

December 7, 2001

Harry Boston, Manager  
Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
2440 Stevens  
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Tank Waste Baselines

Dear Mr. Boston,

In November, Hanford Advisory Board committees received a presentation on the current and out year budget status of the Tank Waste Treatment Project (TWP).

The HAB fully supports the baselines and funding profiles for building and operating a tank waste treatment complex. However, during the out year portion of this discussion, the committees were shown the old privatization funding profile for the Waste Treatment Project balance of mission through 2018. This has been presented as the current baseline even though privatization was abandoned due to its high cost.

Using out-moded privatization balance of mission assumptions and funding profiles does the critical TWP much more harm than good. For example, it creates a possibly artificial pressure to compromise on cleanup goals, and makes the balance of mission appear much more expensive than it needs to be thereby potentially jeopardizing the whole project.

The Hanford Advisory Board recommends that the Office of River Protection develop alternatives to the privatization baselines for retrieving and vitrifying Hanford tank waste that present a more fiscally credible approach. These alternatives should reflect the current scope and commitments of the TWP. These actions could result in significant savings over the baseline that is currently being presented to the Board and decision-makers.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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*This advice represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.*

cc: Jessie Roberson, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
Keith Klein, U.S. Department of Energy  
John Iani, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Wade Ballard, Deputy Designated Federal Official  
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency  
Martha Crossland, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters