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November 11, 1994

John Wagoner, Manager  
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PO Box 550 (A7-50)  
Richland, WA 99352

Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
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Mary Riveland, Director  
Department of Ecology  
State of Washington  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Messrs. Wagoner and Clarke and Ms. Riveland:

On behalf of the Hanford Advisory Board, I am pleased to forward to you the advice the Board adopted at its November 3rd meeting in Seattle. This advice was adopted by consensus based on work and presentations done by our Major Safety & Waste Management Committee.

We trust that you will consider this advice carefully and will respond to the Board regarding your ability to implement this advice.

Very truly yours,

Sue Gould, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD**  
**November 3, 1994**

The Hanford Advisory Board advises the Department of Energy, the Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency that:

- They should continue to move toward expedited removal of spent fuel from the K-Basins as quickly as possible because it is most consistent with the Board's values described below.
- Study of unresolved technical questions is required to support any decision concerning the packaging, treatment or stabilization of spent fuel for temporary or interim storage.

- Resolution of unresolved technical questions should be done expeditiously to allow timely removal of spent fuel from the basins by December 2002.
- Safety upgrades and the path forward for removal of fuel should be fully funded in the 1995 reallocation and receive high priority for FY96 and FY97.

Furthermore, the DOE, Ecology and the EPA should give no further consideration to processing Hanford spent fuel at a foreign facility nor should they support further study of extended storage of spent fuels in the K-Basins.

### **RELEVANT BOARD VALUES IMPACTING THESE CONCERNS**

1. Columbia River should be the highest priority. The river is a vital resources in the Northwest. Contamination entering the river causes concern for downstream drinking water, fishing, recreation, and agriculture.
2. Protect public\worker health and safety.
3. Put wastes in an environmentally safe form.
4. Get on with cleanup to achieve substantive progress in a timely manner. This means demonstrating waste containment, stabilization and safe storage as quickly as possible. "Getting on with it" also means using the most practicable, timely available technology while leaving room for future innovation.
5. Accept the fact that interim storage of the waste in an environmentally safe form will occur at Hanford.
6. Minimize transportation of radioactive and hazardous materials to and from the site to reduce the risks to the public and the environment. Assume treatment of Hanford's wastes will occur on site; it is not productive to study transportation of Hanford's wastes off-site for treatment.

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford\_Advisory\_Board@rl.gov*

*HAB Consensus Advice #6*

*Subject: Spent Fuel (Health, Safety & Waste Management Committee)*

*Adopted: November 3, 1994, Letter to Tri-Parties*