



Thomas P. Grumbly  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington DC 20585

February 2, 1996

Subject: Opportunity for Public Involvement in Plutonium Disposition (HAB Advice #43)

Dear Mr. Grumbly:

This nation's plutonium disposition is of growing concern to the Northwest. The end of the cold war, weapons dismantlement and cessation of plutonium production has added urgency to the issue. Recent public education efforts in Oregon and Washington with support from your office and DOE-RL have generated considerable public interest regarding the disposition of the nation's plutonium. We therefore commend you for your recent commitment to develop a national dialogue on an integrated approach to waste management and nuclear material disposition issues.

In light of the high level of regional public interest in plutonium disposition, only one scheduled opportunity for public comment on the upcoming Storage and Disposition of Weapons Useable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is not adequate. Though only one public hearing is required by law, the HAB feels that opportunity for public education and comment is too limited for such an important issue. We urge you to provide for additional opportunity for public involvement in Portland, Seattle, a city in Idaho and nationwide for this PEIS.

Public support is necessary for effective clean-up activities. However, funding for these public hearings should not reduce the funding allocated for remediation activities. We support the ongoing dialog on improving public involvement opportunities regarding the disposition of the nation's nuclear materials.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
The Hanford Advisory Board

cc: 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 #43*

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