

June 4, 2004

Roy Schepens, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450
Richland, WA 99352

Linda Hoffman, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Tank Closure EIS Alternatives

Dear Mr. Schepens and Ms. Hoffman,

The Department of Energy-Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) took comment on the scope of the Tank Closure Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in early 2002. DOE-ORP recently shared the scope and outline of alternatives under consideration with the Hanford Advisory Board's (Board) committees. DOE-ORP hopes to issue the draft EIS in September for comment.

The Board wishes to register its strong concern that no alternative in the scope of the EIS is compliant with the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). DOE-ORP's proposed suite of alternatives includes only one alternative that meets the TPA treatment standard of vitrifying all the wastes (after retrieval of 99% or better). All other alternatives in the EIS use additional treatment technologies and/or are not based on retrieving and treating all wastes by 2028. The Board advises DOE-ORP that the EIS should analyze at least one alternative that complies with the TPA requirements for treatment and removal of tank wastes by 2028.

The baseline assumptions used for alternatives in this EIS, and others, should be in compliance with the TPA and other relevant legal requirements.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

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: Keith Klein, Manager, U.S Department of Energy, Richland Operations
John Iani, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Howard Gnann, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology
Sandra Waisley, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H Smith
Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (OR)

Earl Blumenauer
Peter DeFazio
Darlene Hooley
Greg Walden
David Wu

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Brian Baird
Norm Dicks
Jennifer Dunn
Jay Inslee
Richard Hastings
Rick Larsen
Jim McDermott
George Nethercutt
Adam Smith

State Senators (WA)

Pat Hale
Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)

Jerome Delvin
Shirley Hankins