



John Wagoner, Manager  
Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
PO Box 550 (A7-50)  
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice on FY 1998 Budget Planning

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

The Hanford Advisory Board has reviewed the preliminary DOE-RL Environmental Management budget planning for FY 1998. We appreciate your initiative and cooperation in making this budget data available for our review and comment. This review provides an opportunity for stakeholder input to the budget development process, which has not been available to us in previous years. This opportunity will greatly contribute to our understanding and review of later iterations of the FY 1998 budget.

As a result of our current review of the preliminary budget data we have identified a number of concerns which are discussed more completely in our detailed comments provided in the attachment to this letter. Our primary areas of concern include the following topics:

- **Deferral of cleanup along the Columbia River**  
The Board has serious concerns regarding apparent changes in clean up goals and schedule for the Environmental Restoration program adjacent to the Columbia River.
- **External cost review and overhead cost reductions**  
The Board advises that continuing emphasis must be placed upon overhead cost reductions and the utilization of credible external reviews of overhead, baseline and capital costs.
- **TWRS funding levels and privatization funding set aside**  
The Board is seriously concerned with apparent under funding to the TWRS program to achieve committed TPA milestones. The Board is also concerned with an apparent lack of focus in the TWRS clean up project. We have significant concerns with the Privatization program and the \$147 million set aside and the resultant impact on other vital Hanford programs.
- **Risk Evaluation Process**  
The Board has a number of concerns regarding the Risk Evaluation Process and its role in establishing the Integrated Priority List.
- **Changed Assumptions**  
Current DOE budget planning is based upon a number of changes in TPA adherence and clean up goals which have not been previously reviewed with the regulators, stakeholders, or the Board. Any proposed changes in clean up standards should be evaluated through the established NEPA process.
- **Funding priority list**  
The 196 items budget priority list was developed without Board input. The Board will not endorse specific priority rankings. Rather the Board supports budget planning to implement its adopted values, advices, and clean up goals.
- **Facilities Transition upgrades requirements**

There are a number of program items which are required to meet TPA milestones and facility safety enhancements. These items should be funded in current budget planning.

- **Waste Management Offsite Waste Import Costs**

The Board recommends that positive action be taken to ensure that full cost recovery be obtained from the originating site for any wastes shipped from other sites to Hanford for processing or interim storage.

- **Stakeholder Ranking on Integrated Priority List**

The Board does not support and will not participate in a numerical ranking of specific budget items. Rather the Board has and will continue to provide comment on budgeting priorities to support its adopted values and the advice previously provided to DOE.

After your review of our comments and concerns regarding these budgetary issues, we will be pleased to discuss these issues with you and your staff in greater detail. We look forward to your response to this Advice as provided for in our Charter.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves  
Hanford Advisory Board

enclosure: FY 1998 Hanford Advisory Consensus Advice #44

cc: Chuck Clarke, Environmental Protection Agency  
Mary Riveland, Washington Department of Ecology  
Thomas Grumbly, Department of Energy - Headquarters  
Cindy Kelley, Designated Federal Official  
Linda Lingle, Site Representative  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

---

[Hanford Home Page](#) | [HAB](#) | [Advice Index](#)

*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford\_Advisory\_Board@rl.gov  
HAB Consensus Advice #44c  
Subject: FY 1998 Budget (Cover Letter)  
Adopted: March 14, 1996*