

# Tri-Party Agreement Agencies 2016 Hanford Public Involvement Summary



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



The Tri-Party Agreement sets milestones for cleanup at the Hanford Site. The three parties are the US Dept. of Energy, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Dept. of Ecology.

# History of the Annual Tri-Party Agency Public Involvement Survey



The TPA agencies have conducted a Hanford Public Involvement Survey annually since the early 2000s.

In early years, paper surveys were handed out at winter and spring meetings asking about the prior year. Some years we had fewer than two-dozen responses! Responses were hand written, so even though the response wasn't huge, tallying results was difficult.

We began offering the electronic survey through Survey Monkey in 2012. That year 94 people participated, and response continued to grow until we received 183 responses in 2015. However last year saw a decline to only 92 responses. The survey was available online from January 26, 2017 through March 14.

**TPA Public Involvement Survey 2005**  
Please take a few minutes to answer some questions about our outreach efforts over the last year.

- Are you on any Hanford mailing or email lists?  
 (Small mail) \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_
- How do you generally find out about public meetings?  
 Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ Radio \_\_\_\_\_ Hanford List-serve \_\_\_\_\_ State/other Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you notice ads in the paper about Hanford Public Involvement opportunities?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you think that notices usually provide...  
 Little information \_\_\_\_\_ Enough information \_\_\_\_\_ Too much information \_\_\_\_\_
- Did the notices motivate you to attend a meeting or to contact the Tri-Parties about an issue?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**If you attended any public meeting(s), focus group(s) or other meeting(s) please rate the following - scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the highest):**

- The time, location, and room setup were appropriate.  
 Do you have specific examples to help us understand your rating? 1 2 3 4 5
- The written materials provided at the meeting(s) were informative and easy to understand.  
 Do you have specific examples to help us understand your rating? 1 2 3 4 5
- The audio/visuals (overheads, slides, videos) were informative and easy to understand.  
 Do you have specific examples to help us understand your rating? 1 2 3 4 5

9 Other than this public involvement report, did you provide any ideas to the Tri-Parties on issues during this reporting period? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please explain.

10 During the last year, were there Hanford issues you think the Tri-Parties handled especially well or issues that could have been handled better? Please explain.

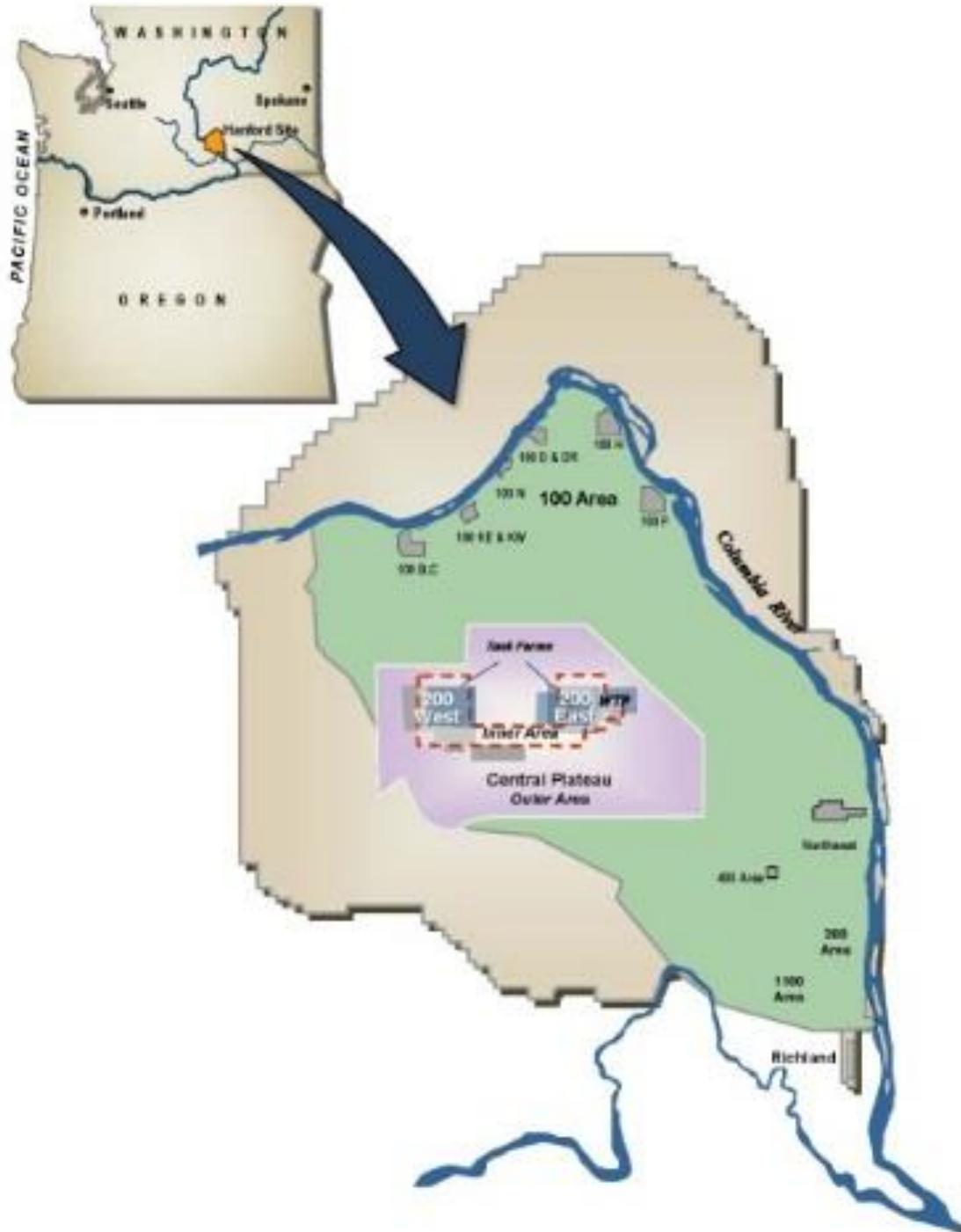
11 Do you have any suggestions for improving Tri-Party Agreement public information and involvement?

Reporting for time period	January 2005 - November 2005
Your Name (optional)	
Address (optional)	
Phone Number(s) (optional)	home _____ work _____
Email Address (optional)	

Thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. The public involvement staff will use the information gathered to improve our efforts where needed.

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. 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.

Public involvement is needed for cleanup decisions that will impact us today and future generations.



## Introduction

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies – U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington State Department of Ecology – work together on cleanup of the Hanford Site. The weapons material production mission that started with the Manhattan Project, 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:

- Include public input when designing documents and planning public meetings.
- 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 comments so they can consider them in the decision making process.
- Provide timely feedback after public involvement activities.
- Work with 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 January 26, through March 14, 2017. A message was sent to the Hanford email list inviting people take the survey, and it was also shared via the agencies' websites and social media accounts.

## Lessons Learned

Public input helps the TPA agencies evaluate opportunities for continuous improvement in public involvement. The feedback received during the 2016 Annual TPA Public Involvement Survey helped identify the following information:

- People receive information about Hanford in many ways. Nearly 60 percent indicated they rely on direct communications from the Tri-Party Agreement agencies via email with more than 50 percent relying on the media. When actively seeking information about Hanford, nearly 70 percent go directly to [Hanford.gov](http://Hanford.gov). The TPA agencies will continue to look for creative ways to share information on Hanford. (Note: people could select more than one information source.)
- The majority of respondents prefer to receive information at least 3-4 weeks in advance, and most thought notice arrived early enough. The goal of the TPA agencies is to provide at least 30 days' notice on upcoming activities. We will continue to strive to meet that commitment.
- With regard to the notices from the TPA agencies, almost 50 percent found the information "generally helpful in understanding the topic", but forty percent noted that it depended on the source. Fifty percent was a 16 percent increase in that response from the prior year. However it is clear we must continue to try and provide clear, understandable information and better define 'why it matters', e.g. human health and environmental impacts of decisions.
- Only about 26 percent of respondents said they attended a Hanford-related or other event hosted by a TPA agency in 2016. About 24 percent indicated they'd attended a Hanford-related event hosted by an interest group. The top two reasons listed for not attending any Hanford-related events were that the location and/or the time didn't work. We will continue to work with Hanford stakeholders and the public to try to schedule meeting times and places that are convenient for most people.
- Only about 25 percent of respondents reported feeling their "...input helps influence Hanford cleanup decisions", a slight decrease from the prior year. The bulk of respondents felt neutral or disagreed with that statement. TPA agencies need to do a better job of communicating how public input affects cleanup decisions, and explain if there are times when it doesn't.
- Most respondents said they would be "likely" or "very likely" to participate in a webinar on a Hanford topic. We will continue to look for opportunities to use this tool for public involvement activities. Webinars would allow participation in Hanford meetings for those who are not able to attend an event due to the time or location.
- Despite some frustration with TPA meetings and materials, about 86 percent of respondents indicated they plan to participate in future Hanford-related activities. While still the majority, it was a six percent decrease in stated affiliation from the prior year.

## Conclusion

The 2016 Annual TPA Public Involvement Survey saw a sharp drop in participation compared to previous years (183 in 2015 to 92 in 2016). While people self-identified a range of affiliations with Hanford, 47 percent, the largest segment identified themselves as members of the general public.

The TPA agencies look forward to implementing the lessons learned from this evaluation and will continue to identify ways to improve public involvement at Hanford. For more information, email [hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hanford@ecy.wa.gov).

## Summary results of the Annual Public Involvement Survey

The TPA agencies' survey had 23 questions. 92 people took the survey, 74 answered all the questions.

The top responses to each question are provided in the following section.

To see the full results of the survey, including all the comments, see Appendix A.



*Public involvement includes education and outreach by agency staff and contractors at public events such as the annual Hanford Health and Safety Expo.*

# Summary results of the Annual Public Involvement Survey

The TPA agencies issued a survey with 23 questions. 92 people took the survey. The top responses to each question are provided in the following section. NOTE: Many questions invited respondents to 'choose all that apply', so totals may equal more than 100%.

To see the full results of the survey, including all the comments, see Appendix A, beginning on page 11.

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

Email (Hanford Listserv)	59.34%
Mass media (Newspaper, radio, TV)	53.85 %
Hanford Advisory Board	37.36 %
Interest group communications	36.26 %

## Question 2: Where do you go for information about Hanford?

Hanford.gov website	68.97 %
Mass media (Newspaper, radio, TV)	60.92 %
WA Dept. of Ecology website	45.98 %

## Question 3: Which group do you represent?

General public	47.13 %
Hanford workforce	21.14 %
Hanford Advisory Board member	10.34 %

## Question 4: Do you usually receive adequate notice about upcoming Hanford public involvement activities?

Yes	77.78 %
No	22.22 %

## Question 5: How far in advance do you prefer to be notified about upcoming Hanford public involvement activities?

3-4 weeks	34.09 %
2 weeks	30.68 %
1 week	19.32 %

## Question 6: Are notices from the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies generally helpful in understanding the topic?

Yes	49.43 %
It depends on the source and topic	39.08 %
No	11.49 %

## Summary results of the Annual Public Involvement Survey

**Question 7: Did you attend a Hanford-related meeting or other event hosted by a TPA agency in 2016?**

No	74.39 %
Yes	25.61 %

**Question 8: Did you attend a Hanford-related meetings or activities in 2016? (e.g. hosted by an interest group)**

No	76.54 %
Yes	23.54 %

**Question 9: If you did not attend a Hanford-related meeting in 2016, please tell us why.**

The time didn't work for me	48 %
The location didn't work for me	44 %
I wasn't interested in the topic(s)	20 %

**Question 10: In which location are you most likely to attend a public meeting/workshop or other Hanford-related activity?**

Richland (Tri-Cities)	59.15 %
Seattle	12.68 %
Portland	11.27 %

**Question 11: How would you rate the locations of the events you attended? (For example, hotel, library, etc.)**

I have not attended a meeting	45.57 %
Good	41.77 %
Excellent	8.86 %

**Question 12: How would you rate the TPA agencies' presentations at the events you attended?**

I have not seen a presentation	48.05 %
Good	25.97 %
Average	12.99 %

**Question 13: How would you rate the discussion with TPA agency representatives at the events you attended?**

Good	33.51 %
Don't recall	25.42 %
Average	22.03 %

## Summary results of the Annual Public Involvement Survey

**Question 14: If you provided public comment during a public comment period, were you notified when responses to comments were available?**

Not applicable	64.29 %
Yes, by email	28.57 %
No, I was not notified	7.14 %

**Question 15: How would you answer the following statement: "I believe my input helps influence Hanford cleanup decisions."**

Neutral	34.78 %
Disagree	33.33 %
Agree	24.64 %

**Question 16: Do you plan to participate in future activities on Hanford topics?**

Yes	85.57 %
No	11.43 %

**Question 17: Would you participate in a webinar or other online forum on Hanford topics?**

Likely	33.33 %
Very likely	25.00 %
Undecided	19.44 %

**Question 18: Which Hanford topics would you most want to discuss or learn about in a public forum?**

General cleanup progress & challenges	19.40 %
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP/VIT)	17.91 %
Hanford budget & cleanup priorities	13.43 %

**Question 19: Would you be interested in hosting a Hanford speaker from the TPA agencies for your group, classroom, or event?**

No, thank you	89.86 %
Yes, please contact me	10.14 %

**Question 20: Would you like to join the TPA agency email list to receive information about Hanford?**

I am already on the list	71.23 %
Yes	20.55 %
No, thank you	8.22 %

## Summary results of the Annual Public Involvement Survey

### Question 21: Please provide us with any other thoughts on Hanford cleanup.

Twenty-three people provided comments. Please see Appendix A, beginning on page 11.

### Question 22: Geographic information

Seventy-one people told us what city and state they lived in, 21 left blank. The majority are from Washington and Oregon, specifically Tri-Cities area, Seattle and Portland areas. Detailed charts are available on pages 80-81.

### Question 23: Demographic information

Following are the gender, age and ethnicity that were volunteered by 62 participants. Thirty people chose not to answer.

#### Gender:

Male	61.29 %
Female	38.71 %

#### Age:

Under 30	4.92 %
30-45	22.95 %
46-65	45.90 %
Over 65	26.23 %

#### Race/Ethnicity:

Caucasian	83.05 %
Hispanic	3.39 %
African American	3.39 %
Asian American	1.69 %
Native	0 %
Other	8.47 %

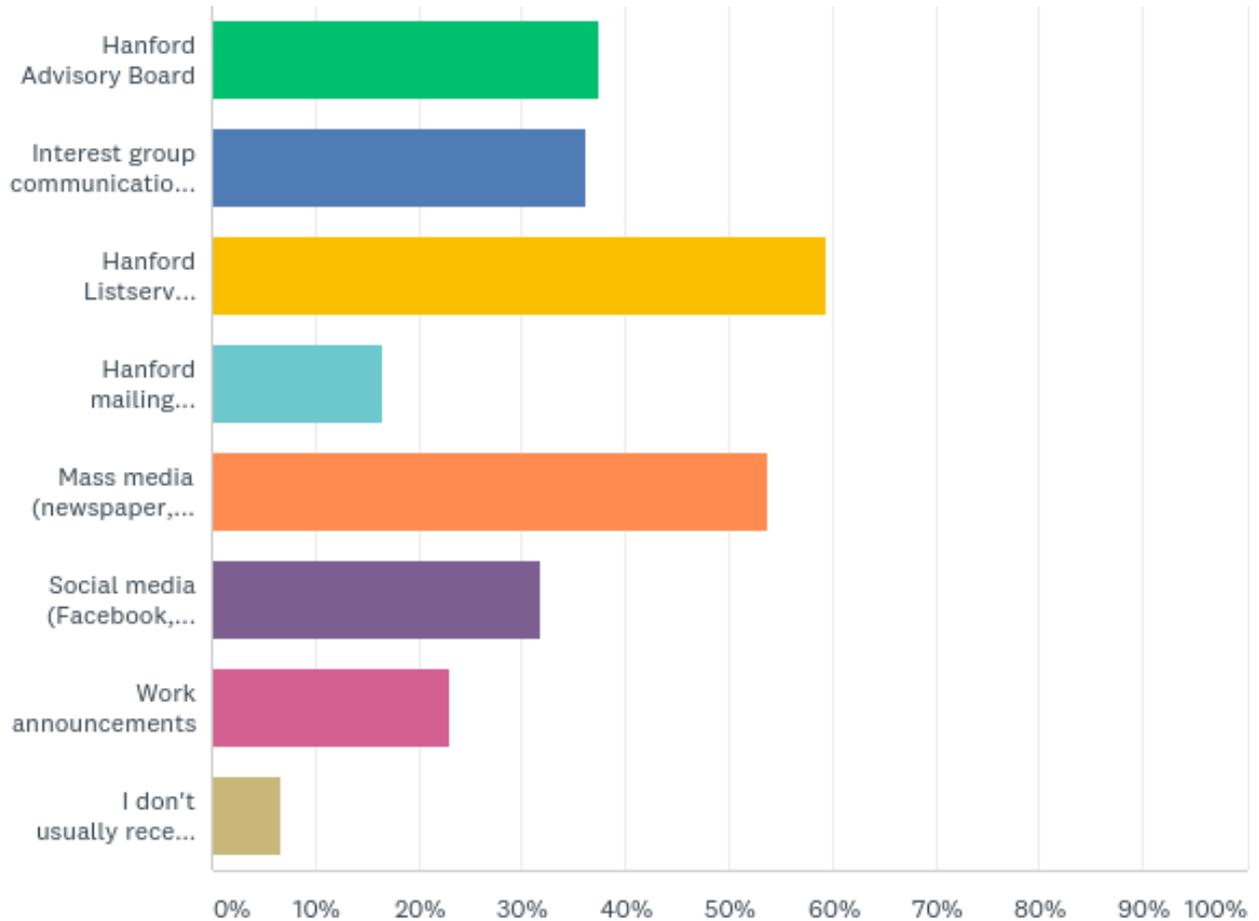


*Finding ways to engage youth who will inherit Hanford is critical. The Nez Perce annual STEM fair in Lapwai, ID is a great way to reach kids.*

# Appendix A

Complete results from Survey Monkey

**Q1: Do you receive information about Hanford from any of the following?  
(Select all that apply)** **91 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hanford Advisory Board	37.36%	34
Interest group communications (newsletter, email, etc.)	36.26%	33
Hanford Listserv (email)	59.34%	54
Hanford mailing (postal)	16.48%	15
Mass media (newspaper, radio, TV)	53.85%	49
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	31.87%	29
Work announcements	23.08%	21
I don't usually receive information about Hanford	6.59%	6
Total Respondents: 91		

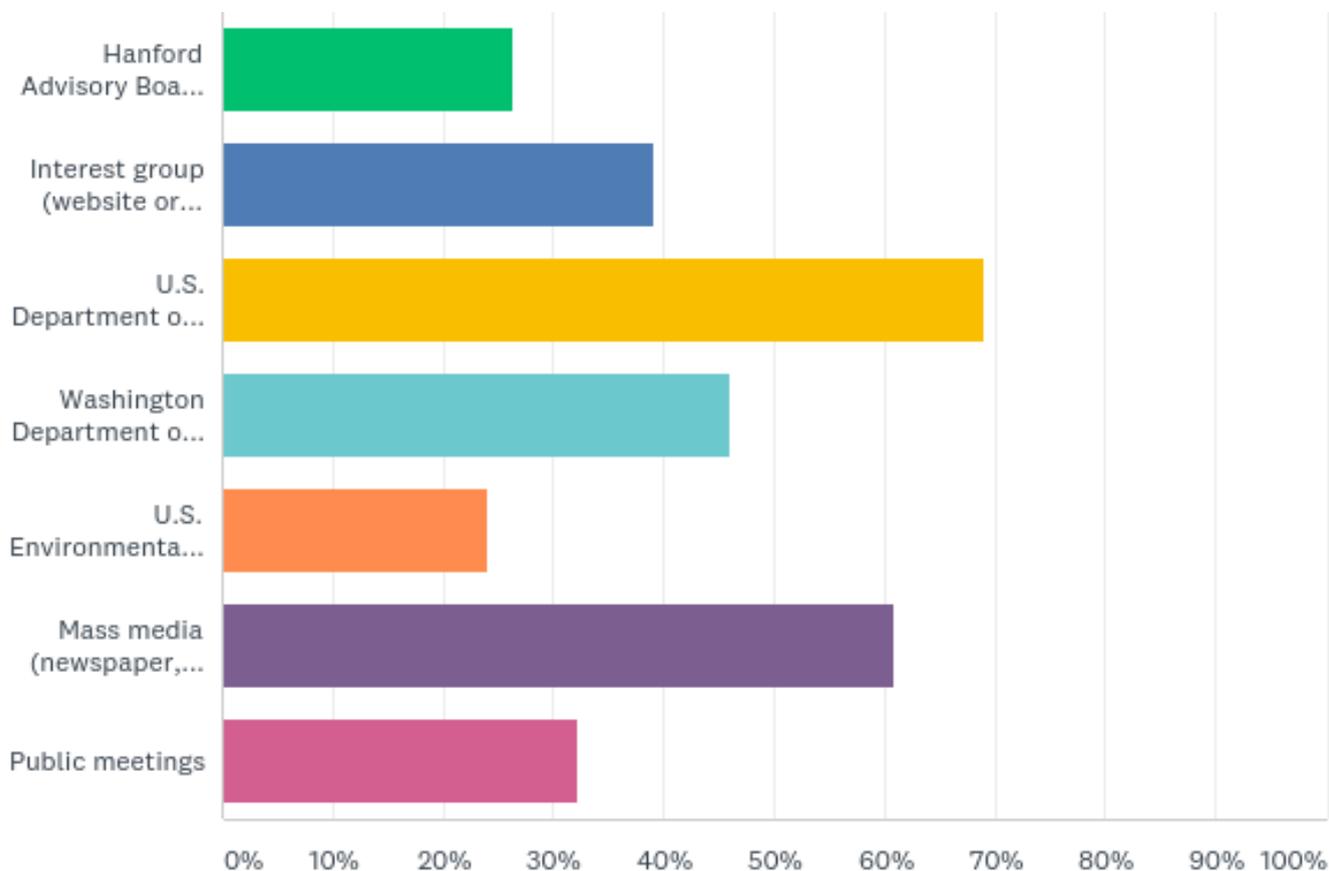
**3 respondents provided specific answers**

**Beyond Nuclear; and  
Heart of America NW**

I have lost contact with  
HAB

OHCB, Oregon Mailings

**Q2: Where do you go for information about Hanford? (Select all that apply)**  
**87 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hanford Advisory Board meetings	26.44%	23
Interest group (website or social media)	39.08%	34
U.S. Department of Energy (website or social media)	68.97%	60
Washington Department of Ecology (website or social media)	45.98%	40
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (website or social media)	24.14%	21
Mass media (newspaper, radio, TV)	60.92%	53
Public meetings	32.18%	28
Total Respondents: 87		

## Q2: Where do you go for information about Hanford?

### 11 people provided additional responses

A web portal is needed to consolidate all sources

HLAN (Hanford internal computers)

MSA (Mission Support Alliance)

We would attend public meetings if notification was spread further into the surrounding community and if the topics were put in less scientific terminology, or less intimidating.

Heart of America NW (2)

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board (2)

Beyond Nuclear

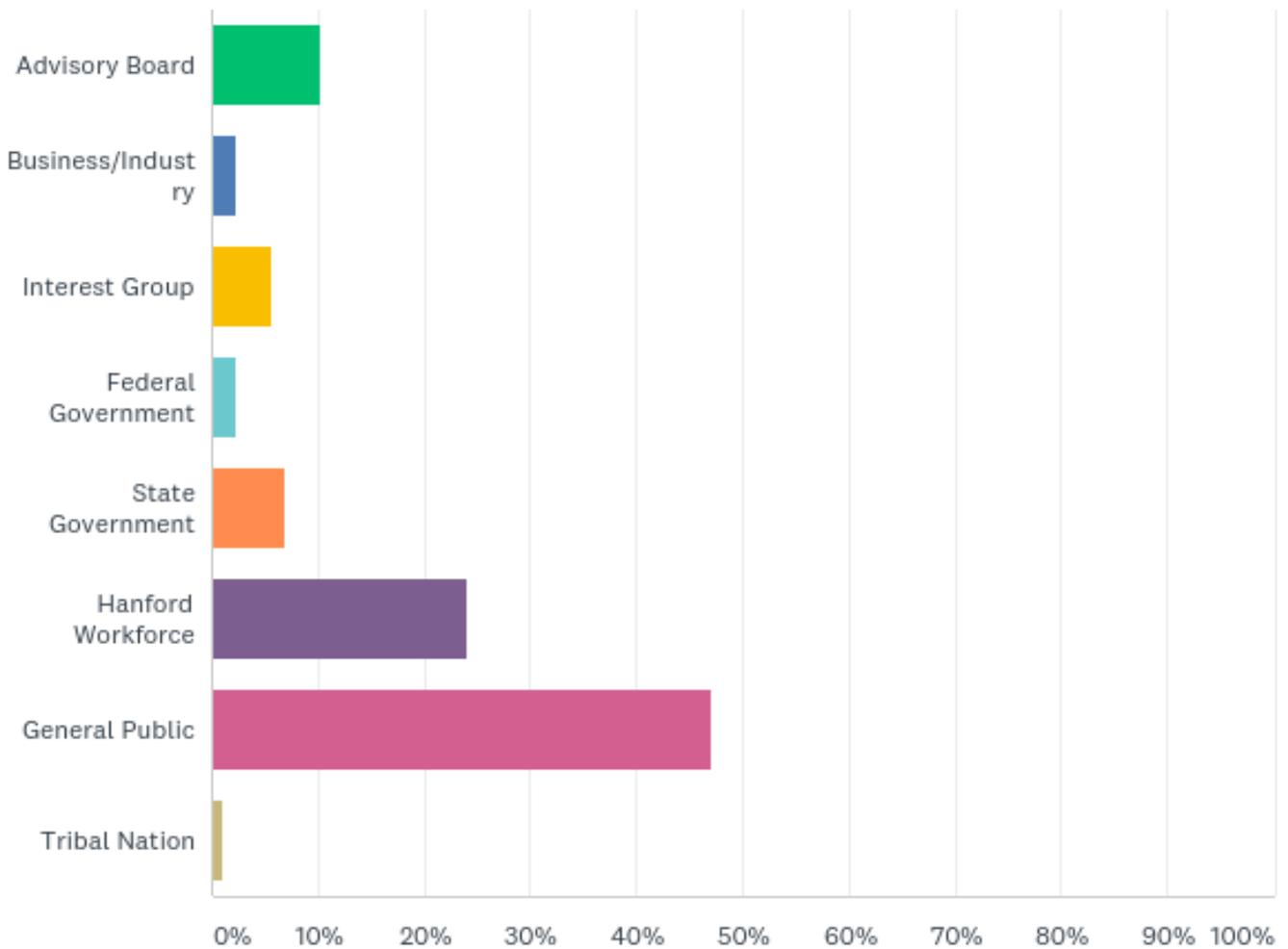
NIRS

Oregon Department of Energy

I mostly get information from work

Private meetings with DOE and Contractors

**Q3: Which group do you represent? (Please select the one that best applies)**  
**87 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Advisory Board	10.34%	9
Business/Industry	2.30%	2
Interest Group	5.75%	5
Federal Government	2.30%	2
State Government	6.90%	6
Hanford Workforce	24.14%	21
General Public	47.13%	41
Tribal Nation	1.15%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>87</b>

### Q3: Which group do you represent?

#### 5 people provided additional responses

Engineering profession

The press

Former HAB Chair

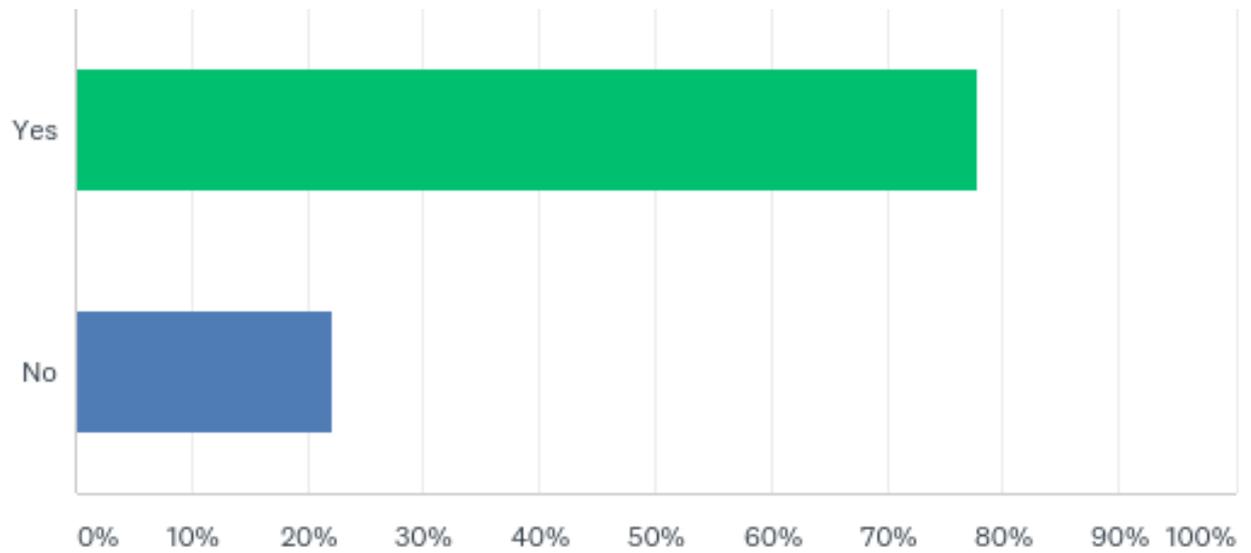
Used to be on Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, just public now

Retired long time employee of Hanford Contractors



*The Hanford Reach of the Columbia River is enjoyed by boaters and hikers. The side of the river that is the Hanford Site is off limits to the public.*

**Q4: Do you usually receive adequate notice about upcoming Hanford public involvement activities?** **90 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.78%	70
No	22.22%	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>90</b>

**Q4: Do you usually receive adequate notice about upcoming Hanford public involvement activities?** **90 Answered**

**14 people provided additional responses**

Sometimes I see email notifications but not as much as I'd like.

Only because I monitor the HAB and this site: <http://pdw.hanford.gov/arpir/>

Some of the comments are important and are looked at fairly extensively. Most opportunities for comment are on things that are straight forward and the proposed plan or activity is agreeable. Little effort is expended on these activities.

There are many consumers who do not pay for cable broadcast therefore viewing news casts gets a bit annoying and challenging. Increasing public announcements on radio may increase the chances of being aware of upcoming events.

but many times the meetings are too far away from where I live - in Seattle

There haven't been any for a couple of years, but I hear about them when they actually occur.

Never in my area of Spokane but we face direct down wind results and as well rail transport through my area.

I think sometimes I miss notifications, but also the majority of activities seems to be in Richland, and I don't have easily available transportation opportunities to get there.

I think I do

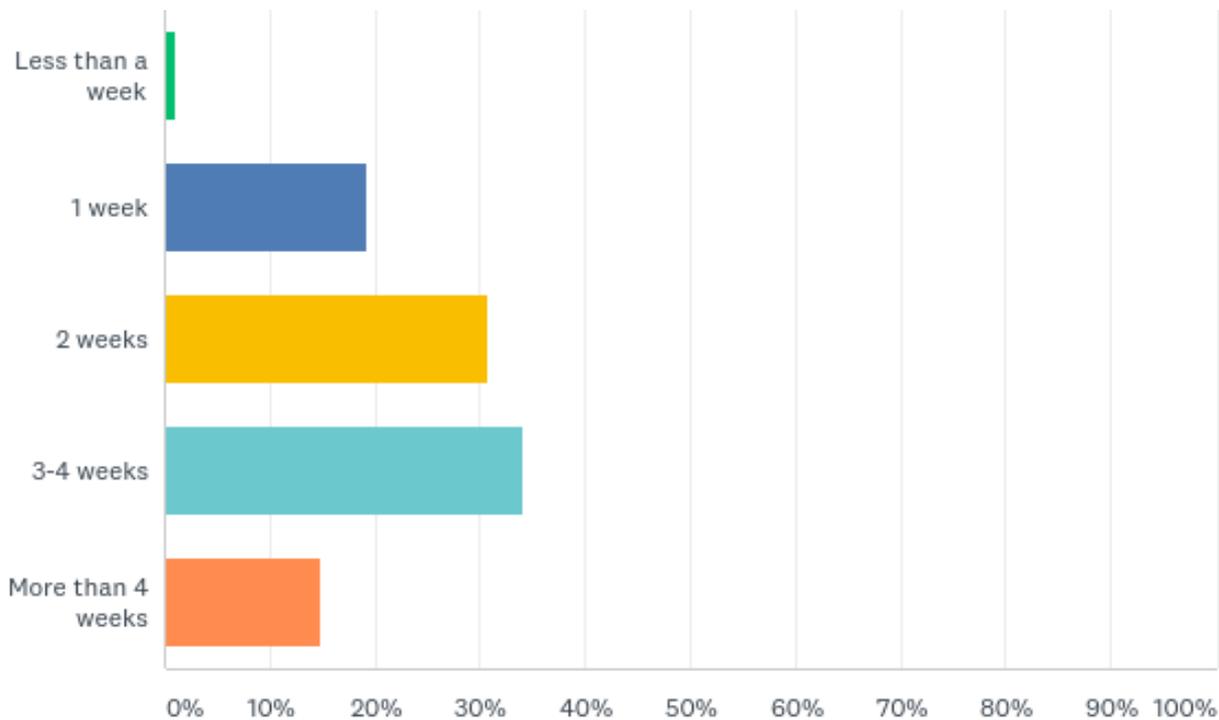
I look up if meetings are going on when I'm going to the valley

but I really don't understand what they mean - pretty much inside baseball!

Not always

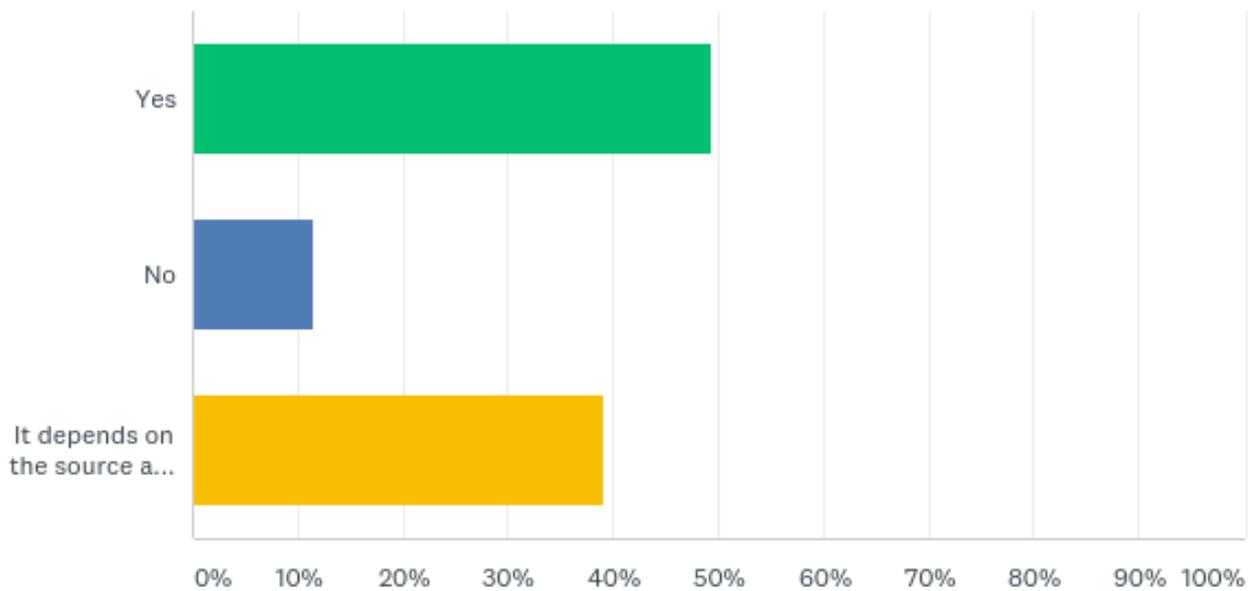
Meeting notice too short. Morning meetings difficult to attend because of driving distance.

**Q5: How far in advance do you prefer to be notified about Hanford public involvement activities?**  
**88 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than a week	1.14% 1
1 week	19.32% 17
2 weeks	30.68% 27
3-4 weeks	34.09% 30
More than 4 weeks	14.77% 13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>

**Q6: Are notices from the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies generally helpful in understanding the topic?** **87 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	49.43%	43
No	11.49%	10
It depends on the source and topic	39.08%	34
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>87</b>

## Q6: Are notices from the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies generally helpful in understanding the topic?

### 16 people provided specific responses

I don't know what the TPA is.

See #21

Do not recall seeing any

Most especially notices of upcoming meetings, public comment periods, permit modifications, and TPA milestone notifications. Without this stuff, you'd never know what DOE is up to out there.

They are great for the things that are generally accepted. They usually lack depth on less agreed upon topics.

Here again, I personally have only heard a radio spokesperson make notification of a hearing or other gathering on rare occasion.

Serving on the Board means that one generally hears about and discusses and participates in presentations a number of times. In general I don't encounter a topic without some context.

I want to know the percentage of total cleanup that each project represents.

Many are obscurely written, though my past understanding helps in deciphering them.

I wish that there were opportunities to understand the basics of the situation at Hanford. So many of the e-mails are about highly technical matters that I simply can't make sense of.

Typically too much jargon - especially notices related to the permit or the Tri-Party Agreement. These notices would greatly benefit from use of plain language.

Minutia of an issue that in reality is more expansive than the parameters allowed. Leaking storage tanks generally expressed as liquids only and not gas releases.

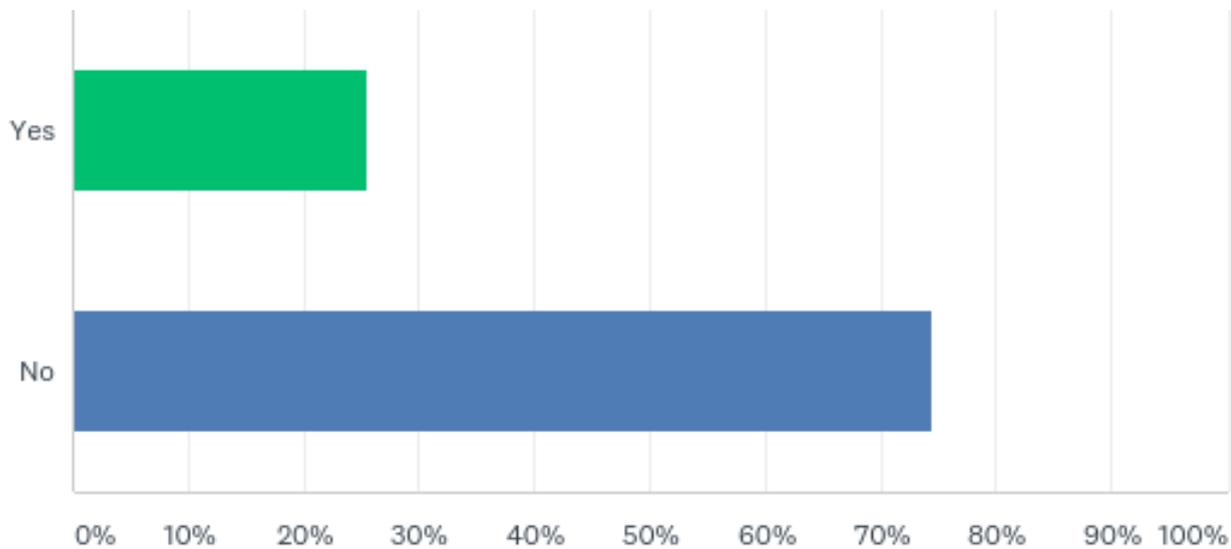
Sometimes TPA notices can be really dense. Especially ones about proposed changes to this or that area.

There is generally too much jargon. The notices need to be clear and to clearly explain how the public is impacted and how their input can help

I have no specific examples, but am sure not all notices are of value.

They depend on too much previous knowledge.

**Q7: Did you attend a Hanford-related meeting or other event hosted by a TPA agency in 2016?** **82 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.61%	21
No	74.39%	61
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>82</b>



*Public input is important to the decision-making process.*

## Q7: Did you attend a Hanford-related meeting or other event hosted by a TPA agency in 2016?

### 20 people provided specific responses

HAB stuff, DOE meetings D DR H. WMA C meetings.

How do I find out these events are scheduled?

March 7th meeting.

Hanford budget

Dangerous Waste Management, Budget, Hanford Advisory Board, HAB Committee meetings

March 15 Budget Meeting (2)

I am not located in Wa State.

Public meetings

HAB (2)

3/15 and 11/14

Do not drive. Old age prevents attending any meeting.

In Seattle at Magnesun Park

March 7 and Aug 24 public meetings

They were all held in Richland. I live in Portland, Oregon. I receive funding to attend HAB meetings and have participated through them.

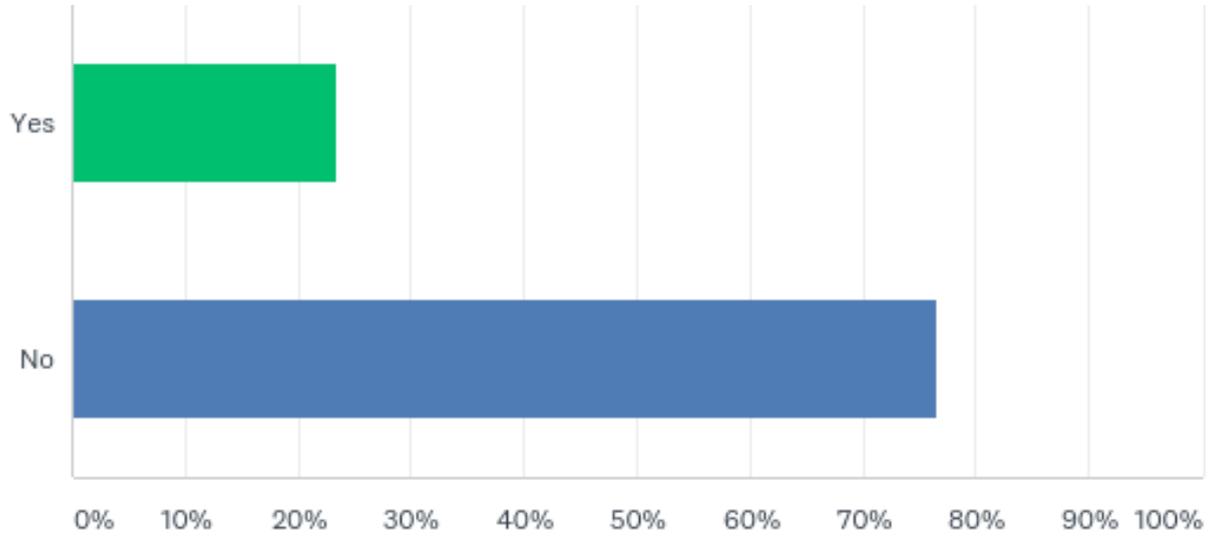
None in my area as I recall.

March 15 and November 14

March 7 August 13

March 15 Budget priorities meeting November 14 LAWPS NOI meeting

**Q8: Did you attend any other Hanford-related meetings or activities in 2016?  
(e.g. hosted by an interest group)** **81 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	23.46%	19
No	76.54%	62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>81</b>

**Q8: Did you attend any other Hanford-related meetings or activities in 2016?  
(e.g. hosted by an interest group)**

**16 people provided specific responses**

In house planning meetings

HAB (5)

HAB Committees, Budget, Allegiance Policy

I am not located in WA state

Work related

Attended several events hosted by Hanford Challenge. I attended HAB meetings and I attended several public meetings about the milestone change package (both in Richland and Seattle)

In Seattle at Magnuson Park

Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board (2)

None in my area as I recall

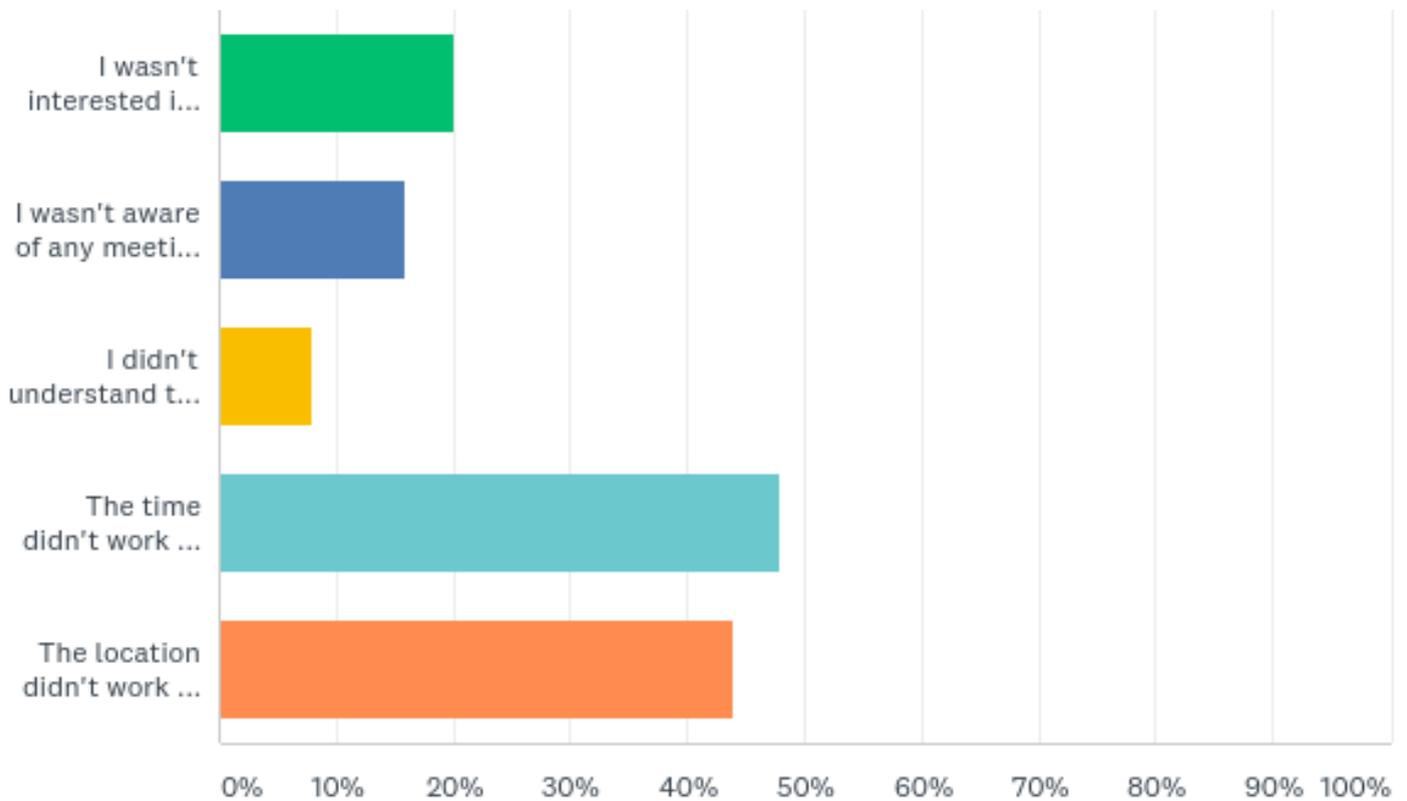
Hanford Forum, organized by Hanford Challenge

I work at the vitrification plant

Ginger Wireman of Washington's Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program gave members of National Active and Retired federal Employees Chapter 218 a presentation about the activities at Hanford

A summer 2016 meeting in Vancouver

**Q9: If you did not attend a Hanford-related meeting or other event in 2016, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)** **50 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I wasn't interested in the topic	20.00%	10
I wasn't aware of any meetings or events	16.00%	8
I didn't understand the purpose of the meeting or event	8.00%	4
The time didn't work for me	48.00%	24
The location didn't work for me	44.00%	22
Total Respondents: 50		

**Q9: If you did not attend a Hanford-related meeting or other event in 2016, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)** **50 Answered**

**14 people provided specific responses**

Involvement started in Oct 2016 with WTP EMF Air Permit

No need, I was informed

I don't have the time.

I don't travel and can't attend meetings

I am not located in WA state

I continue to be very interested. Send email notices.

I live in NJ but am still interested in following events at Hanford.

No meetings outside of the Tri-Cities. Shame on you.

Not much in the way of significant issues during this past year in which to engage the public.

The progress is so slow that I don't think the waste will ever be immobilized.

Travel Time is too great

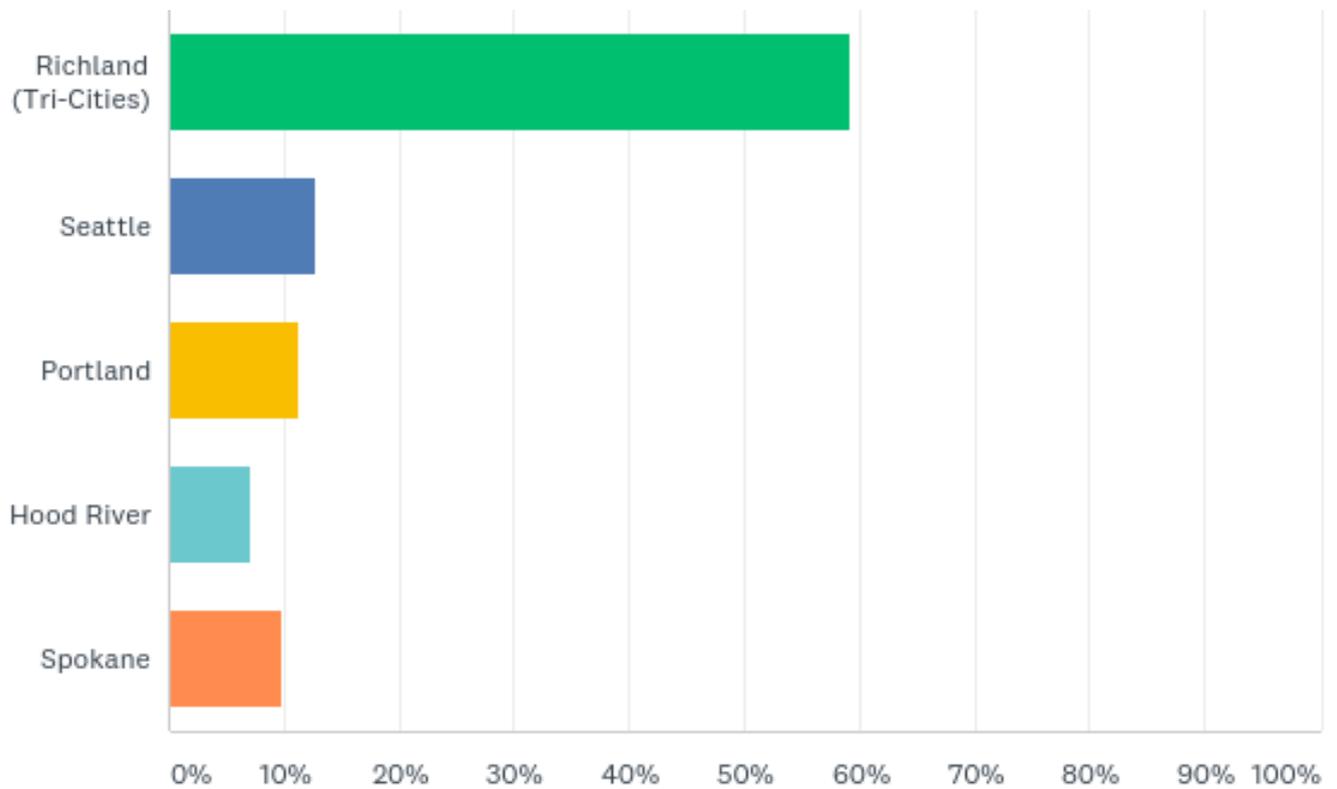
I've been working full time until recently and just could not get to meetings

I'm in San Diego

We have back to work meeting every Monday

**Q10: In which location are you most likely to attend a public meeting/workshop or other Hanford-related activity?**

**71 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Richland (Tri-Cities)	59.15%	42
Seattle	12.68%	9
Portland	11.27%	8
Hood River	7.04%	5
Spokane	9.86%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>71</b>

**Q10: In which location are you most likely to attend a public meeting/workshop or other Hanford-related activity?**

**11 people provided specific responses**

Remote access from Northern VA/DC Metro

Portland and Hood River

Phoenix, AZ

Olympia

None

Eastern OR, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker

Hood River is also easy for me

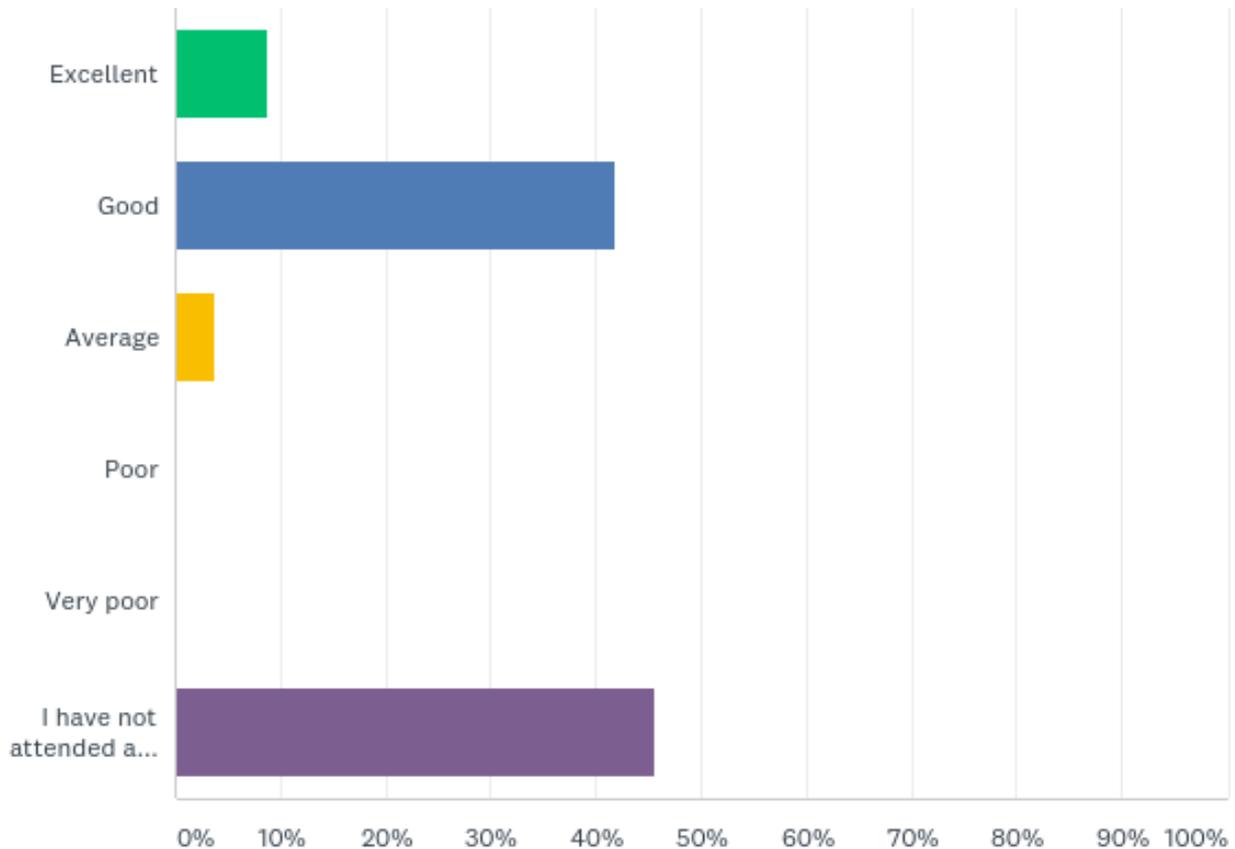
Prever Webex

San Diego

Bellevue

Umatilla, Walla Walla

**Q11: How would you rate the locations of the events you attended? (For example, hotel, library, etc.)** **79 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	8.86%	7
Good	41.77%	33
Average	3.80%	3
Poor	0.00%	0
Very poor	0.00%	0
I have not attended a meeting or workshop	45.57%	36
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>79</b>

## Q11: How would you rate the locations of the events you attended? (For example, hotel, library, etc.)

### 6 people provided specific responses

I attended one in Vancouver in 2015. Location good.

Magnesun Park or Seattle Center were good.

Richland public library is convenient and a great facility

HAB meetings - did not attend the others.

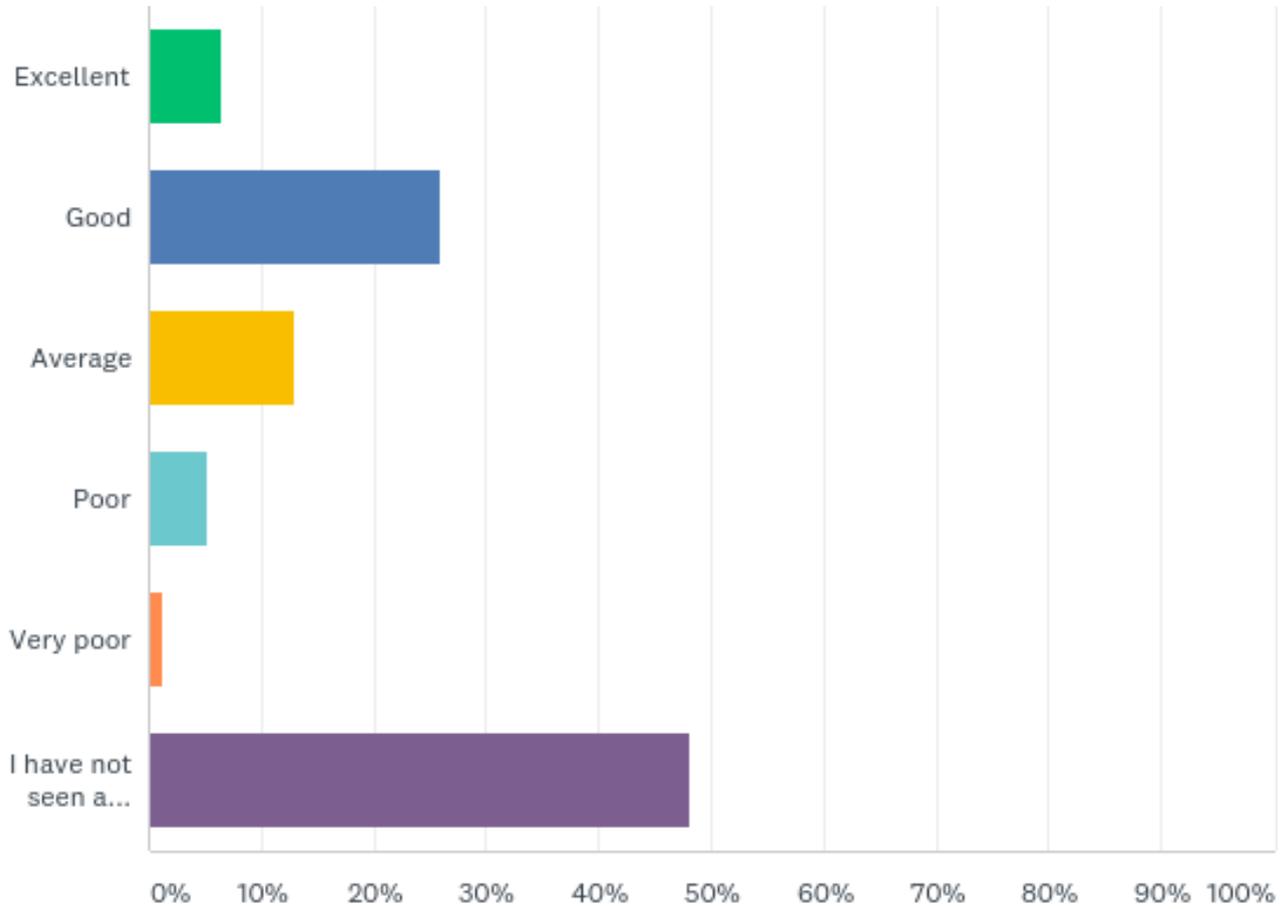
This is from previous meetings - not 2016.

Have attended many through the years. Event locations fine but the content limits far to restrictive.



*The TPA agencies work with stakeholders to find meeting locations that are ADA compliant, easily accessible by transit, and have free parking available.*

**Q12: How would you rate the TPA agencies' presentations at the events you attended?**  
77 Answered



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	6.49%	5
Good	25.97%	20
Average	12.99%	10
Poor	5.19%	4
Very poor	1.30%	1
I have not seen a presentation	48.05%	37
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>77</b>

## Q12: How would you rate the TPA agencies' presentations at the events you attended?

### 12 people provided specific responses

Good presentations, but Tri-Party Agencies should have an Engineer in attendance at any public event/interaction. An Engineer should not be in attendance primarily to respond / address public concerns, but rather to hear / understand public concerns.

There was confusion over who was representing whom. Ecology was uninformed and DOE and its contractor were arguing during the meeting

Although not all presenters are as sensitive to the needs of their audience as they can be, usually the materials-- the clarity and quality of the information--and the Q&A activities are persuasive, sincere, and well balanced.

Unfortunately, I think there is still a lot of work to do in translating Hanford speak for the general public. At many of these meetings, if you weren't already well versed in Hanford issues, you would have a hard time following. One example--at the milestone change package public meetings, TPA agencies kept using the term "canyons" which would seem like a landscape feature if you were a member of the public. Small language things like that make explanations confusing.

Well presented, but quite biased, giving an unreasonably favorable view of how waste is being managed and controlled (nuclear waste seeping into the Columbia? No problem)

Again, went to HAB meetings

Office of River Protection needs to be more forthcoming.

Again - experience from previous meetings not 2016. Main problem is again the failure to use plain language in discussing these issues,

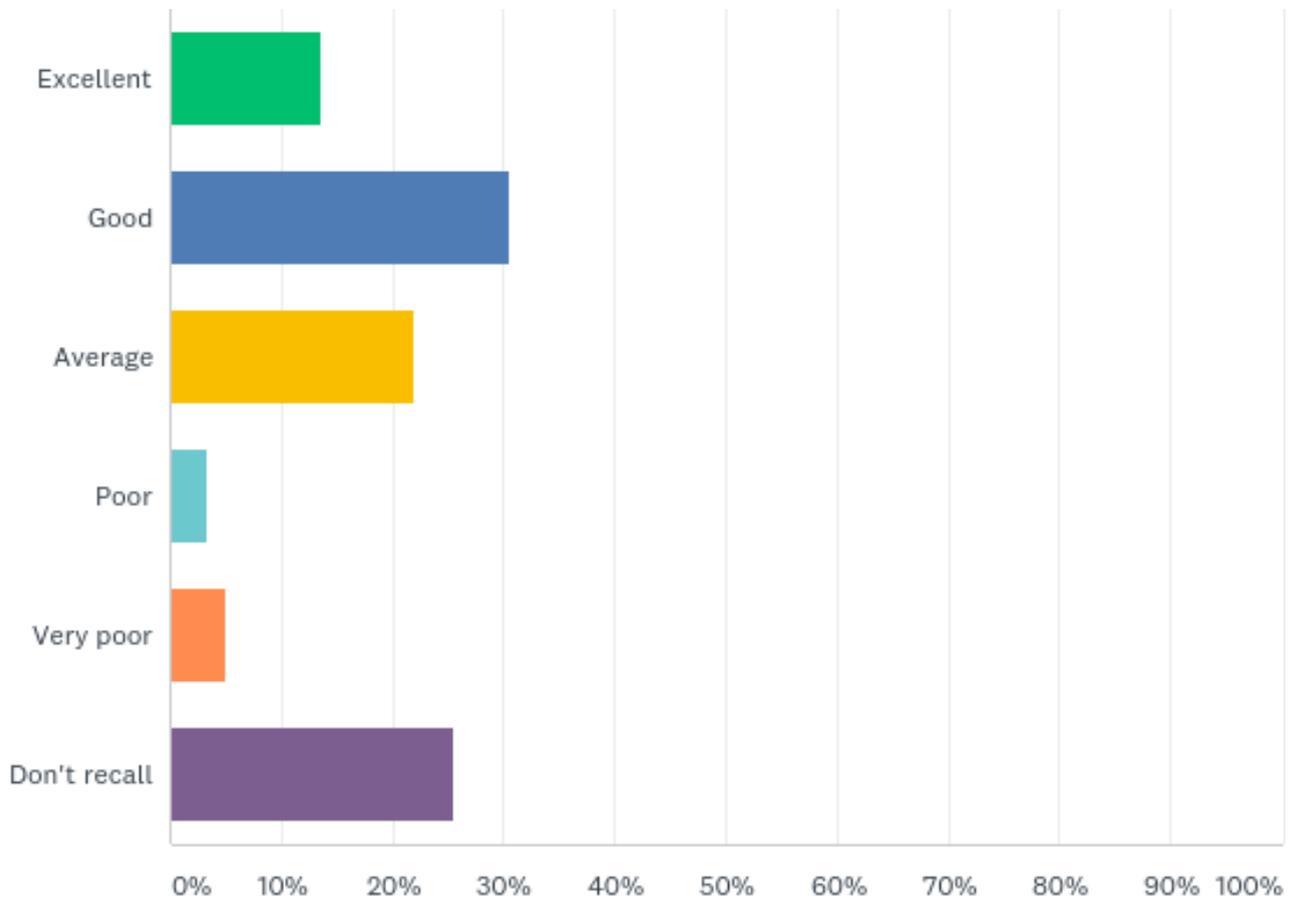
Staff could not provide answers. Those intended to listening clearly were not and fewer actually showed.

There was a meeting at Whitman College. I can't remember the first presentation, but the second was from WA Ecology, and it seemed kind of basic, but more importantly, it seemed to gloss over the magnitude of the issues Hanford faces.

Too much jargon. Not enough clarity. Often too formal a process, or an informal process where the comments and discussion are not actually considered

I have not attended

**Q13: How would you rate the discussion with TPA agency representatives at events you attended?** **59 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	13.56% 8
Good	30.51% 18
Average	22.03% 13
Poor	3.39% 2
Very poor	5.08% 3
Don't recall	25.42% 15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>

## Q13: How would you rate the discussion with TPA agency representatives at events you attended?

### 15 people provided specific responses

Good presentations, but Tri-Party Agencies should have an Engineer in attendance at any public event/interaction. An Engineer should not be in attendance primarily to respond / address public concerns, but rather to hear / understand public concerns.

N/A (5)

We have OK discussions with DOE/contractors but they seem to want to be in control of things and like to prevent information that is not exactly in line with their views from being distributed in wide spread printable form. They should be more open to different views as there is something to be gained from alternative professional opinions.

The meetings seemed to be with talking heads who didn't know their subject. While there were SME's at the meeting, the PR people talked over them

They were better than the presentations, but they also depend upon people knowing a lot about Hanford in order to have a good discussion.

Again, they seemed unrealistically cheerful and upbeat about the way nuclear waste is being managed.

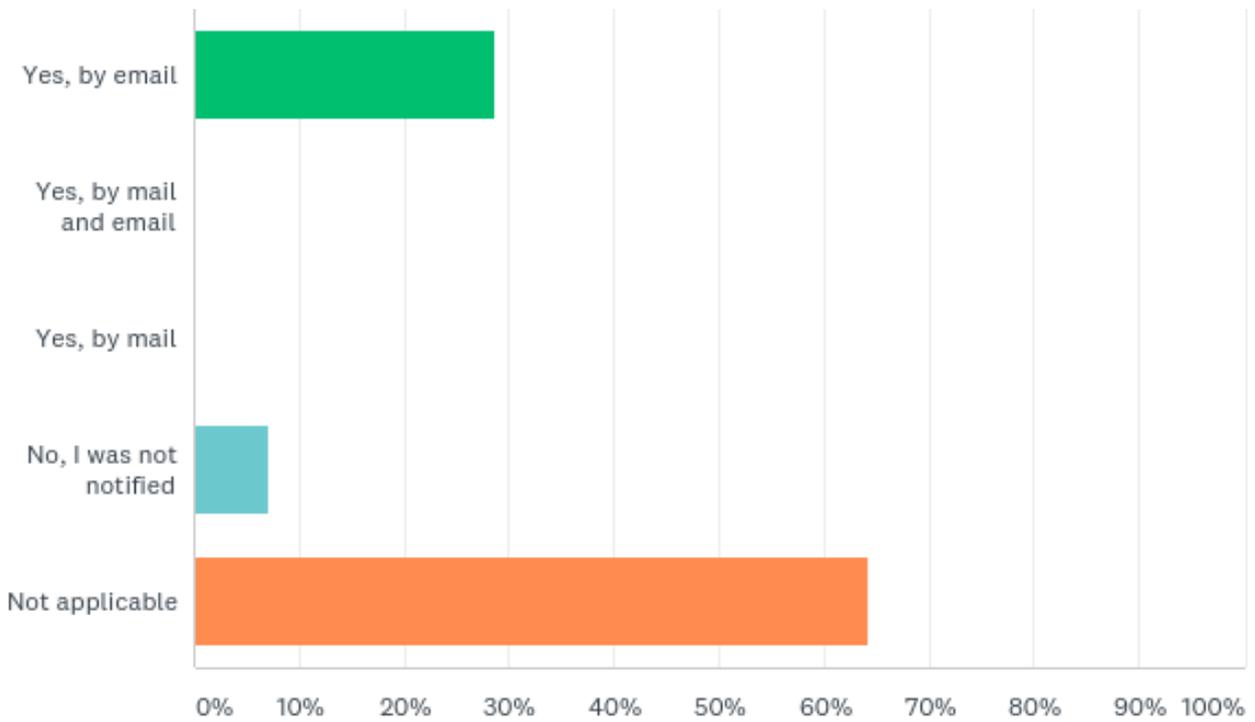
Since you didn't go outside of the Tri-Cities, I would have rate the discussion as very poor, since it was incomplete.

Thanks, and bye attitude

I think it was difficult because there were a few attendees who were very knowledgeable and asked complicated questions, and those questions and answers weren't necessarily explained to others in the audience.

I thought the hosts of the event were able to answer questions with very specific information on a wide range of related issues.

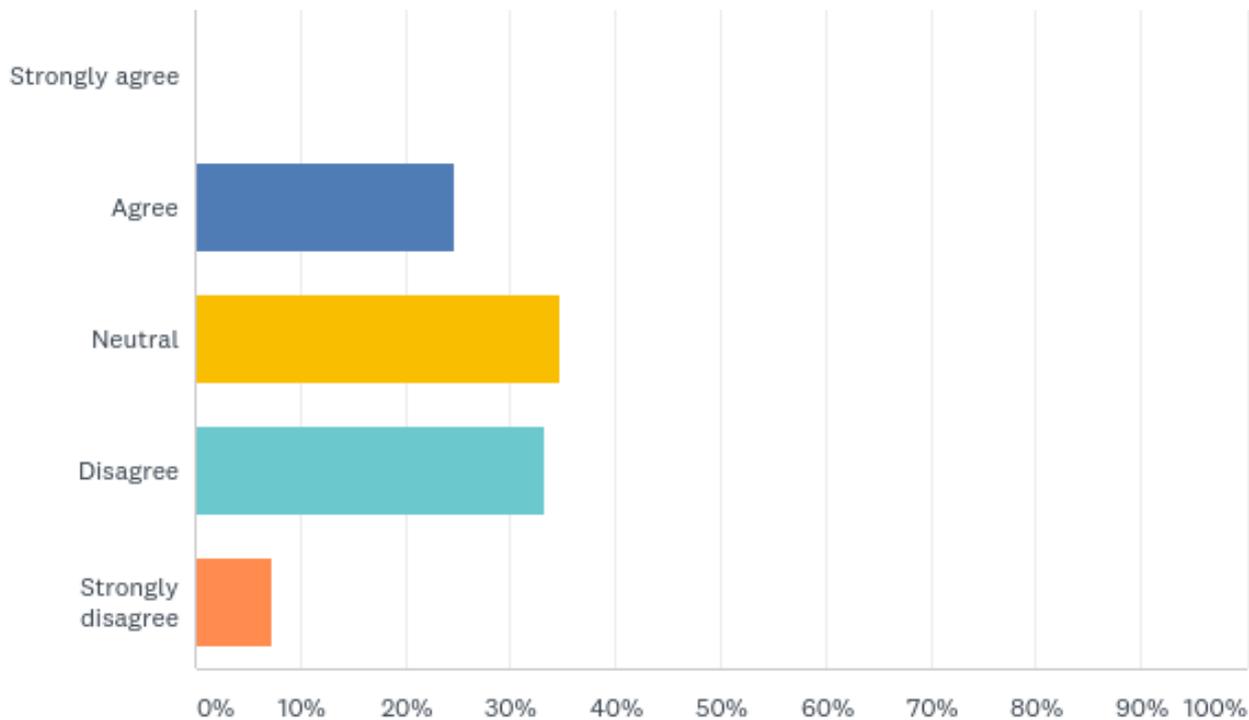
**Q14: If you provided comment during a public comment period, were you notified when responses to comments were available? 70 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, by email	28.57%	20
Yes, by mail and email	0.00%	0
Yes, by mail	0.00%	0
No, I was not notified	7.14%	5
Not applicable	64.29%	45
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>70</b>

**Q15: How would you answer the following statement: “I believe my input helps influence Hanford cleanup decisions.”**

**69 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	0.00%	0
Agree	24.64%	17
Neutral	34.78%	24
Disagree	33.33%	23
Strongly disagree	7.25%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>69</b>

## Q15: How would you answer the following statement: “I believe my input helps influence Hanford cleanup decisions.”

### 17 people provided specific responses

The only effective organizations seem to be the Tribal nations.

I always hope any input I make will help, as a citizen who is affected by the issues.

Advice is fragile, and while concrete evidence of influence isn't always easy to find in a completed document or policy, I believe it is there in most cases. Too often, some members of the public fail to appreciate the complexity of a given issue and assume that their recommendation (because it is simpler) has to be better.

I am interested in how each project adds to the total cleanup percentage.

By the time public input is received, it is too late to really affect the process.

Unfortunately, I get the feeling that my input doesn't matter. It's hard to see how my input informs changes in cleanup practice at Hanford.

All public input is needed and necessary but difficult. Keep trying.

I have been giving input for years, but it seems the government does what it wants to anyway. Delay delay delay.

I think the Tri Parties are more interested in feedback from special interest groups than the public.

Because ORP. RL seems more responsive.

To a very limited degree

Leaky tank storage still leaking

I think the powers that be, fueled by money and power, find ways to disregard public input.

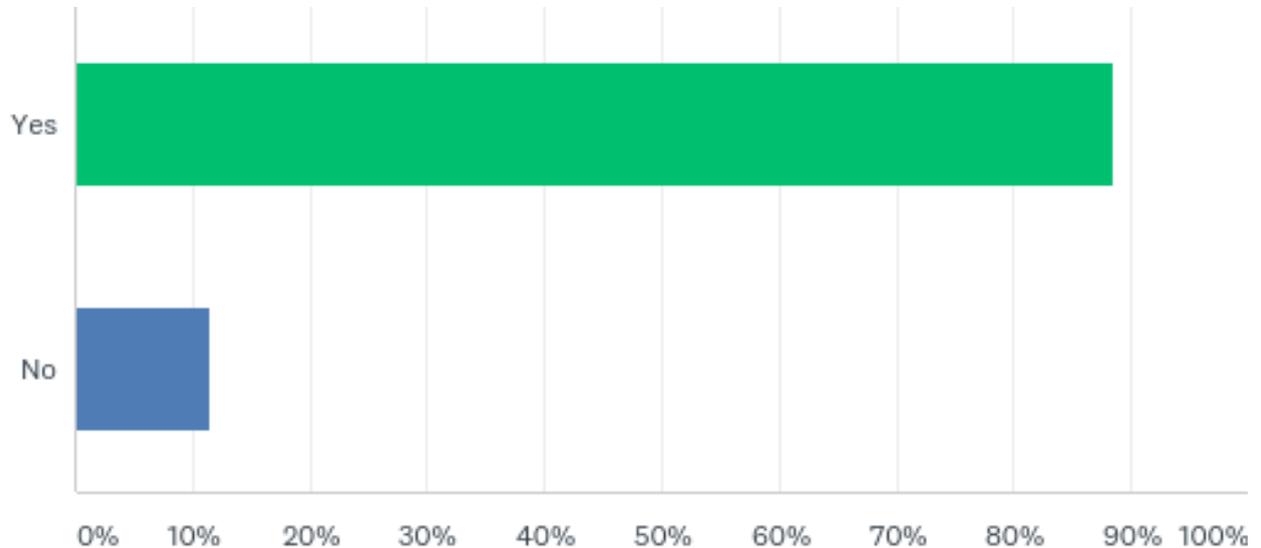
I haven't commented

I doubt that very much

Federal agencies are required by law to allow public input. But they do not allow public opinion to influence policy decisions. Only big corporations can influence policy decisions.

I haven't really offered input, I just like to hear the information first-hand.

## Q16: Do you plan to participate in future activities on Hanford topics? 70 Answered



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.57%	62
No	11.43%	8
TOTAL		70

### 24 people provided specific responses

As someone who does NOT work at Hanford, I really want to know more about what's going on out at the site. I'm very concerned about chemical and/or radioactive leaks, and I want to be informed.

I am interested, was not aware

Central Plateau

I have friends with health issues and I'm starting to think about a connection

HAB Member

I believe that as a citizen/resident affected by Hanford issues my voice is crucial to making change happen if possible.

So many other environmental issues closer to Spokane that I equally care about.

**Q16: Do you plan to participate in future activities on Hanford topics?  
70 Answered**

**Specific responses continued**

The current administration and its views on the environment and regulations will require much more involvement.

Members of my family spend time in the area.

As a tri city resident it can have serious impacts on my family and my grandkids who live here.

Hanford is a tragedy to the nation and to the planet. The discovery of nuclear power is the reason. WWII does not excuse the bomb making project and its toxic, ruinously expensive legacy. Whether or not the average citizen can deal with this dilemma, the people who struggle to keep the alarm sounded must be supported. Some future generations will suffer the consequences and we the living must work to remove the poisons however best we can.

I am concerned about the nuclear waste in our state

Part of my job

It is important to remain engaged and continue to offer differing viewpoints to the discussions.

They don't do any good

Will be retiring and moving to Pend O'Reille County later this year

Not in my area

The Hanford cleanup is a huge issue, and it's in my home state. I think we need as many people as possible to be informed and to inform others.

I've been involved since 1988 or so

Personal priorities

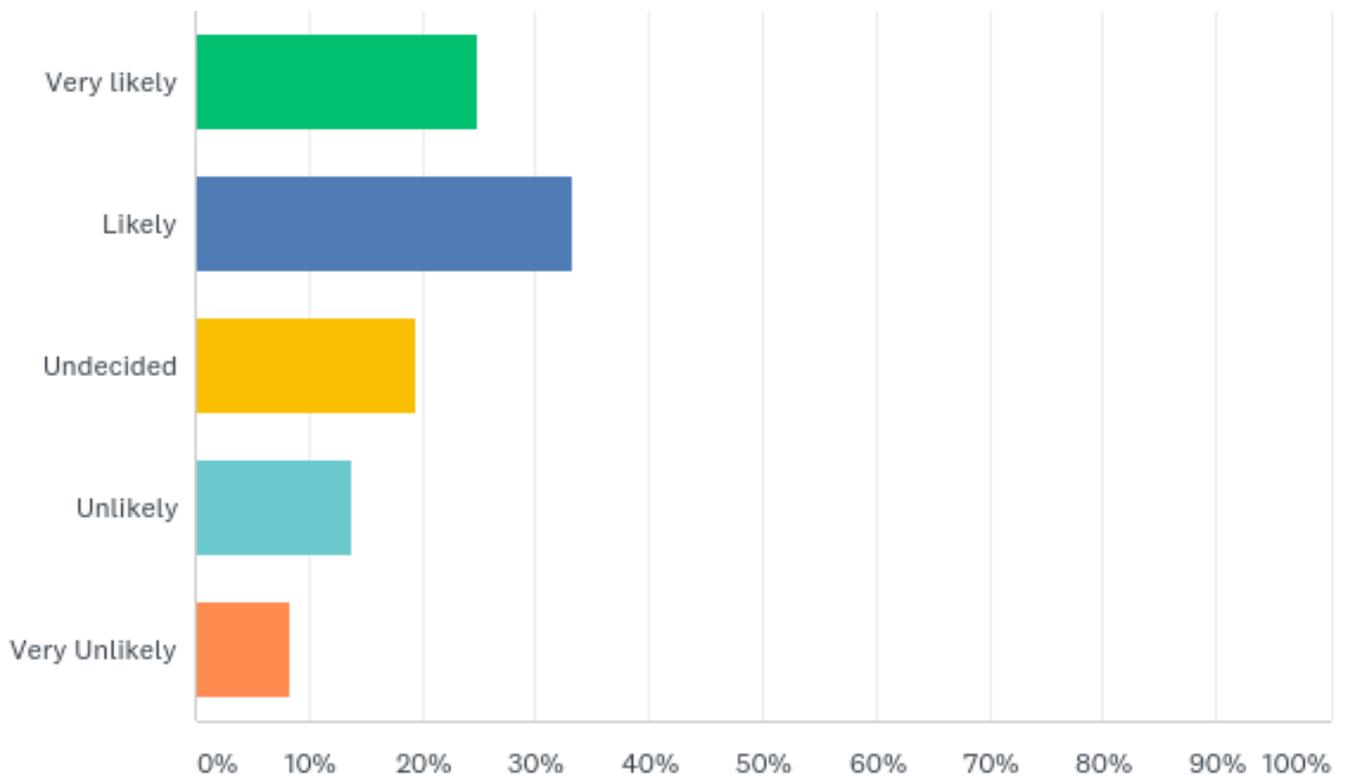
at some point there may be something I understand and can do something about. my impression is the 'cleanup' is just telling the public why things we'd hoped for cant or haven't happened. sorry to sound so discouraged.

Can't travel to the area.

Not sure

I think work is shabby, workers are in harms way. I think the cleanup effort is too slow. I think DOE does not lobby congress for sufficient funds to keep momentum.

**Q17: Would you participate in a webinar or other online forum on Hanford topics?** **72 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very likely	25.00%	18
Likely	33.33%	24
Undecided	19.44%	14
Unlikely	13.89%	10
Very Unlikely	8.33%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>72</b>

**9 people provided specific responses**

Webinars are time efficient, if you are really interested.

If you don't attend the meeting, the material/handouts aren't available online

Webinars are great for providing information; I don't like them for sharing, as in a round table discussion. Unless one can see both presenter and audience, important elements of the communication process are lost.

This will really help those who are not close to the tri-cities

Tuesday/Thursday midday best times.

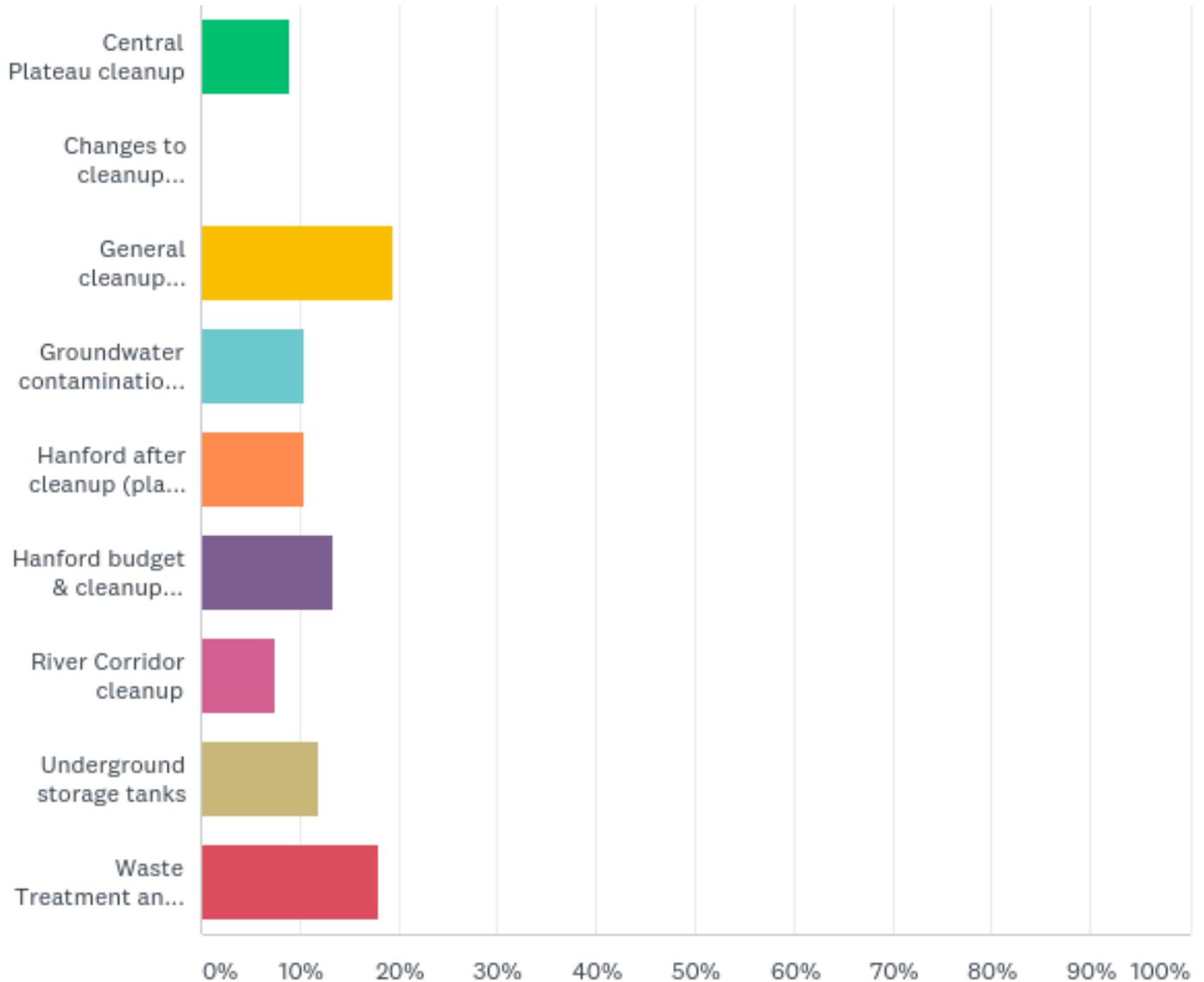
However, I do NOT think that a webinar can replace in person interaction as a form of public engagement.

I am not very computer-skilled, but possibly

Hard to truly feel involved that way.

Webinar is the way to go

**Q18: Which Hanford topic would you MOST want to discuss or learn more about in a public forum?** **67 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Central Plateau cleanup	8.96%	6
Changes to cleanup schedules	0.00%	0
General cleanup progress & challenges	19.40%	13
Groundwater contamination & treatment	10.45%	7
Hanford after cleanup (plans for future land use)	10.45%	7
Hanford budget & cleanup priorities	13.43%	9
River Corridor cleanup	7.46%	5
Underground storage tanks	11.94%	8
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant	17.91%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>67</b>

## Q18: Which Hanford topic would you MOST want to discuss or learn more about in a public forum?

### 11 people provided specific responses

Providing in-person input to decision makers about cleanup priorities, vision, and overcoming challenges

Long term stewardship, secondary waste stream management related to vitrification

Percentage of total cleanup for each project.

I need more information about HAB. Who is on HAB now.

Why can we only choose one topic?

WESF Clean-up plans

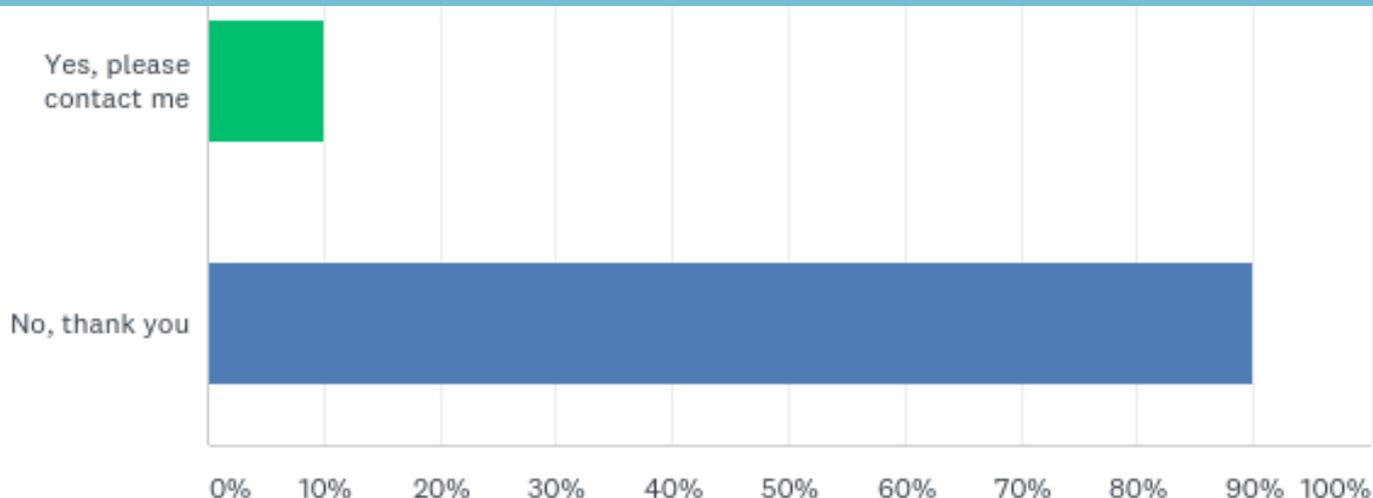
Nuclear waste debris removal to long term storage elsewhere but here in the NW

The impacts of the change in administration

All of the above

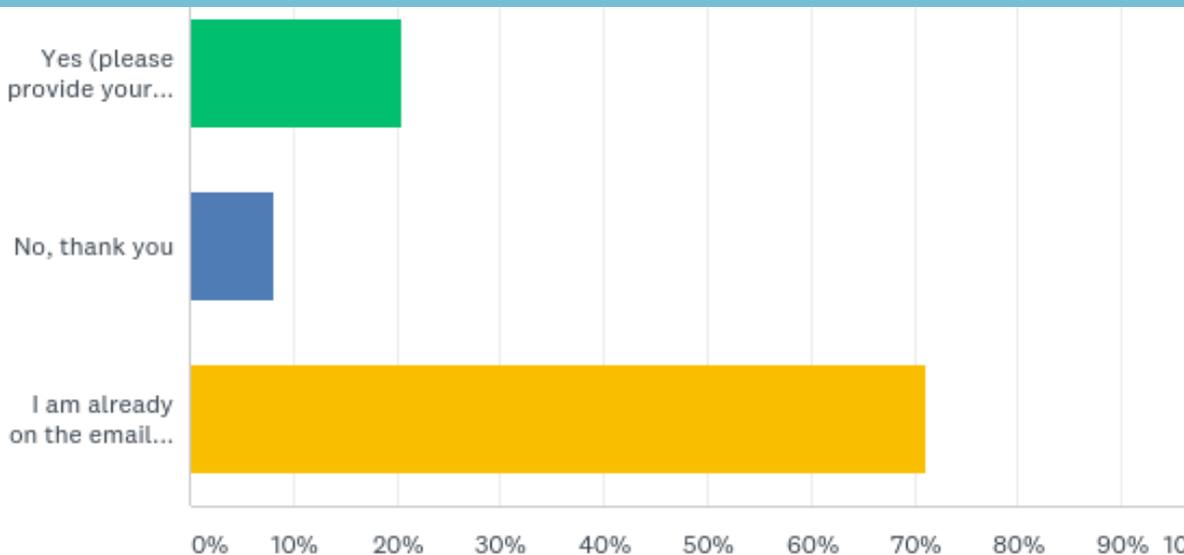
Tank farm vapor issues and worker health

**Q19: Would you be interested in hosting a Hanford speaker from the TPA agencies for your group, classroom, or event? 69 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, please contact me	10.14%	7
No, thank you	89.86%	62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>69</b>

**Q20: Would you like to join the TPA agency email list to receive information about Hanford? 73 Answered**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (please provide your email below)	20.55%	15
No, thank you	8.22%	6
I am already on the email list	71.23%	52
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>73</b>

## Q21: Please provide us with any other thoughts on Hanford cleanup.

22 Answered

Thank you for the survey. I will provide further details for the selected questions (as indicated by "See #21") in a separate document (NEW-COM-0011) to Dieter Bohrmann, ORP, at [Dieter\\_G\\_Bohrmann@orp.doe.gov](mailto:Dieter_G_Bohrmann@orp.doe.gov), by 02/28/2017.

I kind of agree with Trump's position; we need to accelerate cleanup. There are too many delays. A 5-8 generation cleanup is a bit too long. There is also a lack of accountability with some contractors and some DOE activities. There should be more accountability through such activities as potential loss of contract for lack of performance, lack of meeting times lines/budget. Bechtel should not be a contractor at Hanford due to these type of issues and poor performance at other job sites.

There is a push to sell the Hanford cleanup as being done to allow the public access to "unclaimed" federal land. The reality is that Hanford is federal land, and as such there are many "restrictions" on it other than the contamination that will keep the "public" from using large areas. While some land has been transferred to private/public organizations, the value of these land transfers will never come close to the cost of the Hanford cleanup. The TPA agencies should quit touting these false expectations. For example, has anyone been to the top of Rattlesnake lately?

I know that Pres. Obama, who is very aware, didn't know anything about Hanford problems during a regional visit. With our current president, simple education must begin at the kindergarten level and work up, and very quickly as the problems are getting worse. Earthquakes could destabilize everything.

It needs to get done! Don't add more waste into unlined trenches! lck!

Hanford cleanup is an overwhelming and complex undertaking. I hold on to the hope that leadership will seize the opportunity to meaningfully involve agencies, regulators, contractors, stakeholders, and tribes to work together to solve this daunting challenge. Hanford's toxic chemical and radioactive waste must be contained to protect the environment and future generations and to do that well will require thoughtful and deliberate decision making that incorporates public, stakeholder, and tribes values. This process requires trust-building, relationships, clear and transparent communication, and above all a willingness to be influenced by other perspectives and ways of seeing. The decisions made today will impact this part of the world for hundreds of thousands of years.

Too many meetings on documents. Too much energy producing documents. spend more time and energy on actual cleanup activities. Find a way to simplifying and streamline the CERCLA RCRA process. State of the Site Meetings -- please regularly schedule. People want to be able to talk about what is happening.

We just keep adjusting and adjusting. I don't understand why there are so many change-orders. I want to know the total percentage of clean-up each project represents.

Limit the amount of input from self proclaimed do-gooders who are not impacted by the Hanford cleanup. Specifically west siders.

**Q21: Please provide us with any other thoughts on Hanford cleanup. (con't)**  
**22 Answered**

I'm disheartened by what I see less and less funding being allocated for public involvement activities regarding the Hanford cleanup. The current Hanford Advisory Board budget does not support holding meetings outside of the Tri-Cities (despite the fact that this is a regional board) and the EPA is recommending webinars in place of State of the Site meetings this year against the recommendations of the HAB's Public Involvement Committee. These examples represent a gradual erosion in the TPA agencies' commitment to public involvement, and as a member of the public, I am deeply saddened and disappointed by this.

Other than remarks in #16, I hope that the tragedy of Hanford: 1940's to Whenever --will teach humanity not to become infatuated with any and all manner of technologies, just because some coterie has discovered how to bring the like into operation.

Public Participation is very difficult but essential> Funding is necessary to enable HAB members to attend meetings and participate. With recent election and potential changes in funding I think there will be more individuals ready to serve. Keep working at it.

With The Trump Administration now in place, it is critical in my opinion to be proactive and try to get those key decision makers to Hanford for engagement and discussions. This needs to be done now to ensure that Hanford funding is protected and continues.

It is the most expensive project without an end in sight. With all the delays in cleanup, its hard to believe it will be accomplished

Startup of the vitrification plant in 2039 is a joke. If the original plans and projects had been allowed to be completed most of the waste would be solidified by now.

Whistle blowing needs to be encouraged to keep a close eye on contractors. Contractor oversight should be increased. The profit motive for contractor bureaucrats is more important to the corporations than protection of the environment and life.

It is still a disaster and that is not going to change with the repeated acquiescence of failure and delay that has been the very long history of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation Cleanup.

a complex and dangerous situation that needs to be monitored by evryone. Thank you for offering the information and opportunities to meet officials involved in the clean-up

When I began involvement in 1980s the first meeting resulted in staff saying 'we just need to do a better job with PR' and it still has that feel. It just needs to be cleaned up.

**Q21: Please provide us with any other thoughts on Hanford cleanup. (Con't)**  
**22 Answered**

There is no actual cleanup. There is just treating nuclear waste and moving it from one place to another. No containment is safe for the actual half-life of many nuclides. Nobody bothered to consider cleanup solutions when nuclear facilities were built, they just assumed that science would solve the problems. It didn't. And it won't. Science is also profit-based, not problem-based. The planet and life itself are just collateral damage for corporate profits. No facility should be allowed to continue producing nuclear waste until existing waste has been cleaned up. That would get things moving quickly.

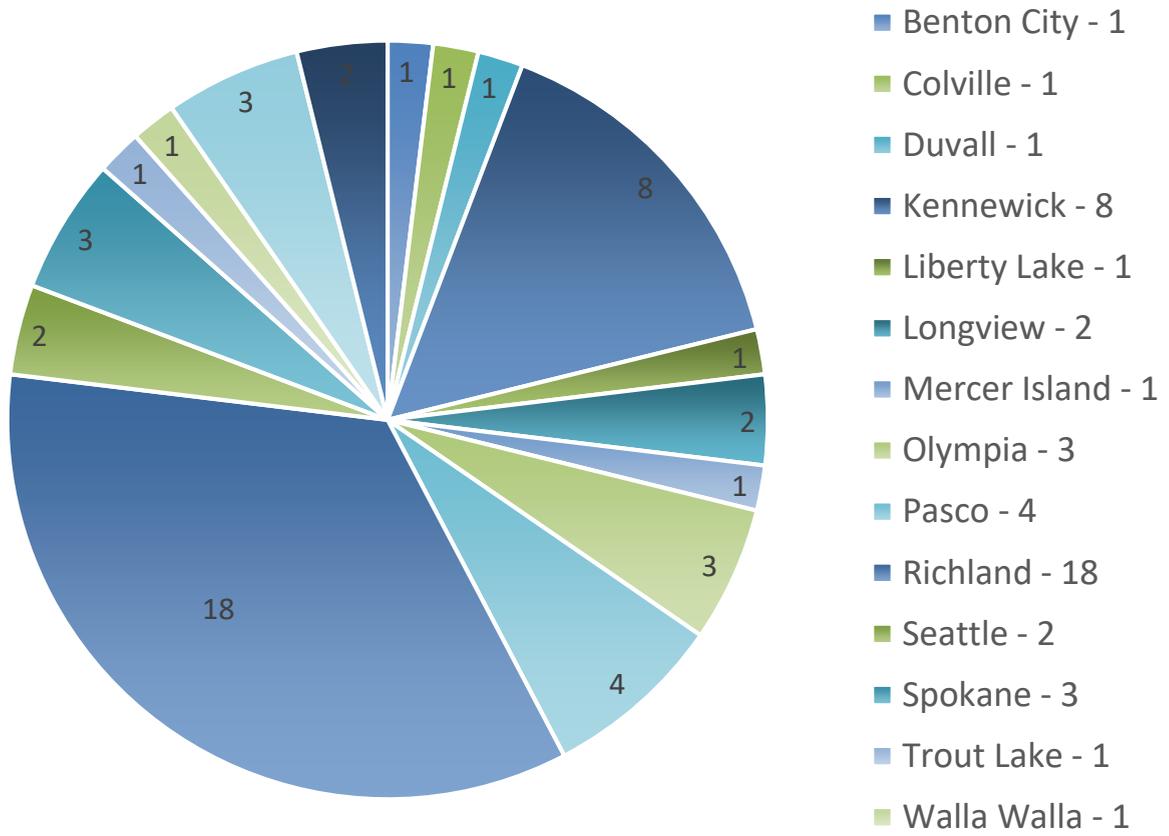
Is there a danger to the public when attending a tour of Hanford? Employees are at risk and they do not appear to be listened to.

The Tri-Party agency public involvement representatives have a challenging and often thankless job. Appreciate what you are doing.

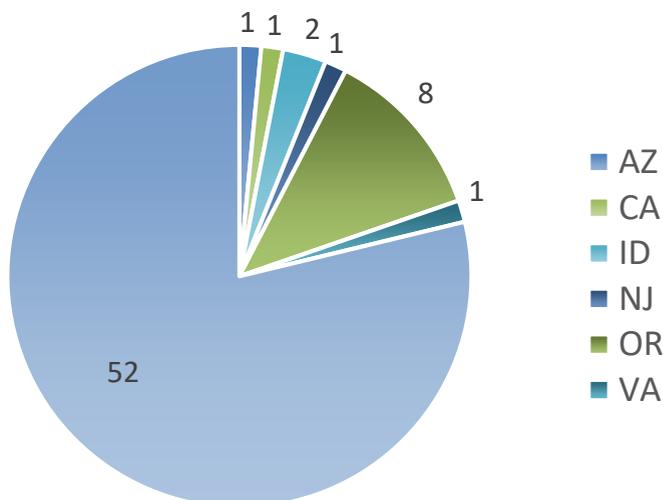


*View of the Hanford Site from the Franklin County side of the river.*

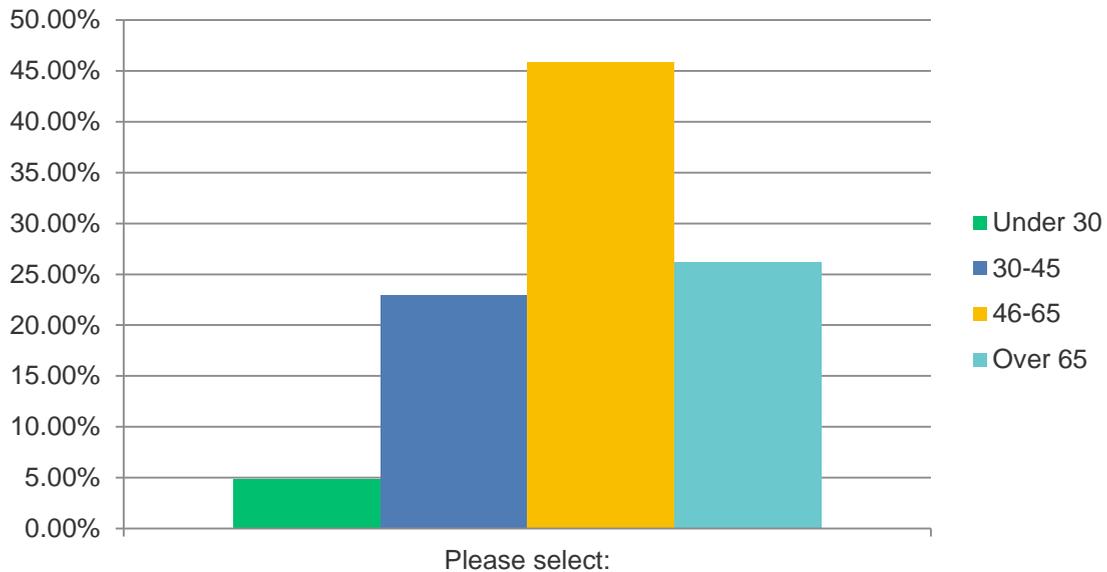
Washington Cities of Residency



States of Residency

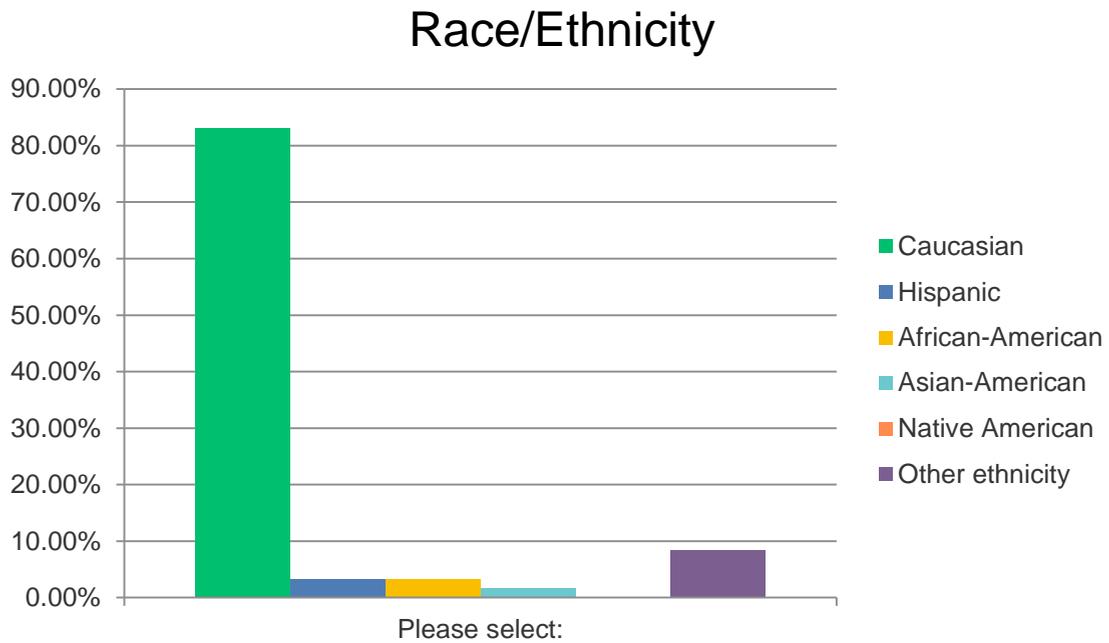


### Age



### Gender





Thank you for your interest in Hanford Cleanup.  
Please visit us at:

[Ecology.wa.gov](http://Ecology.wa.gov)

[Hanford.gov](http://Hanford.gov)