	ONLINE NEWS WEBSITES
2	Presentation at American Chemical Society meeting
3	All Ways Possible
4	Public meetings and conferences
5	Profanity – comment redacted
6	I used to 99% of all of my info from the Hanford Reach newspaper, and to this day really miss receiving this weekly paper.
7	Internet news services (e.g., Google)
8	At work
9	If there is research involved, can I have a copy?

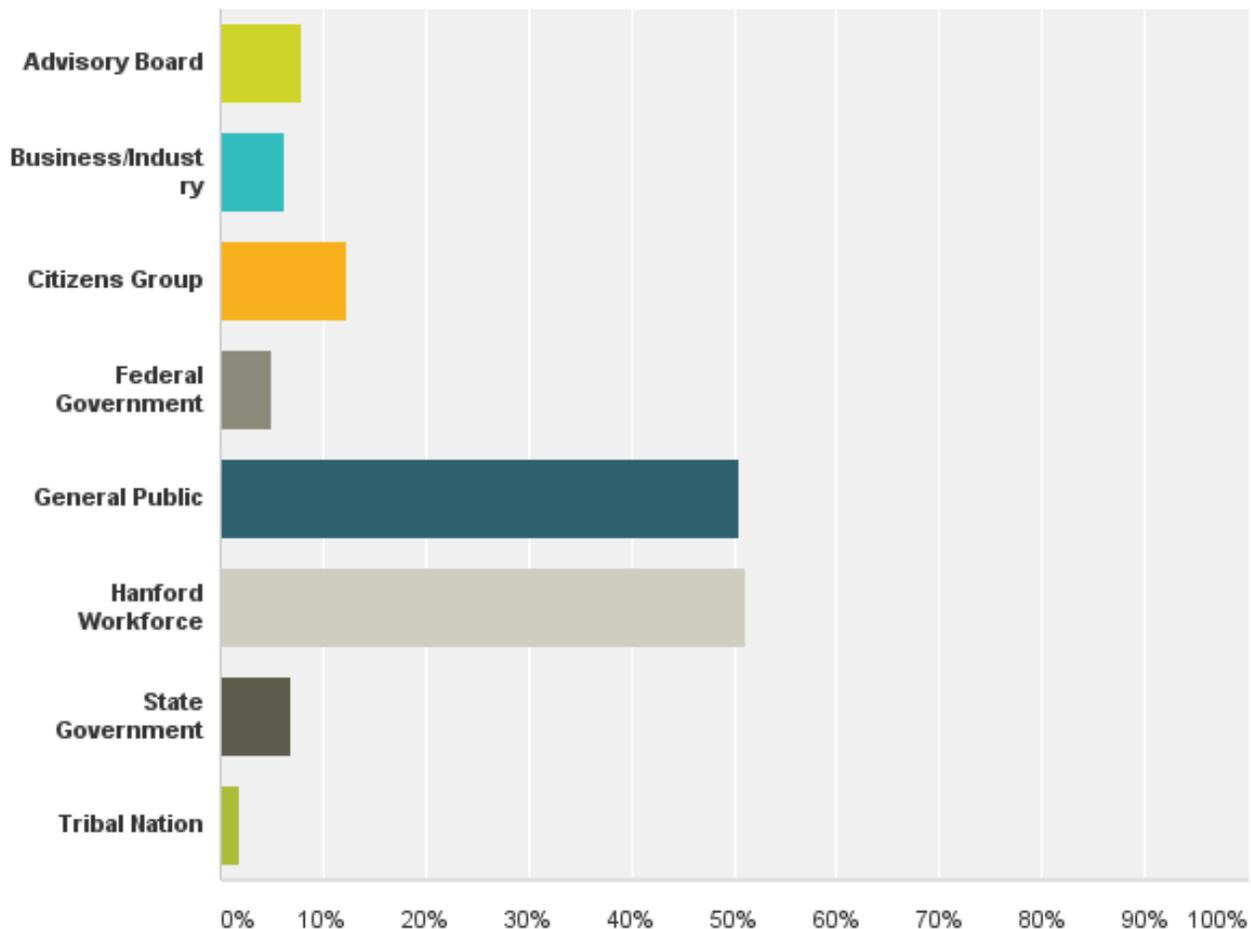


In addition to formal public outreach and information documents and mailings, the agencies engage in other outreach activities and speaking engagements.

Q3- Which groups do you represent? (Please select all that apply)

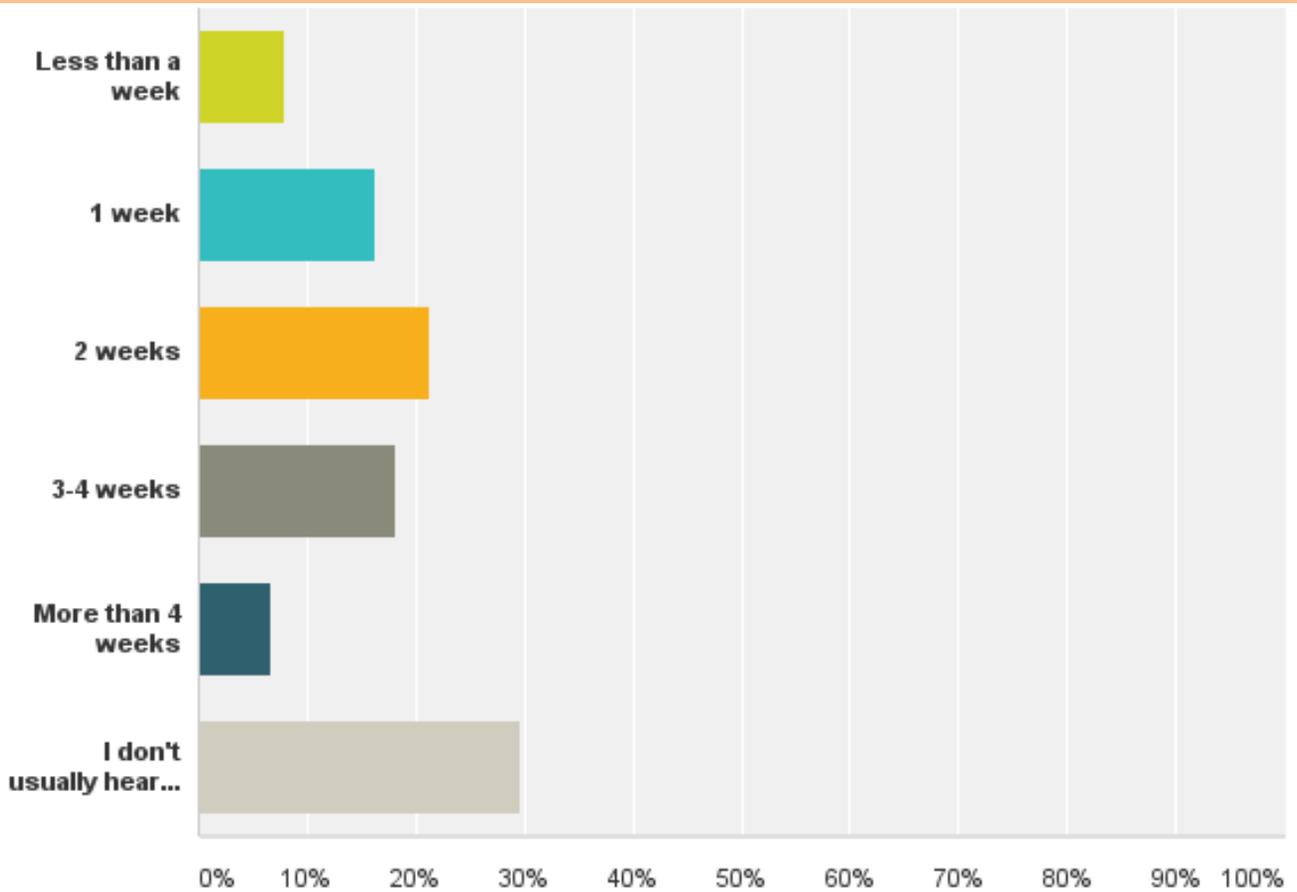
Answered: 162

Skipped: 5



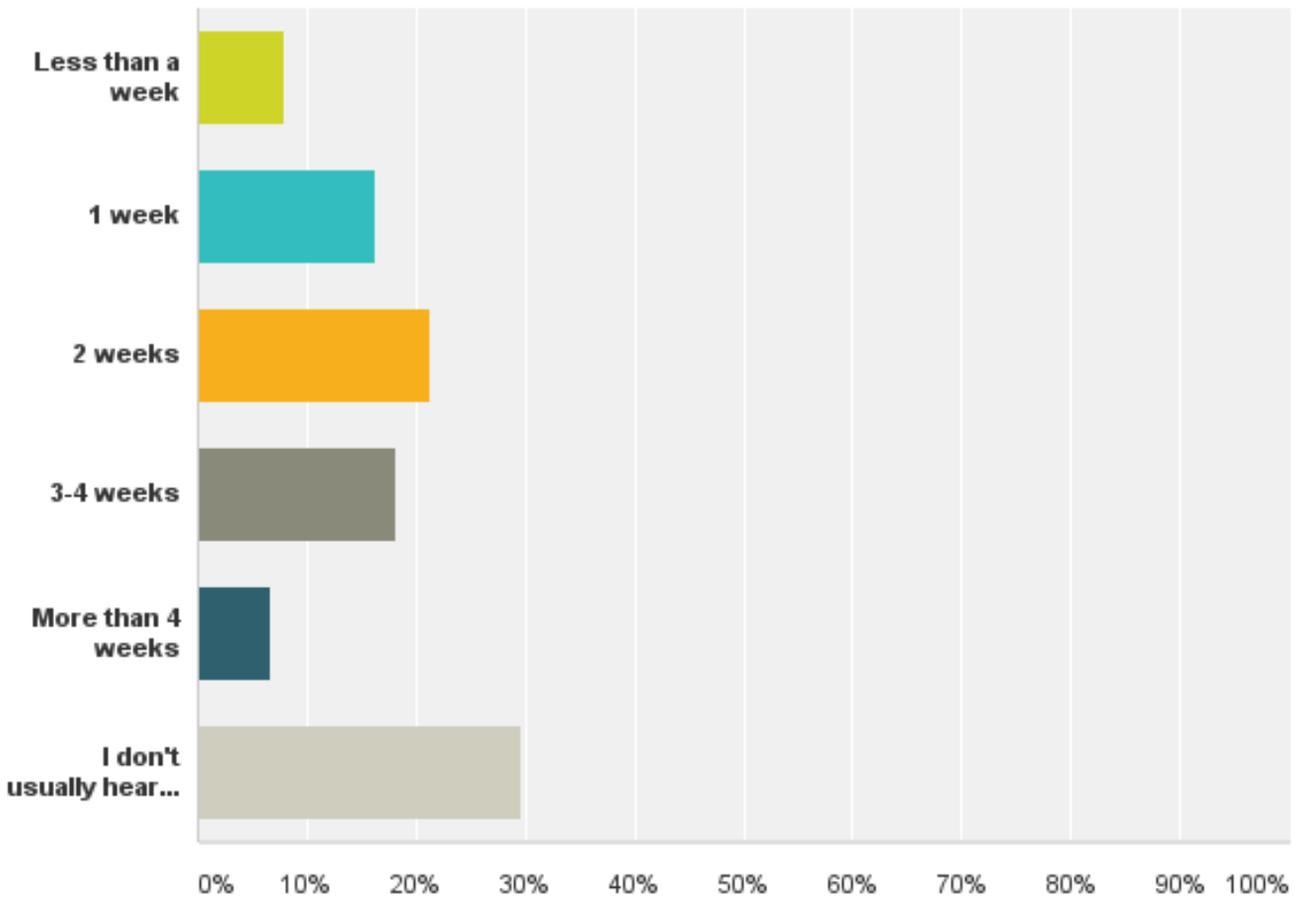
Twelve individuals provided “other” responses including: former employee Westinghouse Hanford Co., public health professional, former workers, citizen, concerned taxpayer, who honestly cares, local government-2, county government, PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), and private consultant.

Q4- How far in advance are you usually notified about an upcoming Hanford Public involvement activity? Answered: 165 Skipped: 2



The agencies actively use the web and social media to inform the public.

Q5- How far in advance would you like to be notified about an upcoming Hanford Public involvement activity? Answered: 164 Skipped: 3

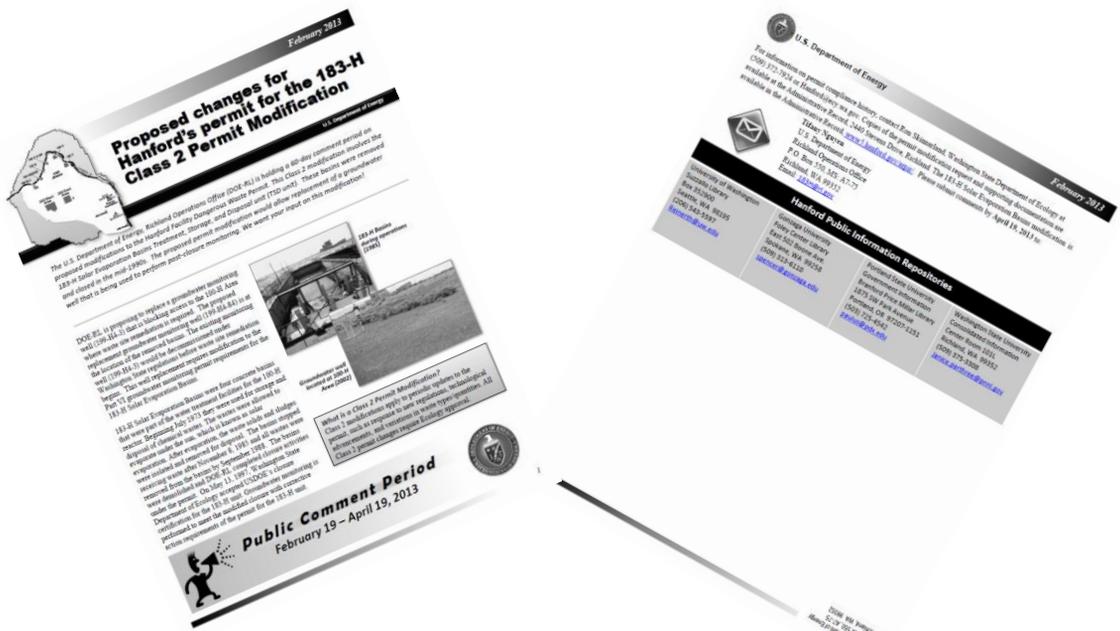
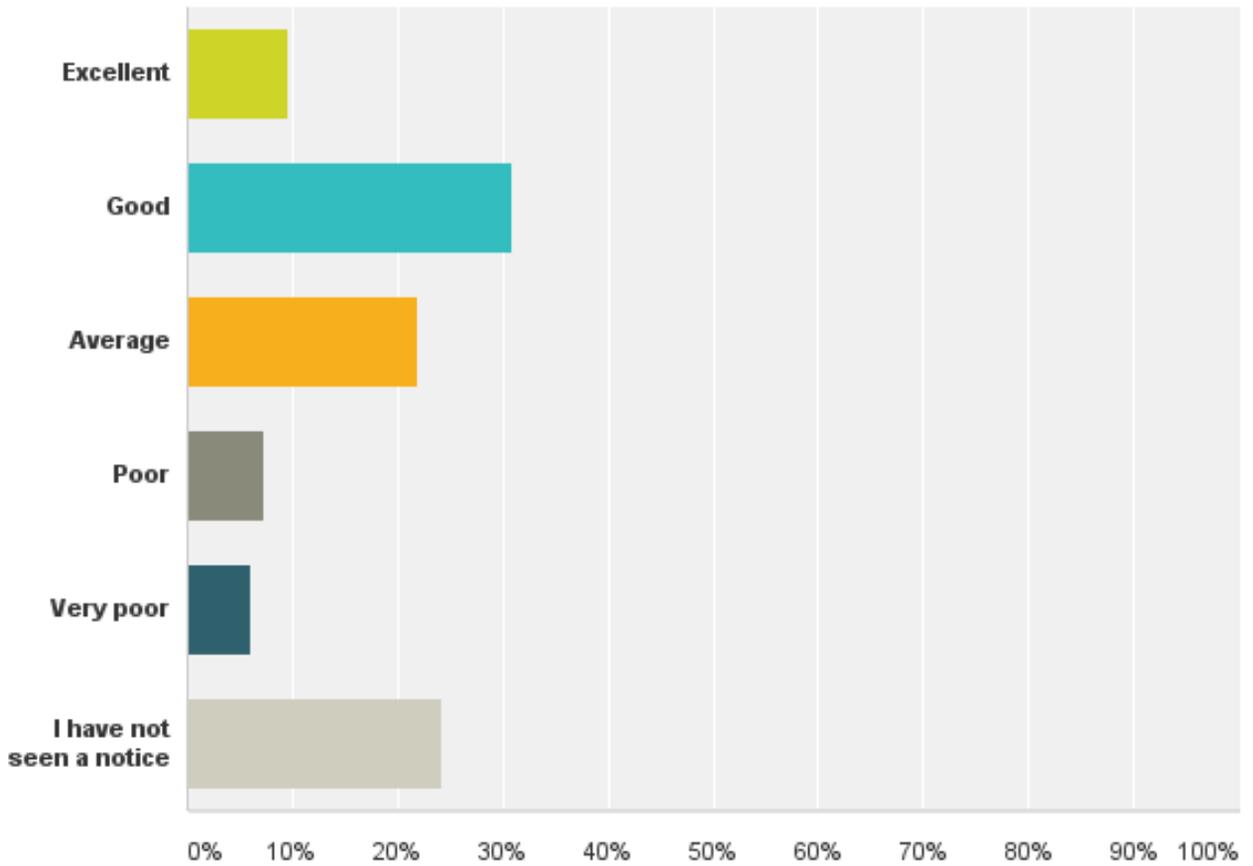


Over the years, we've encouraged people to move from physical mailings to email lists. This saves resources and taxpayer dollars.

The below table shows the numbers on the various email and postal mailing lists as well as the number of people who follow us on social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

	Email	Postal mail			Social media followers			
Date	Hanford email list	Postal full (some mailings)	Highly Interested (all mailings)	Facility list	Ecology Facebook	Ecology Twitter	Richland DOE Facebook	DOE River Protection Project Facebook
4/1/14	1278	1987	740	3265	315	181	1098	420
One year ago								
4/1/13	1114	2072	775	3186	196	N/A	811	366

**Q6- Please rate the quality of notices you have received from TPA agencies.
 Answered: 165 Skipped: 2**

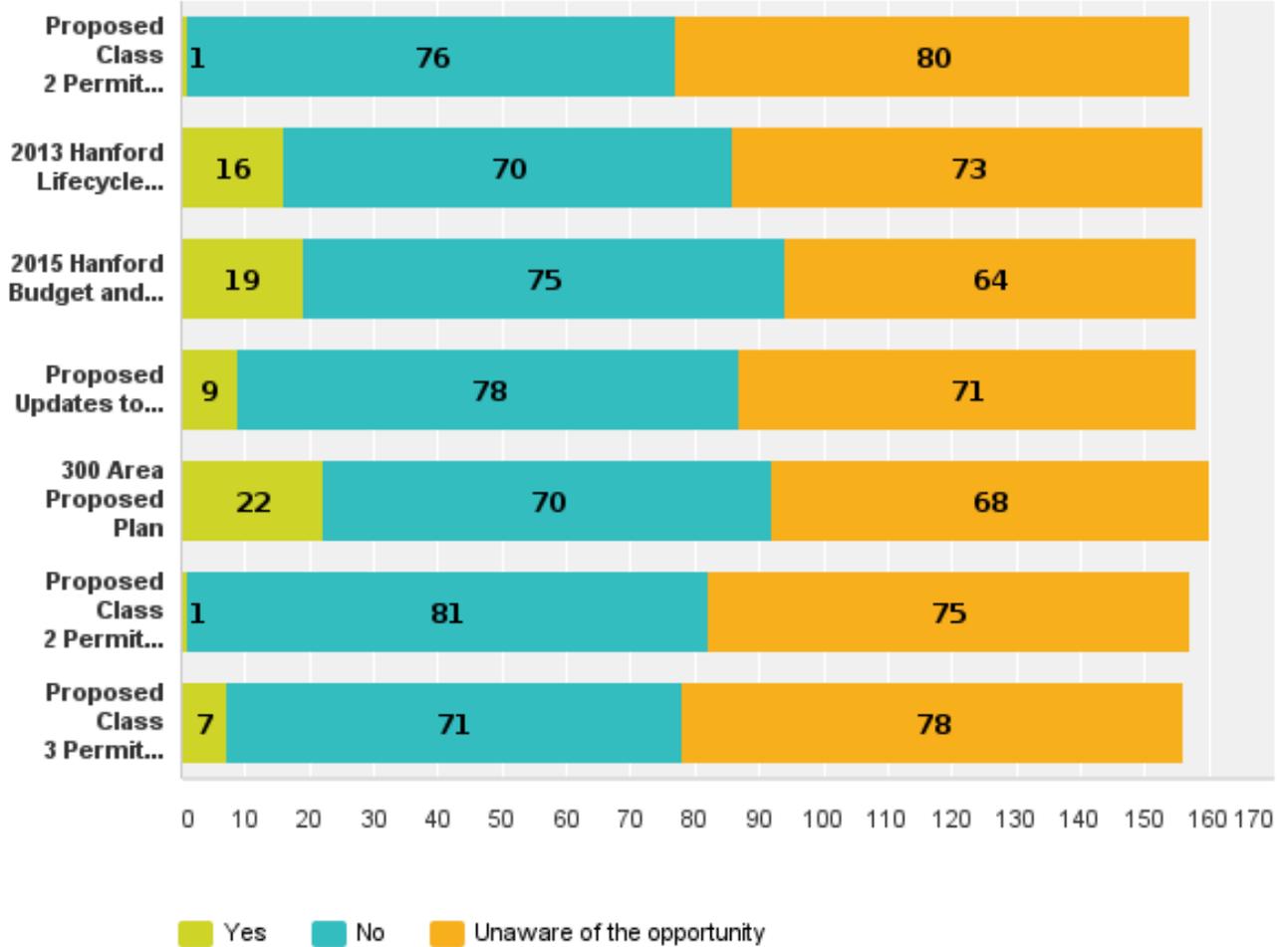


Images of the physical mailer for the 183-H Class 2 Permit Modification.

Q7- Did you comment on any of these Hanford-related topics in 2013?

Answered: 165

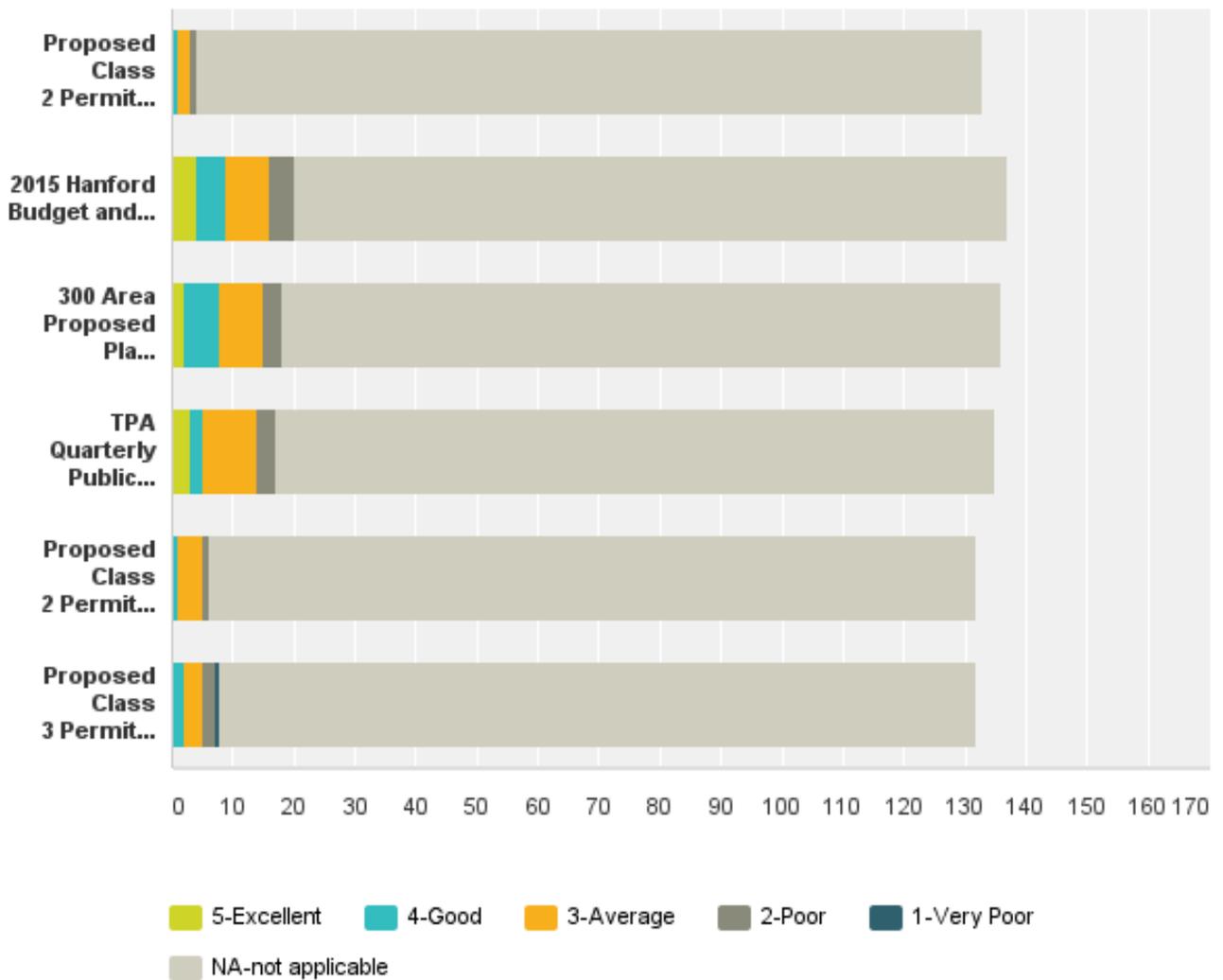
Skipped: 2



Q8- Please select and rate the public involvement activities you attended in 2013?

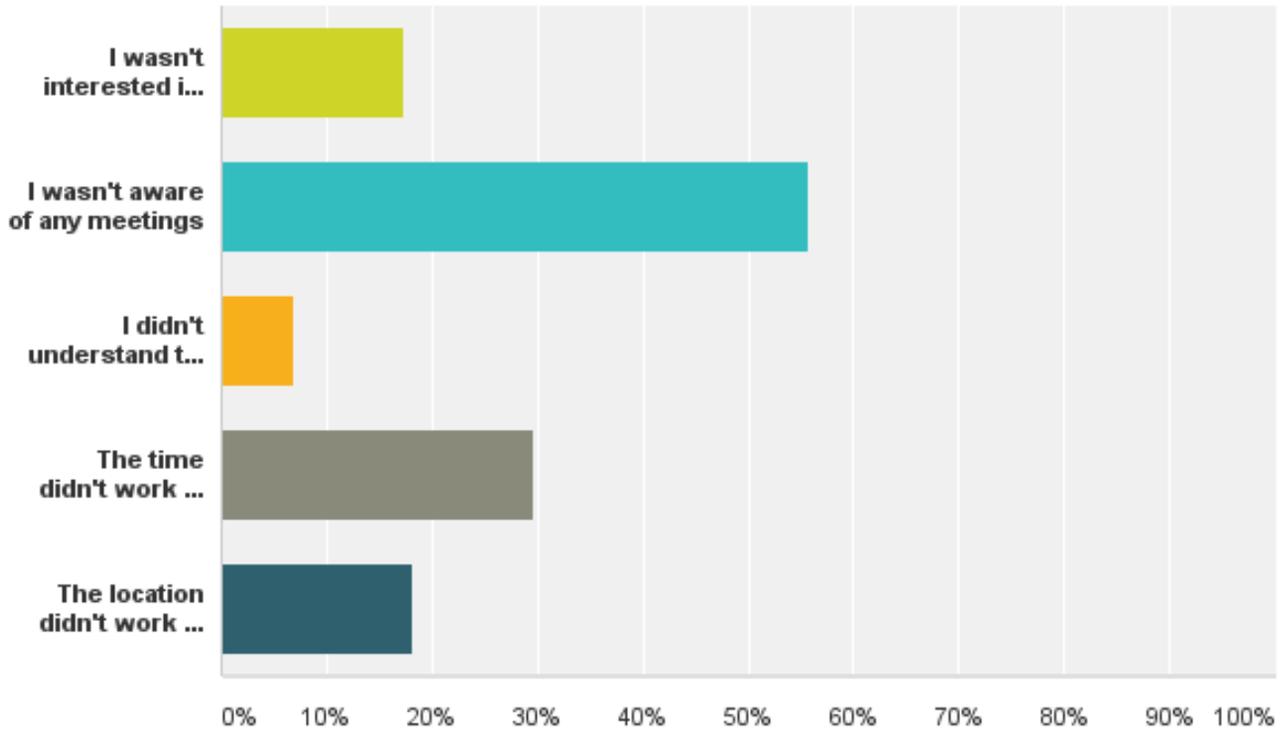
Answered: 140

Skipped: 27



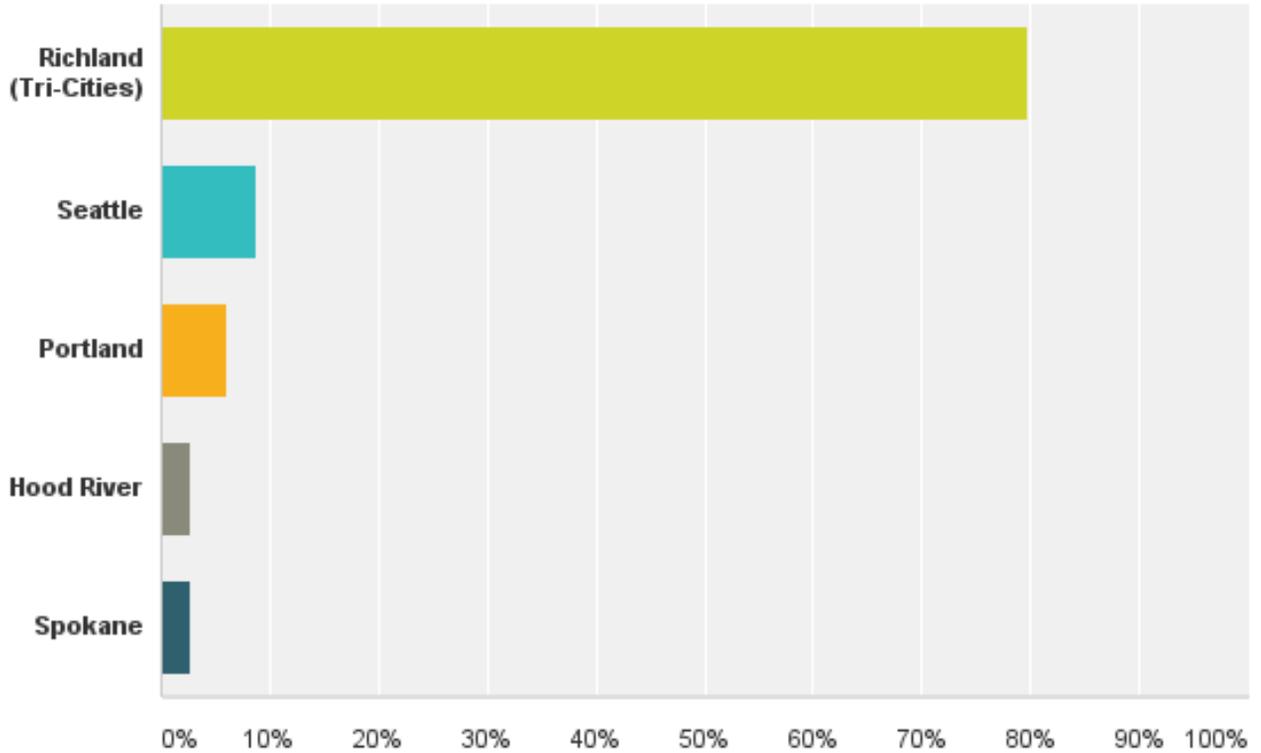
	5-Excellent	4-Good	3-Average	2-Poor	1-Very Poor	NA-not applicable	Total
Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins (March)	0.00% 0	0.75% 1	1.50% 2	0.75% 1	0.00% 0	96.99% 129	133
2015 Hanford Budget and Cleanup Priorities public meeting & webinar (May)	2.92% 4	3.65% 5	5.11% 7	2.92% 4	0.00% 0	85.40% 117	137
300 Area Proposed Plan public meetings & webinar (July/August)	1.47% 2	4.41% 6	5.15% 7	2.21% 3	0.00% 0	86.76% 118	136
TPA Quarterly Public Involvement Planning meetings (February/June/September)	2.22% 3	1.48% 2	6.67% 9	2.22% 3	0.00% 0	87.41% 118	135
Proposed Class 2 Permit Modification to the 242-A Evaporator public meeting (October)	0.00% 0	0.76% 1	3.03% 4	0.76% 1	0.00% 0	95.45% 126	132
Proposed Class 3 Permit Modification to the Low-Level Burial Grounds Trenches 31, 34, & 91; the Central Waste Complex and Waste Receiving and Processing Facility; and T-Plant Complex public meeting (December)	0.00% 0	1.52% 2	2.27% 3	1.52% 2	0.76% 1	93.94% 124	132

Q9- If you did not attend a Hanford-related meeting in 2013, please tell us why. (Select all that apply.) Answered: 115 Skipped: 52



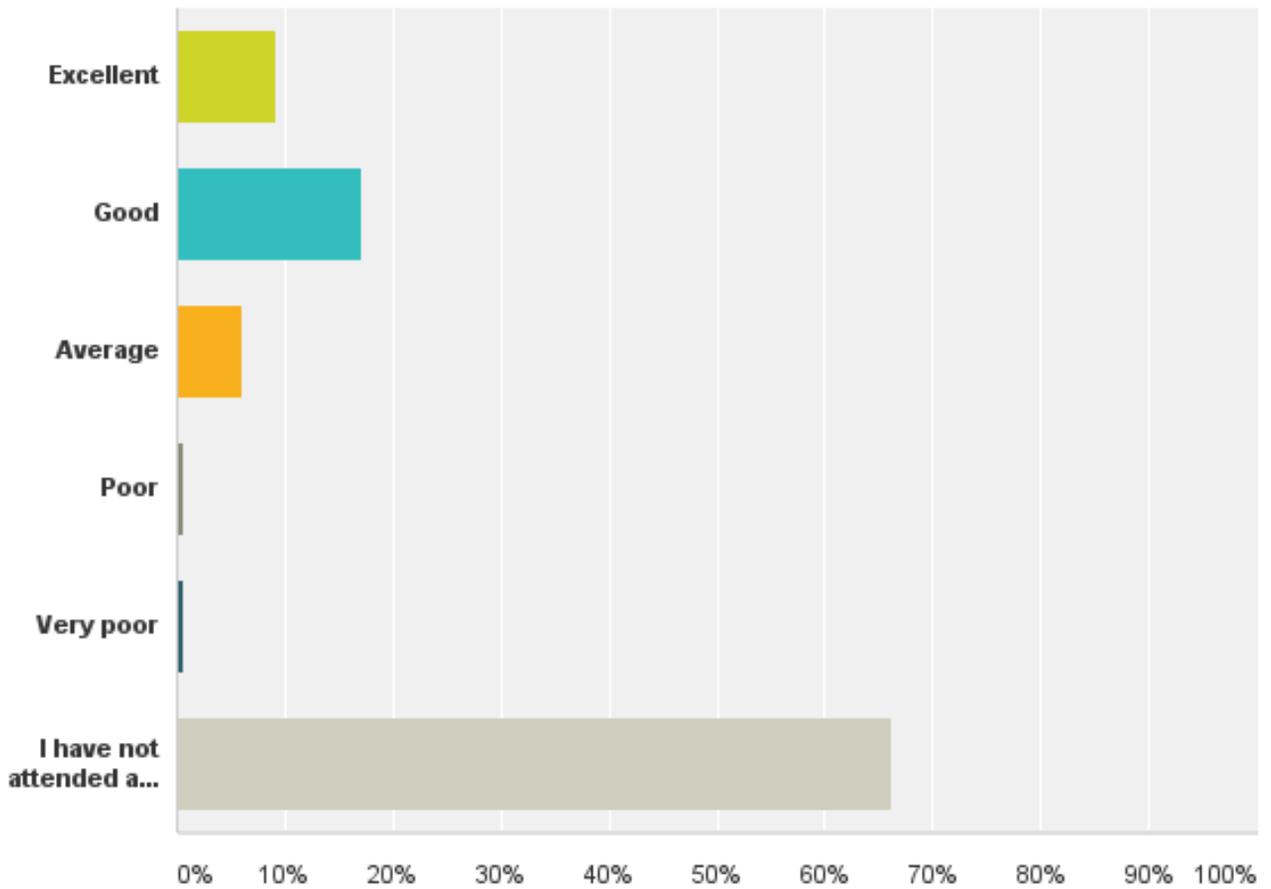
#	Other (please specify)
1	None offered in Spokane, Washington
2	none in spokane area
3	I want to re-post information about slow progress on social media
4	Based on past Tribal health research with the CDC we are monitoring the cleanup efforts
5	A public meeting is not a good venue for me.
6	Didn't need the information
7	I attended those of interest to me
8	I did not have input on the subject and can still learn about the results of the meeting if I don't attend.
9	Priorities on my time
10	Did not have a strong opinion on the topic
11	Too busy with other work activities
12	Meetings don't seem necessary
13	sometimes it may not be in my level of expertise or I've already attended something similar
14	I attended other Hanford meetings, just not the ones listed
15	Just arrived in the area.

Q10- In which city are you most likely to attend a public meeting/workshop?
Answered: 148 Skipped: 19



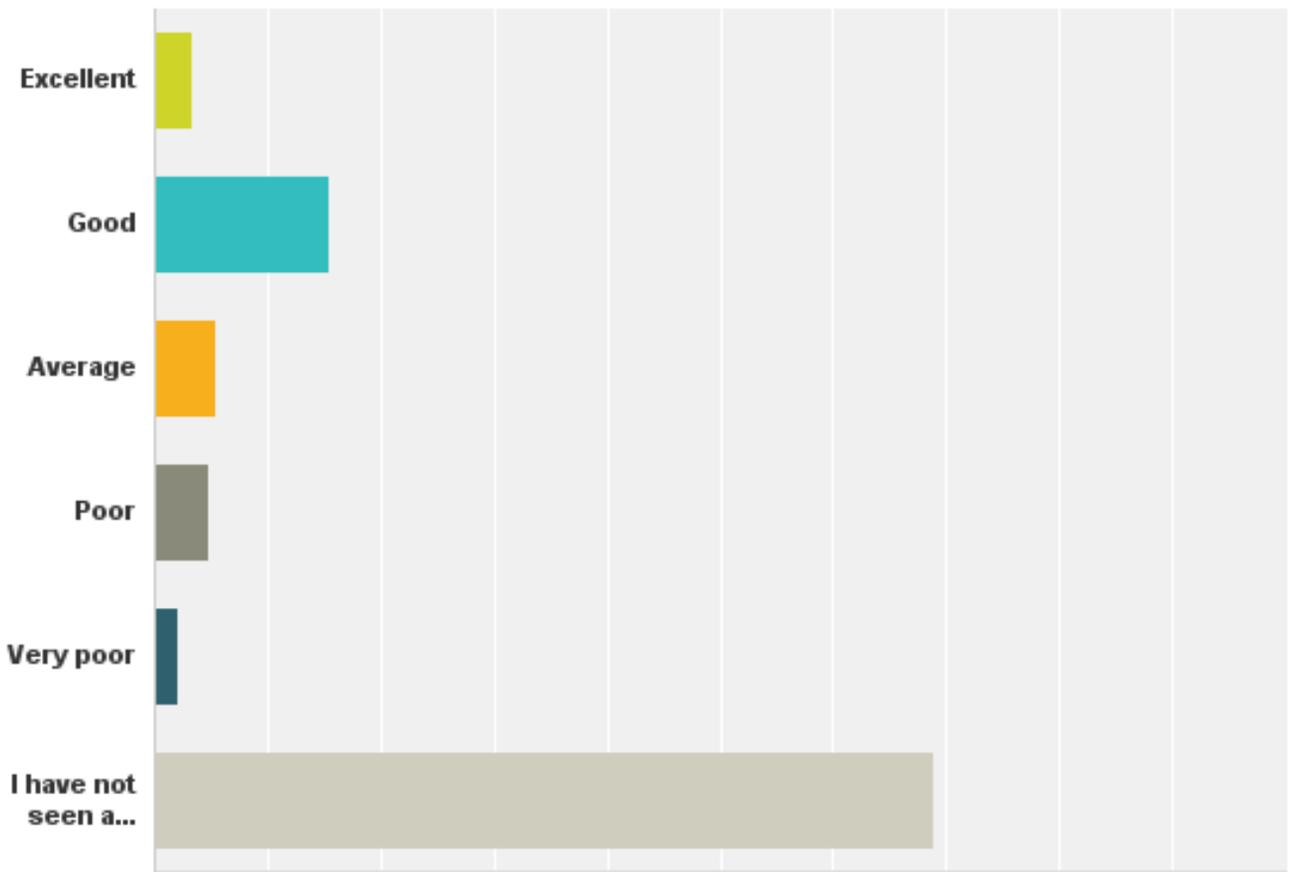
#	Other (please specify)
1	Walla Walla
2	Portland would be best, but don't want to attend meeting
3	Kennewick
4	Yakima
5	multiple locations
6	Olympia
7	Yakima

Q11- How would you rate the locations of the public meetings/workshops you attended? (For example, library, hotel, etc.) Answered: 151 Skipped: 16



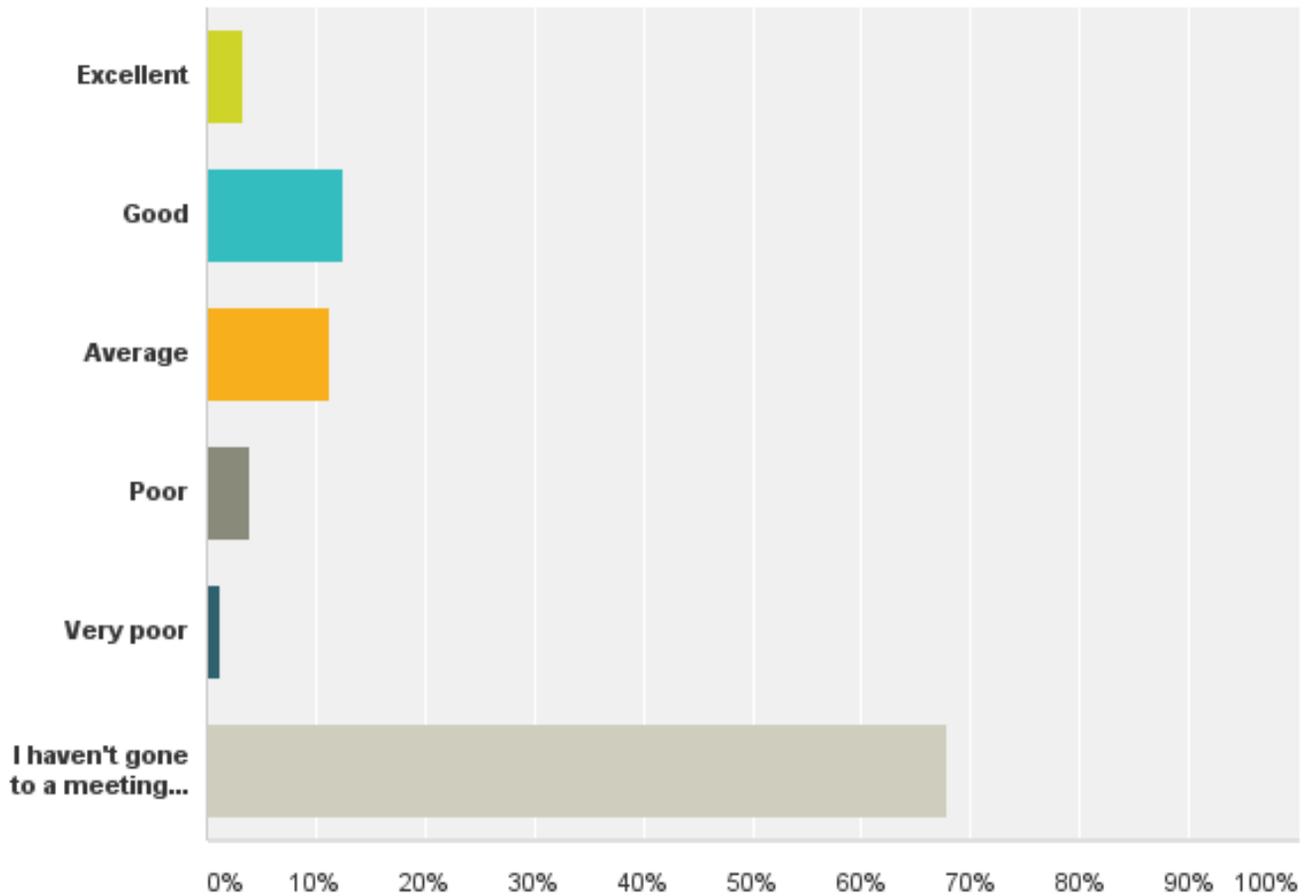
#	Why did you like/dislike the location?
1	Seattle Center works best - easy bus access.
2	hotel was ok - mtg in Portland May 2012
3	n/a
4	I prefer the library.
5	Location and amenities
6	Hotel on Hayden Island was better than conference center on MLK
7	Sound was not good enough for older people
8	Richland Public Library is a perfect location.

Q12- How would you rate the TPA agencies' presentations at the public meetings/workshops you attended? Answered: 148 Skipped: 19



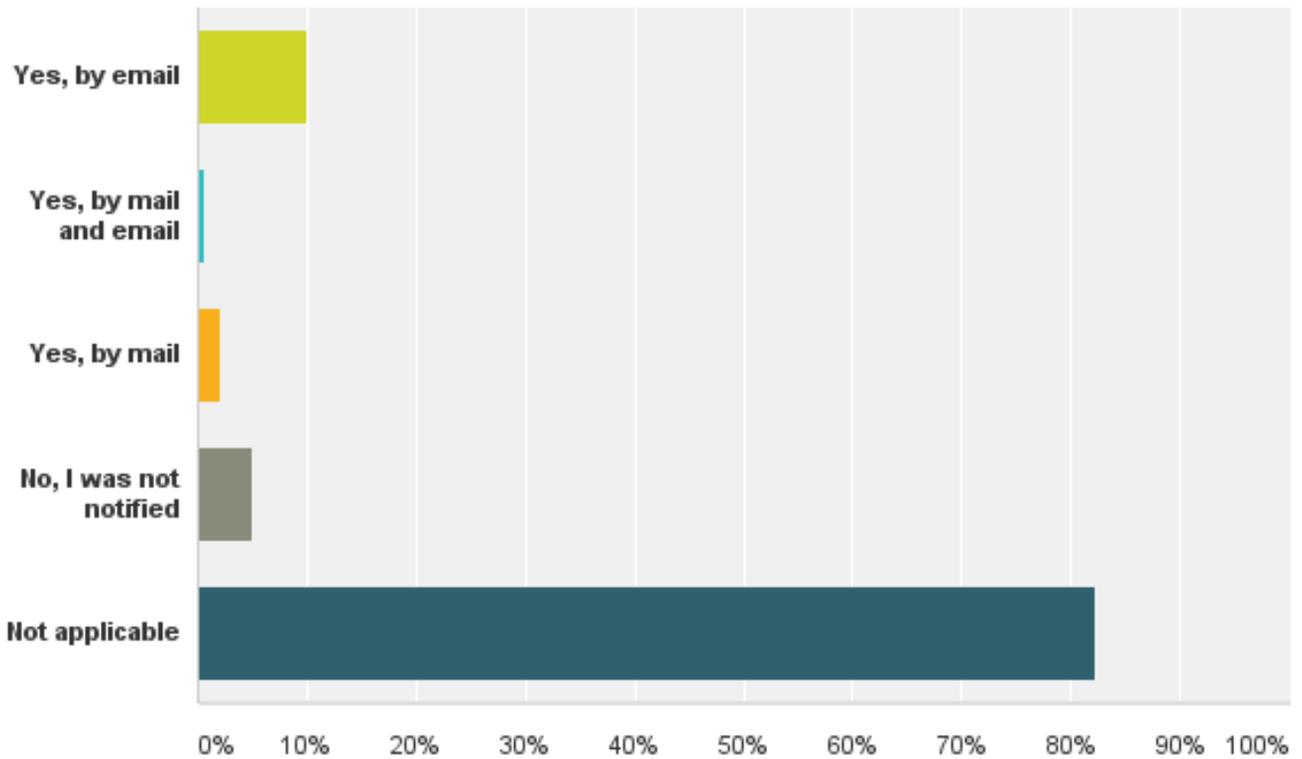
#	Any specific comments?
1	Everything you present is isolated from everything else. No overview,
2	There is much specialized information; I liked the willingness of the presenter to field questions.
3	It's noticeable that DOE has watered down their presentations
4	have only reviewed presentations online
5	One person said the plan was to store waste in glass containers... This is a horrible statement considering the public is so uninformed about nuclear waste issues in the first place.
6	Too technical; too many details that aren't needed
7	The 300 Area presentation was long and gave a very narrow view of DOE's options in dealing with the uranium and other waste problems at the site. The audience prompted a good and spirited discussion, but DOE's own presentation failed to acknowledge the full range of alternatives available to the agency.
8	Same old dog and pony show without actually doing what is necessary. Fix the problem
9	I called in to a meeting.
10	Info around class 3 mod comment process was very confusing.

Q13- How would you rate the dialogue between the public and TPA agency representatives at public meetings/workshops? Answered: 152 Skipped: 15



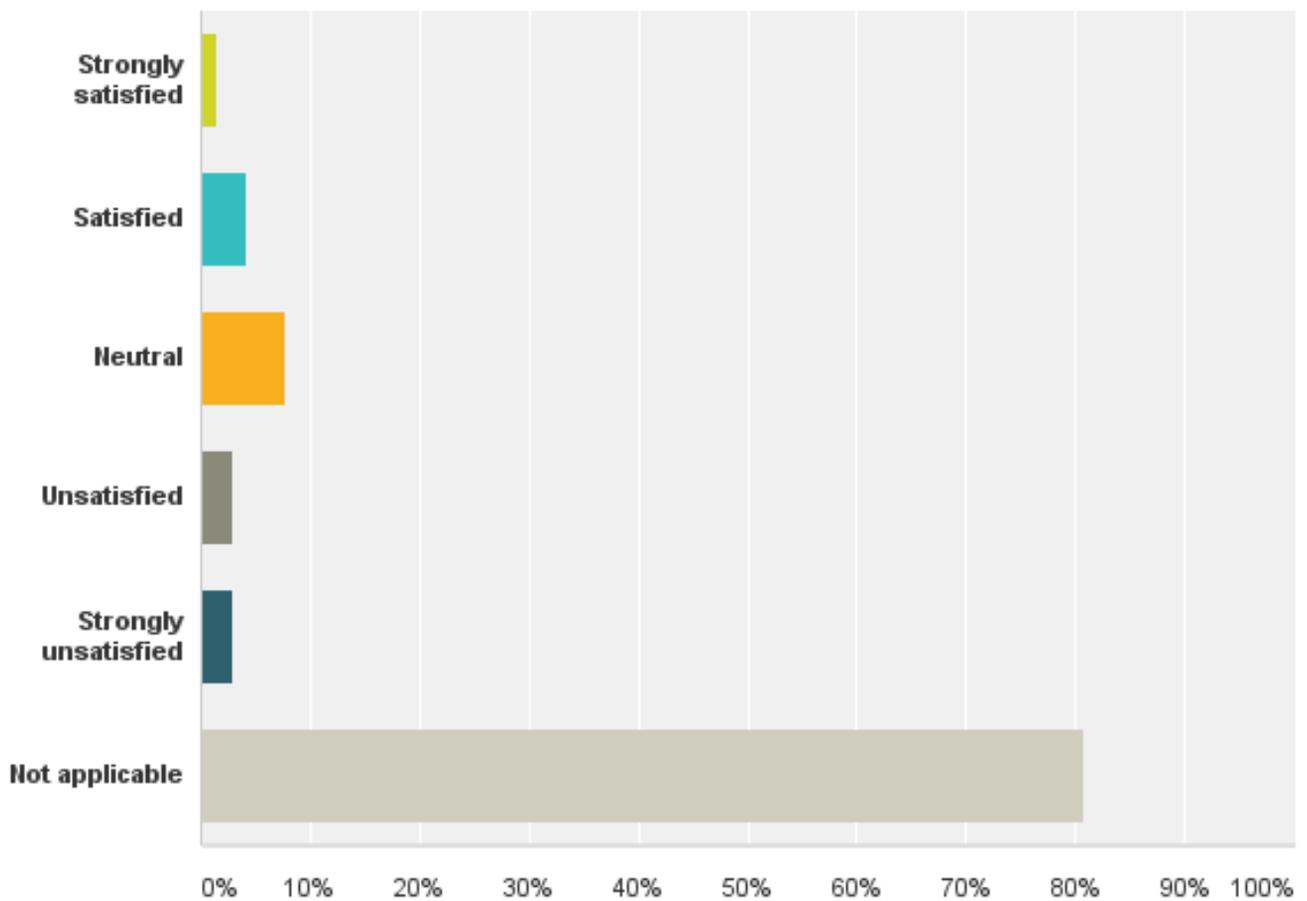
#	Any specific comments?
1	I wonder if anyone listens.
2	It is wonderful education for young professionals.
3	Based on reading transcripts
4	Audience doesn't feel listened to; ask inappropriate questions; and TPA seems not to want to deal with the frustration.
5	Using the 300 Area example, DOE clearly has its mind made up before holding hearings. While the dialogue is good and informative, the agency is clearly not prone to changing course in a meaningful way, despite overwhelming public sentiment and concern. I appreciate the candor of agency representatives during the discussions, but I am unconvinced that public input has any meaningful impact on DOE's cleanup decisions.
6	The teleconference experience was excellent.
7	When the public asked questions, generally the answers were helpful.

Q14- If you provided public comment and your contact information, were you notified when responses to comments were available? Answered: 141 Skipped:26



Hanford Education & Outreach Facebook page focuses on general Hanford-related information.

Q15- If you provided public comment(s), how satisfied were you with the response(s)? Answered: 141 Skipped: 26

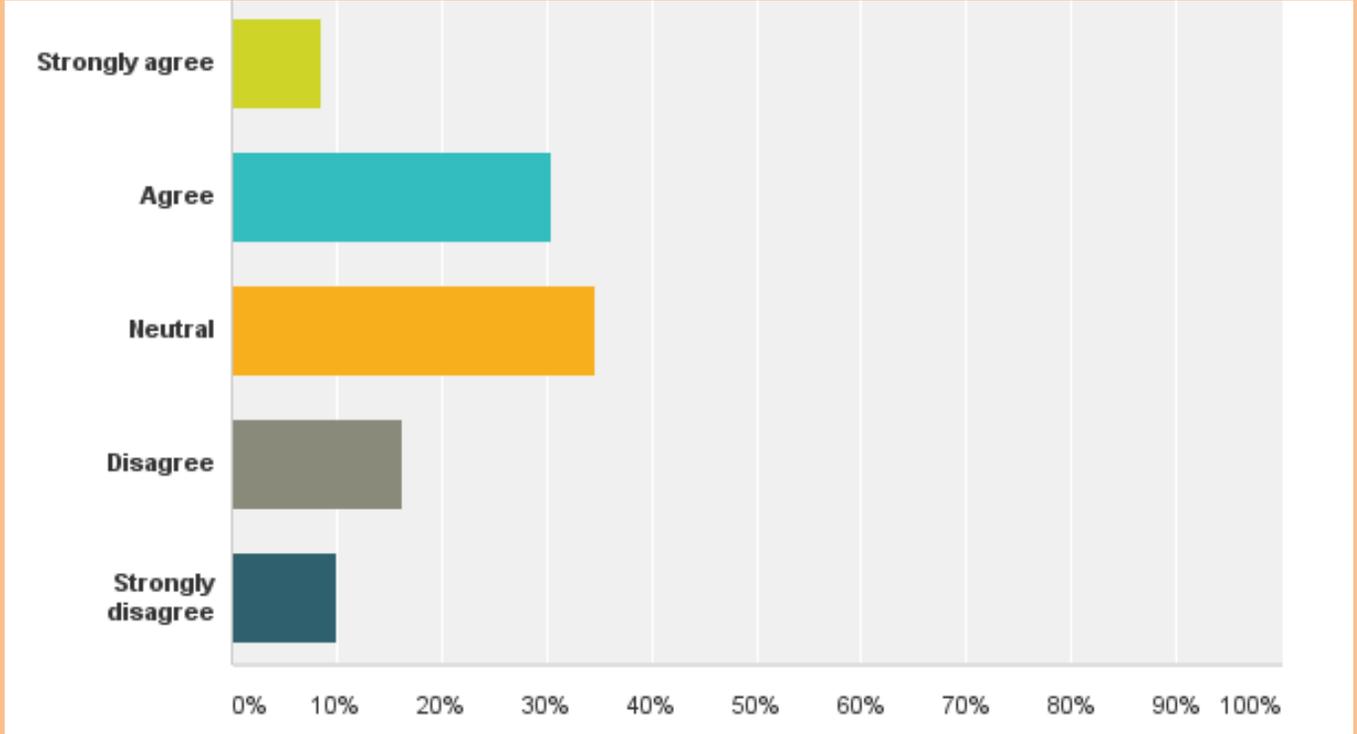


#	Any specific comments?
1	I didn't know there was a reply.
2	Whole process suffers from "too much detail and information." We are citizens, not nuclear scientists.
3	I am not aware that responses to my comments were posted anywhere.
4	Comments on the Lifecycle Report were pretty much ignored
5	I want HAB comments to be answered separately, not lumped in with response to comment public comments.
6	Dismal. Q 14 not well written since there have been comment periods for which no response was received and others for which responses in summary form were received.

Q16- How would you answer the following statement: "I believe that the TPA agencies are interested in my input and participation in Hanford cleanup decisions."

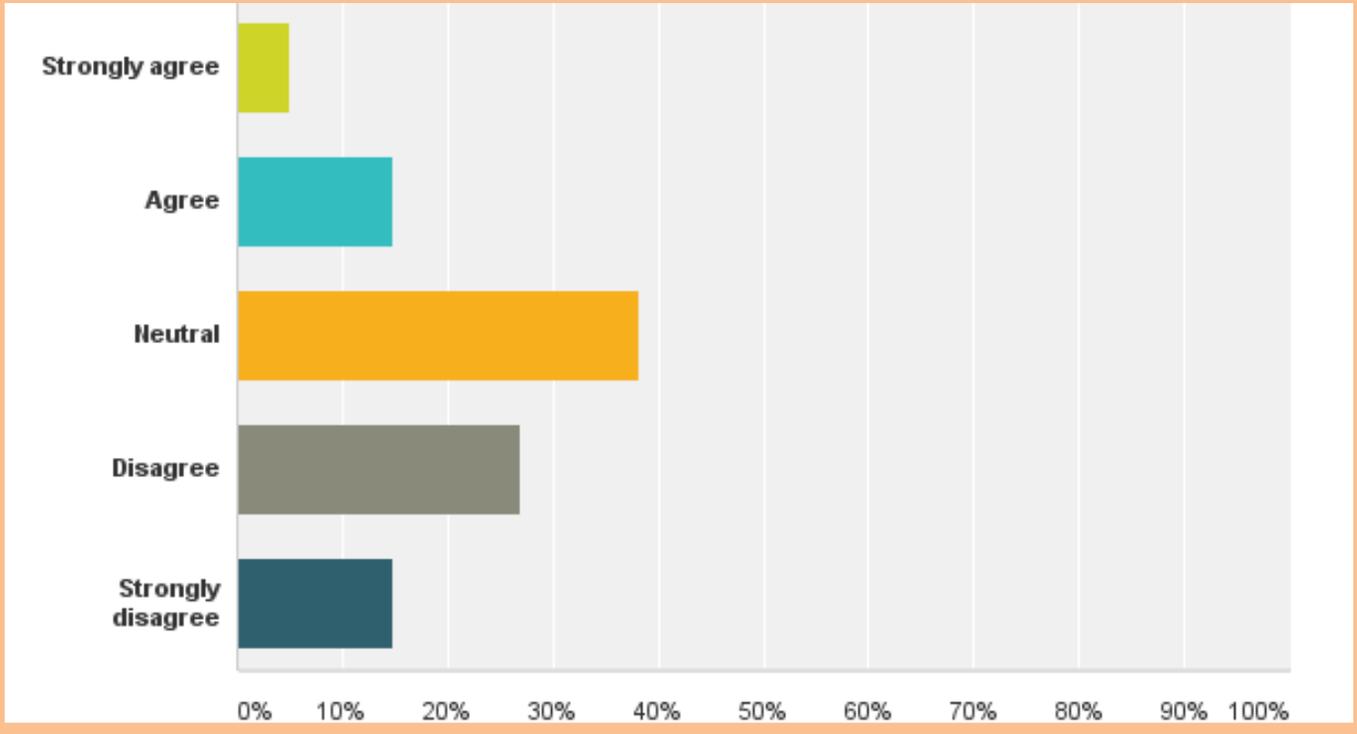
Answered: 141

Skipped: 26



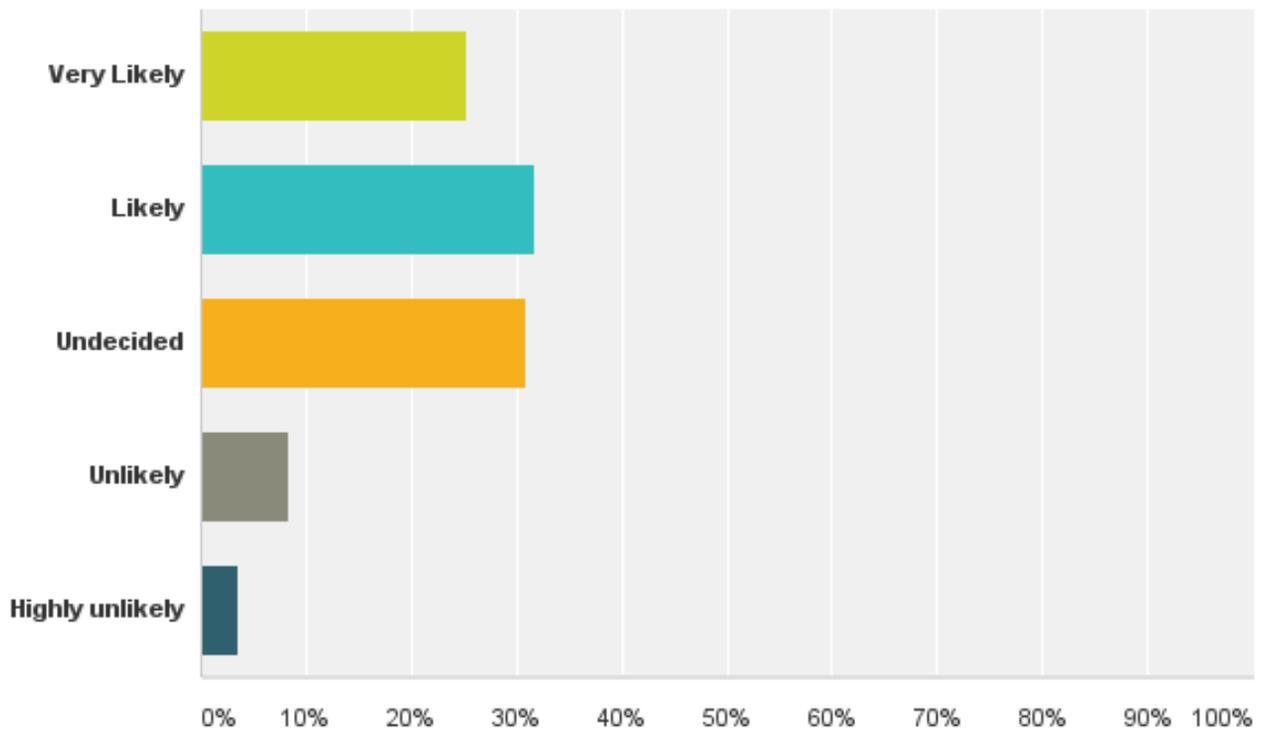
Q17- How would you answer the following statement: "I believe my input helps influence Hanford cleanup decisions."

Answered: 141 Skipped: 26



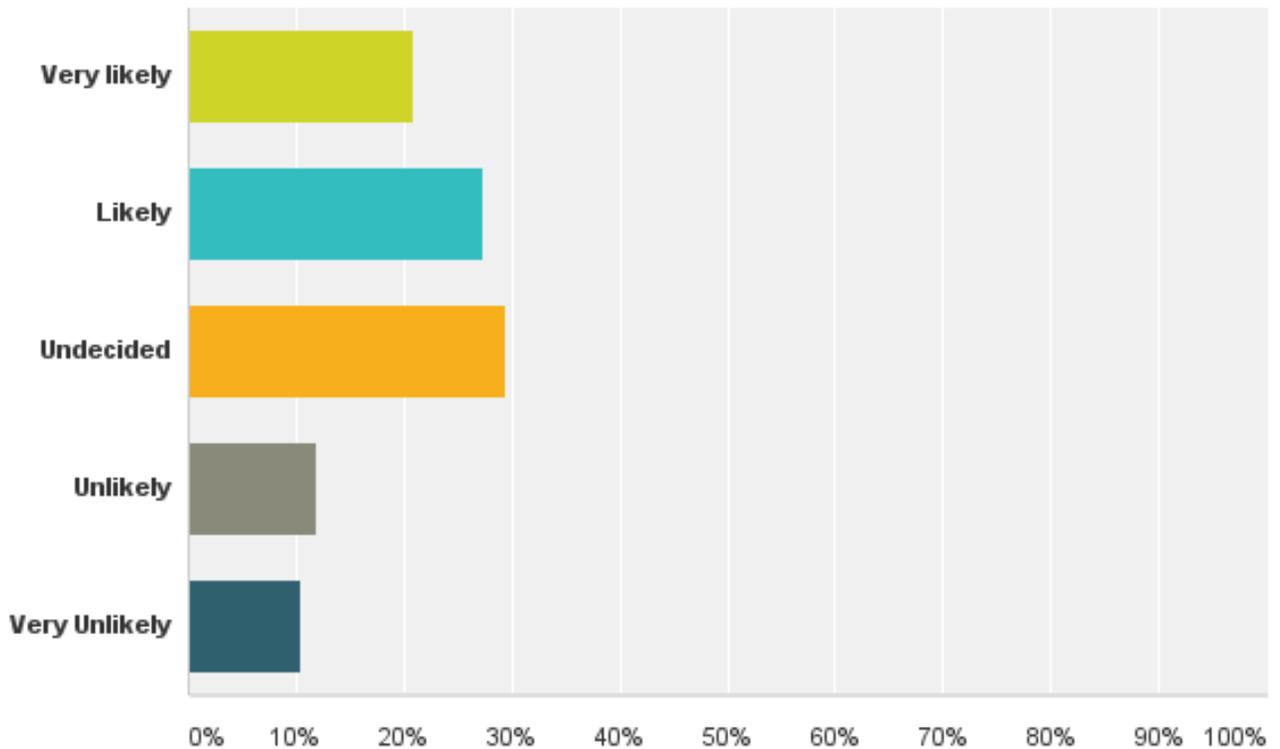
Q18- Will you participate in future activities on Hanford topics?

Answered: 142 Skipped: 25



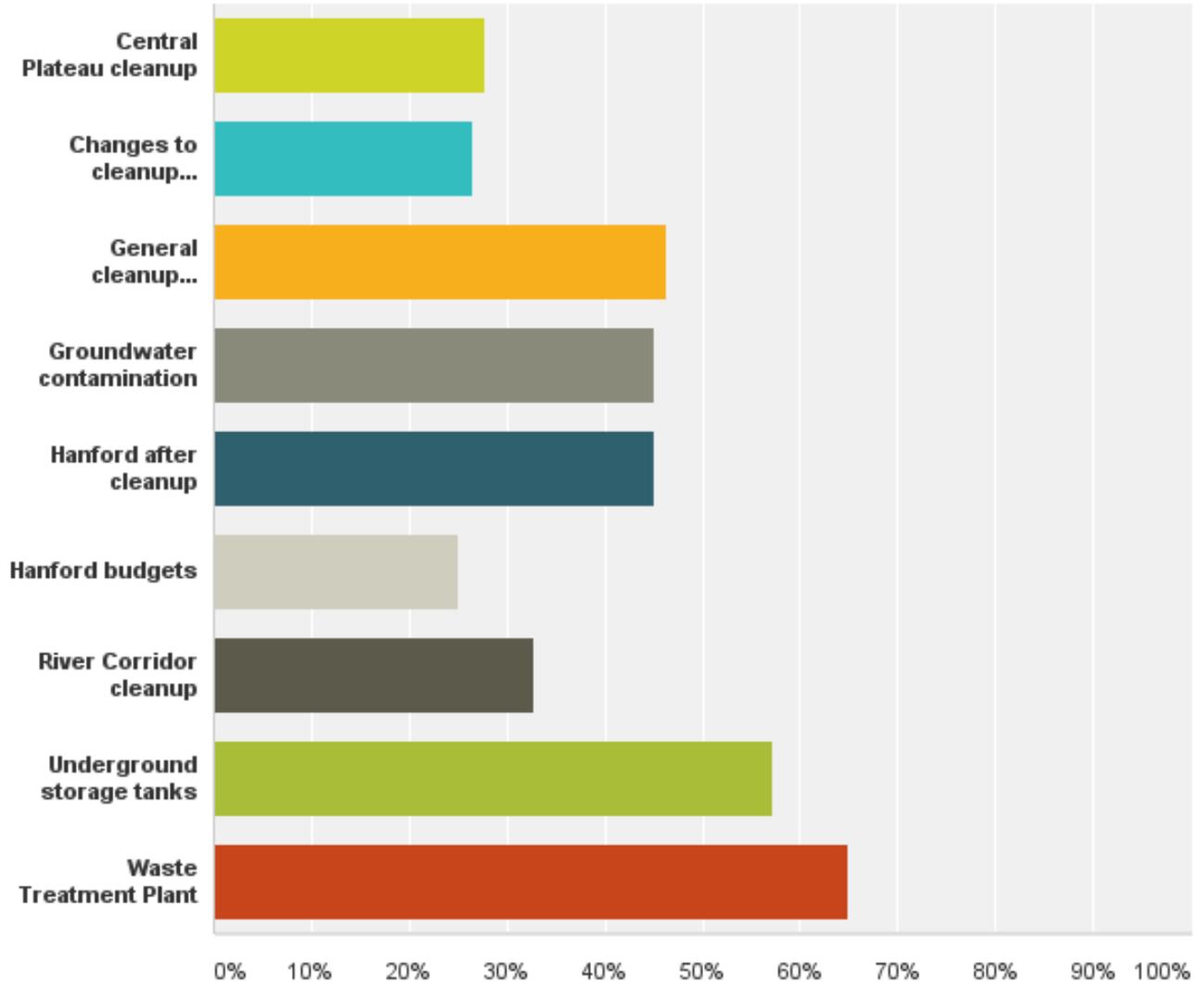
Q19- Would you participate in a webinar on Hanford topics?

Answered: 143 Skipped: 24



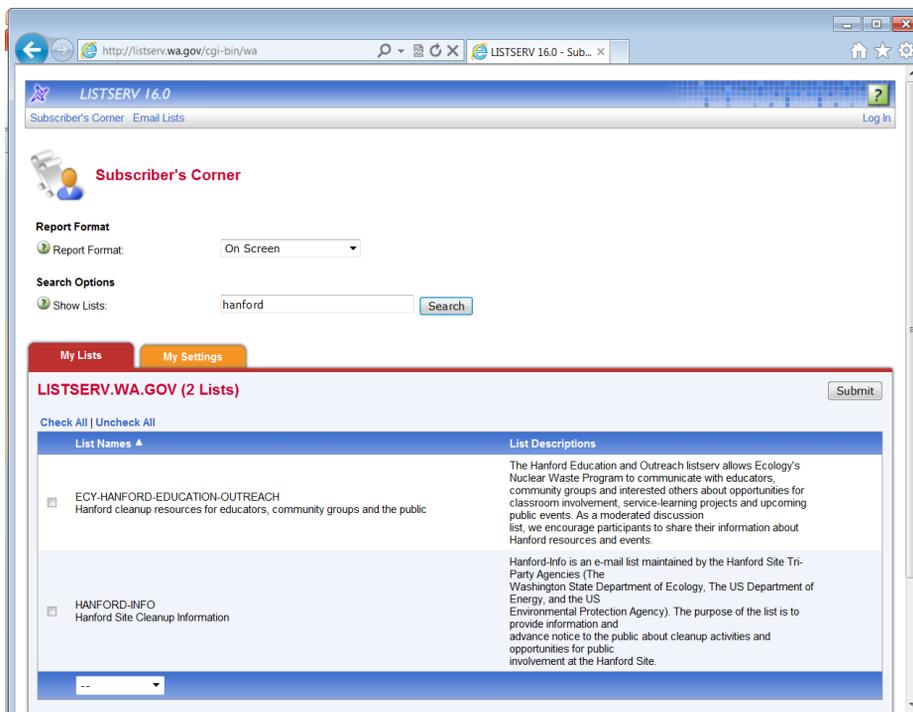
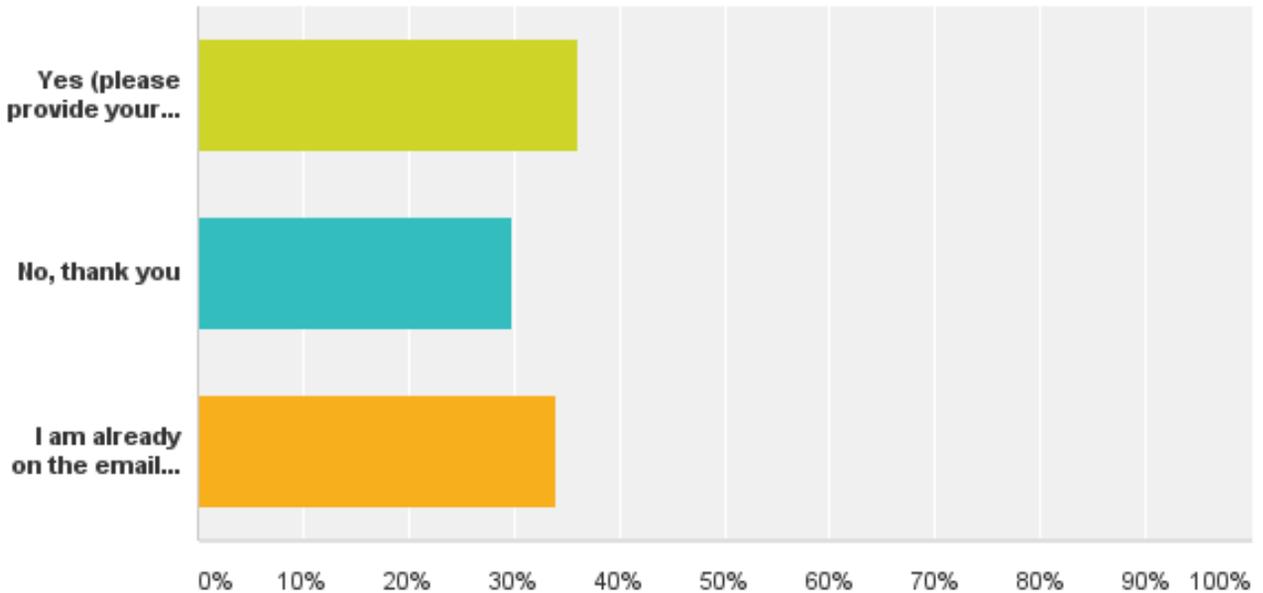
#	Any specific comments?
1	Just send out press releases (and include comments by critics of the slowness of the project)
2	Need some form of automatic notice subscription for when responses to comments are posted.
3	little will be accomplished, even with the hard work of the TPA until congress provides adequate funding
4	Since I work on a Hanford project, I receive constant news about Hanford topics during the work week
5	Can't do it on work time
6	Strongly depends on the topic
7	With Managements Approval
8	A webinar is very helpful, but it is no replacement for in-person meetings, particularly on complicated and important River Corridor cleanup decisions.
9	webinars explaining topics are very helpful!

Q20- Which Hanford topic would you most want to discuss or learn about in a public forum? (Please select top 3) Answered: 140 Skipped: 27



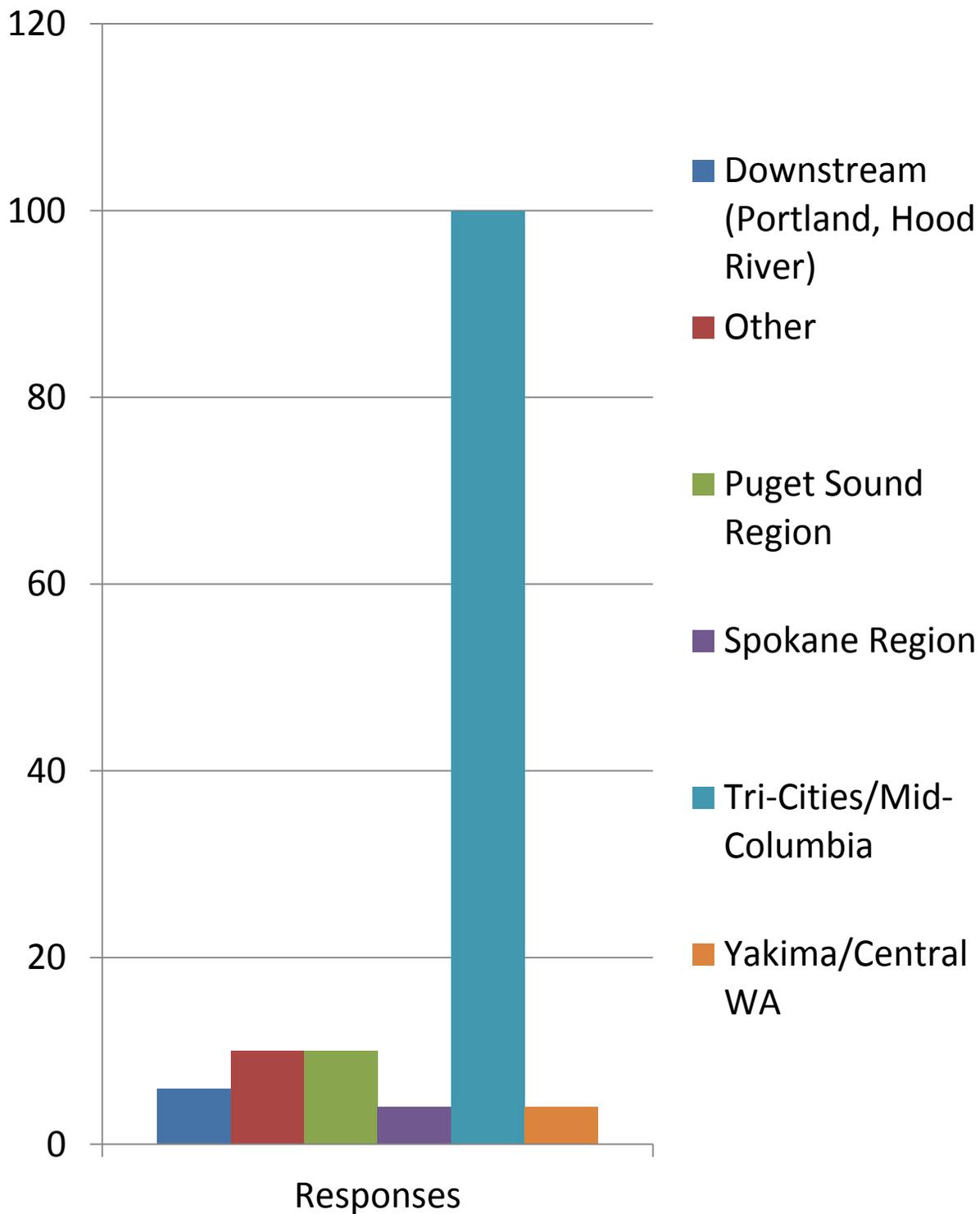
#	Other (please specify)
1	I am interested in how everything interconnects - like storage of the reactors from Bremerton.
2	Anything that is likely to affect contamination of groundwater and its proximity to Columbia River.
3	Future expansion of Nuclear Power Generation
4	future of resoures like HAMMER
5	Building more tanks
6	Tank leaks and why USDOE is not emptying tanks! Burial grounds; solid waste storage
7	whistle blowers /
8	Poisoning of Columbia Rvr must stop NOW!

Q19- Would you like to join the TPA agency email list to receive information about Hanford? Answered: 141 Skipped: 26



Ecology maintains the Hanford Information listserv for all cleanup related emails. Visit listserv.wa.gov to sign up to receive Hanford related information.

Q23- Where are you located? Answered: 140 Skipped: 27



Q22- Please provide us with any other thoughts on public involvement at Hanford. Thirty-eight respondents provided additional comments.

I want studies to inter-connect. Every study is isolated according to subject as if it doesn't relate to another. This has been going on way too long and the contamination continues. Maybe you have to admit that you can't clean it up.

Because Hanford is of direct import to Eastern Washington, I would hope more outreach to communities outside of the Tri-Cities in Eastern Washington might occur.

Why meet in Seattle? they are not downriver or downwind. Why not Spokane even though it is not convenient for Jerry.

The US Department of Energy should be more open to public participation in decisions about Hanford. They do not seem interested in any outside input and can't run a simple hearing with telephone comments for distant participants. Not very high tech, are they? That's a scary thought. The Washington Department of Ecology, in contrast, are very receptive and interested in public comments -- at least they seem to be hearing us. Thanks.

The Hanford cleanup is a public problem that is handled by a private company. Let's face it: progress has been slow, although it must be admitted that the task is huge. We need a steady stream of information in non-technical language, without focusing on details, about the clean up. On a scale of one to ten, "how clean is it?" Is the company doing a good job, or is this another example of government outsourcing something to a private company whose performance leaves room for improvement?

I think it is very important that we be aware of the progress of the cleanup and what are the future plans.

The Heart of America (Jerry Pollet) is uninformed and does not understand the WAC requirements and spouts off incorrect comments during the public comment periods and no one from Ecology corrects him during his rants. This goes for the HAB as well.

The agencies come to the public with their mind already made up, and when nothing the public has to say has any reasonable chance to make any difference at all. More and worse, DOE isn't doing a cleanup. It is more of a over up, as in kick some dirt over the top and runaway.

The public involvement plan says permit changes are posted online. Please make sure that no exceptions are granted to this commitment. Please establish a way for the public to subscribe to get automatic notices every time responses to comments are published. Please require that the responses are tied to available reports and objective data. Please ensure that all design reviews for the Waste Treatment Plant are completed promptly as final reports and made available to the public.

1. A large portion of public involvement attempts relate to technical information about which the general public is not well enough informed to make a comment. For example, waste permit changes.
2. 2. When comments are received from someone knowledgeable, they seem to be treated as just another required step in a predetermined process. Recent public input concerning a proposed plan apparently had no impact on the subsequent record-of-decision....or at least, if there was impact, it was not clearly revealed to the public!

I would appreciate knowing more about CURRENT UP TO DATE CHALLENGES the site is facing and the alternatives toward addressing/resolving them---recognizing that most often a decision on resolution has not yet been made. But keeping current is important

Little will be accomplished at this disastrous site until congress provides adequate funding.

Do not cater to Hanford Advisory Board

Would be more likely to comment via online survey

I believe the public comments are more heavily influenced by those who feel DOE is not doing a good job managing the clean-up. Personally I think they are doing pretty well in a very challenging budget environment. I also think that EPA and Ecology are maintaining the right focus. It would probably be good for me to attend public meetings and speak up.

I believe the public is largely unaware of Hanford topics, whether they focus on challenges or success. Information is either doled-out from the perspective of one newspaper reporter with her own agenda (e.g., news about a whistleblower regurgitated in 35 articles), or it is brought forth on a political agenda by our elected officials. The public does not receive worthy information through the media regarding progress at Hanford. As such, there is a lot of ignorance shown both locally and outside of the Hanford area. The TPA could show wisdom by applying more pressure on traditional media outlets to tell the real story and convey sound information about Hanford.

I work at the VIT Plant

I strongly believe that the ones who are affected by TPA activities should have a strong voice. Those that are not affected, their input should be limited. For example, those downstream of Hanford on the Columbia River should have a voice. This does include Portland. Those that are not affected, i.e., Seattle, Idaho, Montana, etc. should have a much lesser voice. I also believe that many who participate in the public involvement process have personal agendas, including the news media. We need to focus more on the issues from a technical perspective and not an emotional perspective. The public deserves factual information that is not slanted by any one of the parties or the news media. I also believe that information from DOE should be totally transparent without the effects of political scrutiny. I am a nuclear engineer and understand the potential disastrous effects that must be addressed in a timely manner. We should be working on the issues that can have the most negative impact to the people near the Columbia River watershed. We spend a lot of money cleaning up things that will have very little impact but can be cleaned up quickly to demonstrate progress that really could have been left until much later.

There was a time when the HAB had an important role. All evidence points to their decline into just another group with no real role or mission.

I sometimes feel that the public has been purposely left out, so that politics being what they are can do as they please with the Federal/states money.

There are too many technical details discussed and the big picture of Hanford cleanup is often missing for the public

Please include more restoration efforts with State fish and Wildlife for former prevalent species. For example, this was just done for Pronghorn Antelope (really)

It would be good to send articles periodically to regional newspapers throughout the NW.

I hope I live long enough to observe total cleanup

The meetings often feel poorly attended, so it's hard to know what a dialogue between public and TPA agencies would feel like. The last meeting I attended at the Richland Public Library on Dec 10, 2013, I was one of 3-4 members of the public and there were about 25 TPA people there. This often feels to be the case--where the agencies far outnumber the members of the public. Turnout has been better in Seattle in some cases, but I would like to see the agencies do a better job at getting people to show up (I know this is the duty of citizen groups as well). It's just hard to feel like public involvement is important when there are only 3-4 members of the public at a meeting designed to inform the public.

It is sometimes difficult to gauge whether or not public comments are truly considered in cleanup decisions. The TPA agencies could do a better job communicating how/when public comment made a difference and why a decision was made that is contrary to large numbers of public expressing a different idea. More openness and transparency - especially when important decisions are being negotiated that could affect major parts of Hanford cleanup.

Responses to comments are too broad and general and lack specifics.

i do think that there's more respect for public unease at the issues evident and that come about during the clean-up activities at/around Hanford site...the USA public has the right to make educated decisions on our health, especially w/ such serious threats to our health(especially the clean-up personnel!)! we ALL can do the right thing!

How have you changed public involvement in response to prior year's inputs? Citizen group materials are far more informative than USDOE or TPA materials.

It would be helpful to have links to info on the issue

WA DOE is wonderful. But I do not feel heard BY THE FEDS, because the Feds haven't kept their 30-40-50-60 yr. old promises re: Hanford cleanup, the leaking tanks haven't been replaced, and RESEARCH DOLLARS are not being allocated to develop PERMANENT DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE. In the meantime, 23? new power plants have been licensed. The Feds just don't want to address the dangers of Nuclear Waste and are ignoring me & the voice of REASON.

I think the regulators are interested in public comment. I don't think DOE is.

It is very difficult to believe that public input has any meaningful impact on Hanford cleanup decisions, given the recent track record of: 1) overwhelming opposition to leaving chemical and radioactive waste in Hanford's soils and groundwater, sometimes very close to the Columbia River; and, 2) the Tri-Party agencies' insistence on proceeding with final decisions that do just that - leave dangerous waste in Hanford's soils and groundwater for generations to come. DOE and other TPA agencies can do better and commit to a more thorough cleanup of the Hanford nuclear site.

Hanford PI events that focus on education and information--small, focused workshops--and predictably scheduled State of the Site meetings are generally very productive. Meetings designed to elicit public testimony are far less effective because of an awkward mix of goals and expectations.

Ecology has done some great public involvement work with websites and social media. More work needs to be done on involving the public and making Hanford issues more intelligible.

Thank you for your interest in the Tri-Party Agreement agencies' public involvement activities.

Please visit us on the web!



Learn more about the [Tri-Party Agreement](#).



Subscribe to the [Hanford-Info email list](#)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on Twitter [@ecyhanford](#)



Learn more about the work of the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) at Hanford.



Visit the [US Dept. of Energy Hanford](#) to get updated info on the cleanup, and find links to Facebook, photos, history and more.