



February 4, 2000

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Subject: Possible Transfer of Low-Level & Mixed Low-Level Waste to Hanford

Dear Messrs. Clarke, Fitzsimmons, and Klein:

The upcoming Record of Decision (ROD) for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Disposal of Low-Level and Mixed Low-Level Waste will identify Hanford as one of the preferred disposal sites for both types of waste from across the DOE complex. This decision could result in the import of large amounts of low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste to Hanford. This issue is one on which the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) and Hanford stakeholders have considerable concern. The Board in particular has issued several pieces of advice concerning the importation of additional waste to Hanford. Before such import occurs, there should be adequate opportunity for public education and involvement.

One of the most consistent themes concerning the movement of waste among DOE sites has been the need for a national public dialogue on issues such as this that pertain to nuclear materials disposition. As a result of the upcoming ROD, the Tri-Parties have been engaging in exploratory discussions over the implications of this decision. The Board strongly advises the Tri-Parties that these discussions should not continue without public input and involvement. If not a national dialogue, at least a regional dialogue to include the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, the tribal governments, local communities and all other interested stakeholders should commence as soon as possible and continue throughout the process. This public process should include full disclosure of known information on the risks associated with adding new wastes to the Hanford inventory. All involved with this process should have access to the same data and information about cleanup from a national perspective.

While the Board endorses the need to look at cleanup from a national perspective, it also

remains committed to ensuring that Hanford cleanup is done in an expeditious, safe, technically sound and equitable manner. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

We look forward to your response and to periodic progress updates on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Carolyn Huntoon, Department of Energy Headquarters
Wade Ballard, Deputy Designated Federal Official
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

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.

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