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December 8, 1995

RE: Review of FY96 BEMR, MYPP and Site Level Assumptions (HAB Advice #36)

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

The FY96 BEMR, MYPP and Site Level Assumptions are expected to guide Hanford decision-making, budget scenarios, budgetary expectations and priorities for the coming three fiscal years, and possibly beyond, if incorporated into a new Strategic Plan.

The Dollars & Sense Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board has identified a number of planning assumptions that vary significantly from prior published planning assumptions. Those new assumptions conflict with future site uses and other public consensus advice.

On December 6th, the ER Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board received from USDOE their proposed Environmental Restoration Project Long Range Plan. The assumptions in the plan would seriously compromise environmental restoration through 2001. The long range plan is based on budget assumptions which will violate the TPA. The flat funding assumption may, in fact, not only delay clean-up, but may also increase costs as a result of deferring ER activities.

Because of the importance of the assumptions influence on budgets (including national target level budgets), priorities and decision-making for Hanford, assumptions should be subjected to Hanford Advisory Board review and public input prior to adoption of significant departures from the TPA prior

public expectations, consensus Future Site Use Principles or Values, which USDOE had previously indicated it would utilize, or prior mission assumptions distributed to the public.

USDOE should identify where its major assumptions are proposed to be changed and engage the HAB, regulators, Tribes and the public in a dialogue regarding justifications for such major changes. For assumptions that depart significantly from past regional stakeholder consensus advice and values, USDOE should not adopt new assumptions without full written justification and dialogue with the regions stakeholders.

Headquarters, Congress and OMB should understand that the assumptions on which the Baseline Environmental Management Report (BEMR) and budget targets are based do not have either stakeholder nor regulator approval, and in numerous cases, activities based on these assumptions can not be implemented without such approval. USDOE reliance on these assumptions for either Headquarters planning (including basic budget assumptions for presentation to Congress and OMB) or Richland planning is likely to engender significant controversy and future revision to plans relying upon these assumptions.

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

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Cindy Kelly, Designated Federal Official
Linda Lingle, Site Representative
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

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

HAB Consensus Advice #36

Subject: Review of FY'96 BEMR, MYPP and "Site Level Assumptions"

Adopted: December 7-8, 1995