Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board

Fernald	**Nevada**	**Paducah**
Hanford	**Northern New Mexico**	**Rocky Flats**
Idaho	**Oak Ridge**	**Savannah River**

June 19, 2006

Mr. James A. Rispoli
EM-1/DOE-HQ Forrestal Building
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Rispoli:

Recommendation for EM SSAB Input to Future Site Environmental Budget Requests

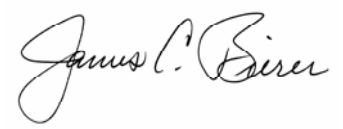
The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) would like to express our gratitude for your active participation at our recent Chairs' meeting. As you know, at the meeting we discussed the President's FY 2007 budget for Environmental Management (EM), which contains major cuts in the budgets requested by individual sites. The EM SSAB Chairs are very concerned that this will result in insufficient funds for existing commitments on cleanup activities and regulatory compliance. The EM SSAB Chairs recommend that the development of EM budgets include EM SSAB participation to assist in establishing priorities and requested budgets for environmental actions.

As a result of the budget shortfalls, regulatory requirements, commitments to stakeholders, and continued risk reduction will not be comprehensively addressed. At some sites risk may actually increase. Many of the positive benefits of existing partnering relationships between DOE, stakeholders, and regulatory agencies at individual sites may be negatively impacted by these shortfalls. No doubt these budget reductions will result in delays in cleanup actions, increased costs for total cleanup, and likely penalties or fines to be paid by DOE.

Many EM SSABs have not been able to effectively participate in the recent site EM budget processes. In recent years, the loss of input by many of the local EM SSABs has resulted in surprise and concern within the EM SSAB for the priorities identified for EM budgets in the coming years. Some sites have individual environmental contamination issues of extreme concern. One example is the contamination of a sole-source aquifer, which apparently does not rank high in the set of proposed EM priorities. The stated EM objective of risk reduction at sites can be better implemented by a risk-informed decision process involving the EM SSAB, other stakeholders, and the regulatory agencies at each site.

The EM SSABs request to be included in a consistent and effective EM budget process to assist in the establishment of priorities and levels of funding for each site. To implement this process, the EM SSABs request that EM provide guidance to site managers to work with EM SSABs to assist in the establishment of EM budget priorities and allocations for sites.

The EM SSABs look forward to providing continued advice to and in support of DOE's environmental cleanup activities at individual sites. We believe our knowledge and recommendations about concerns of the local citizens can be of benefit to individual sites and to the EM complex.



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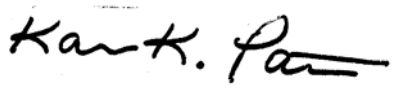

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cc: Mark Frei, EM-30
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