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Stephen M. Sohinki, Director  
US Department of Energy  
Office of Reconfiguration  
PO Box 3417  
Alexandria, VA 22302

August 4, 1995

Dear Mr. Sohinki:

In June, 1995, the U.S. Department of Energy issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) on the Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS and notice of public scoping meetings scheduled to occur between June 29 and August 4, 1995 at Oak Ridge, TN; Aiken S.C.; Los Alamos and Albuquerque, N.M.; Amarillo, TX; and North Las Vegas, NV. The public comment period was scheduled to end on August 11, 1995.

On June 23, 1995, the U.S. DOE Albuquerque Operations Office Notice of Intent announcing additional scoping for the Draft Pantex Sitewide EIS. This included potential local impacts associated with selection of the Pantex site for Stockpile Stewardship and Storage. From this document the Hanford Advisory Board first became aware that the scope of the Stockpile Stewardship and Management PEIS had been changed. This change resulted in Hanford being added as a site for consideration for interim pit storage and two of the previously selected sites being deleted.

The HAB believes this change undermines the intent of an environmental assessment process by presenting a piecemeal and fragmented approach to dealing with waste management and special nuclear materials issues around the former weapons complex. The Hanford Advisory Board already advised U.S. DOE in HAB Consensus Advice #13 adopted February 3, 1995 of the need for an integrated and coordinated approach to allow stakeholders to understand the full impact of all potential importation of waste and special nuclear materials to Hanford and other sites in the former nuclear weapons production complex.

The HAB requests both an extension of the public comment period and the scheduling of several open meetings for citizens around the Northwest to be involved in the scoping process. An extended public comment period would allow U.S. DOE to include Hanford stakeholders as it prepares any decisions that consider sending wastes or special nuclear materials to the Hanford Site. We also urge the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to request that U.S. DOE extend the comment period.

The Hanford Advisory Board urges the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ensure they are fully involved in decisions that would impact the Hanford Site, particularly in decisions that could compete with or detract from the site's cleanup mission and the resources it requires.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory

cc: Mary Riveland, Ecology  
Chuck Clarke, USDOE  
John Wagoner, DOE  
Thomas Grumbly, Department of Energy  
Cindy Kelly, Designated Federal Official  
Linda Lingle, Site Representative  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

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*HAB Consensus Advice #29*