



September 10, 1999

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director  
Washington Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dick French, Manager  
Office of River Protection  
2440 Stevens Center  
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Tri-Party Response to HAB Advice

Dear Messrs. Fitzsimmons and French:

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) continues to be disappointed in the agencies' response to HAB advice (#90 and #93) that urged the speedy development of Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones governing tank waste treatment. The Board took the unprecedented step of offering TPA milestones in its advice in order to highlight both the importance of such milestones and the ability of over thirty diverse interests to agree on this critical project's future.

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) refusal to date to commit to comprehensive enforceable milestones for the tank waste treatment -- in or outside the context of the BNFL contract -- runs directly counter to the Board's core values and advice.

Program success depends on agency cooperation and a strong TPA. The Board urges the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and DOE to take prompt action in order to break the impasse. If a resolution is not reached on or before September 17th, Ecology should issue a "final determination" (an Ecology order outlining compliance requirements) as is provided for in the Agreement in Principle (24 March 1999).

We look forward to your response and to periodic progress updates on this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Marilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Carolyn Huntoon, Department of Energy Headquarters  
Keith Klein, U.S. Department of Energy  
Chuck Clarke, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

George Sanders, Acting Deputy Designated Federal Official  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations  
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency  
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

*NOTE: Norm Buske, Government Accountability Project, dissented from this advice.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Advice numbers 90 and 93 focused on the high priority the Board has placed on TPA milestones covering the tank waste treatment program. Advice 93 was an effort on the part of the Board to compose TPA milestones which it forwarded to the agencies.

*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.*

---

[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](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov)*

*HAB Consensus Advice #99*

*Subject: Tri-Party Response to HAB Advice*

*Adopted: September 10, 1999*