



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

March 14, 1996

Subject: DOE Financial Support for a Tribal Roundtable (HAB Advice #45)

Dear Mr. Grumbly:

The NW Region, and the HAB in particular, is very concerned that there be an opportunity for meaningful public comment on the upcoming Plutonium PEIS. Our concern has been most clearly demonstrated by our support of the Plutonium Roundtable and the Oregon town meeting process in October of last year. Most recently we requested additional public meetings for our region on this important PEIS.

To date, meaningful tribal involvement has been absent. In order to enhance Tribal involvement on the Plutonium PEIS, we are requesting from DOE financial support for a Tribal Roundtable on this PEIS. This Roundtable deserves DOE's support to allow:

- a National level consultation with Indian Nations to bring the Tribes up to speed concerning disposal options for surplus plutonium and associated issues.
- the Nez Perce to gain experience in facilitation of technical meetings.
- DOE's HQ Office of Fissile Materials to gain experience in tribal consultation.

The following resources are being provided by organizations already supporting the Roundtable:

- The Nez Perce Tribe will handle facilitation and administrative support - over 1/3 of costs required for producing the Roundtable
- The University of Washington will provide facilities, and panelist and workshop leaders.
- The HAB and supporting organizations will lend support and expertise through its Plutonium Roundtable process.

What is requested from DOE is financial support (estimated \$25,000) to bring concerned tribal leaders from across the country to participate in the Roundtable.

In light of the absence of tribal consultation during this PEIS, DOE should take this opportunity to

address its trust responsibility, conform with the President's memorandum regarding government-to-government consultation, and live up to the spirit of its own Indian policy.

Thank you for your prompt response to this request, as there is limited time available for public comment on this issue. The public comment period closes May 7, 1996.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
The Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Thomas Grumbly, Department of Energy
Chuck Clarke, Environmental Protection Agency
Mary Riveland, Washington Department of Ecology
Cindy Kelly, Designated Federal Official
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HAB Consensus Advice #45

Subject: DOE Financial Report for a Tribal Roundtable (3 Abstentions)

Adopted: March 14, 1996