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December 12, 1994

RE: Environmental Restoration Refocusing Consensus Advice Adopted December 2, 1994

Dear Messrs. Clarke and Wagoner, and Ms. Riveland:

As Acting Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), I am forwarding to you the following advice on the Environmental Restoration Refocusing, which was adopted by consensus by the Board at its December meeting in Portland, Oregon:

The Hanford Advisory Board agrees in principle with the general refocus of the October 1994 Tentative Tri-Party Agreement on Environmental Restoration.

Tri-Party negotiators followed recommendations of the Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group and the Tank Waste Task Force. In particular, the Future Site Uses Working Group identified protecting the Columbia River as an "immediate priority". That position was adopted and endorsed by the Hanford Advisory Board. The Board commends the Tri-Parties for heeding that advice.

However, the Board has serious concern that budget shortfalls will delay critical cleanup activities such as accelerated groundwater remediation and startup of soil remediation along the Columbia River, despite assurances to the contrary by the Tri-Parties. The Board will review the comments submitted through the public hearing process and the agency response to those comments. The Board will also continue to monitor the manner in which the refocused Tri-Party Agreement carries out the explicit advice given the Tri-Parties by the Future Site Uses Working Group, the Tank Waste Task Force, and the Board itself.

The Board looks forward to your written response, as called for in our charter.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Acting Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Thomas Grumbly

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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 #9*

*Subject: Environmental Restoration Refocusing (ER Committee)*

*Adopted: December 2, 1994, Letter to Tri-Parties*