

## Session 15

### **Panel: Does The Role Of Public Participation Programs Change As US DOE Sites Change Missions And Move Closer To Closing?**

Panel Reporter: Judy Connell, Fluor Hanford

The purpose of this panel was to share lessons learned on public-participation at Department of Energy sites in various stages of operations/closure: Fernald, which was officially transferred to Legacy Management in January 2007; Savannah River, which still has an operating mission; the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory that has both ongoing and closure missions; and the Hanford Site that has three DOE Field Offices and multiple prime contractors with different and often opposing missions and incentives for performance. The perspective of managing sites after they are officially closed was also discussed.

The following individuals participated in the panel:

- Sonny Goldston sitting in for Teresa Haas, Savannah River
- Amy Lientz, Idaho National Laboratory
- Karen Lutz, DOE-Richland Operations
- Lynette Bennett, Washington Closure Hanford
- Judy Connell, Fluor Hanford
- Jeff Wagner, Fernald Closure Project
- Donna Gallaher, Legacy Management, Stoller.

Each panelist was given 10 minutes to make a presentation and then the panel discussion centered on the following questions.

How do you measure success?

What does it mean to have a stigma?

How do you get uninterested stakeholders to voice an opinion and participate? (Sometimes, just getting stakeholders to attend the meeting is a challenge.)

How do you overcome apathy in your workforce?

How do you go from confrontation to a dialogue?

Each of the panelists has turned in their Power Point slides to be included in the proceedings and therefore each discussion is not included in this summary. Next year's Panel will have a broader reach since it will not be limited to U.S. DOE sites. International representatives will be invited to participate.

#### Attendance at the Session

Only 7-8 people, in addition to the panelists, were at Session 15 because the session before this one ran over by more than hour. As a result, the panelists were hurried in their presentations and very little discussion was possible and few questions were asked.

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