



**U.S. Department of Energy  
Hanford Site**

AUG 28 2007

2007I-362

07-OEC-0060

Ms. Susan L. Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
Enviroiissues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

**FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2008 AND 2009 AND OUTYEAR BUDGETS – ADVICE #198**

We are very pleased to hear that, for the most part, the information provided by the Department was sufficiently detailed to provide for meaningful, specific feedback and dialogue on future budgets. Additionally, it is good to hear that there is recognition of the significant efforts the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) and the Office of River Protection (ORP) have made to balance funding allocations between competing priorities and requirements. While the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) does advise increased near-term investment in several areas, there does not appear to be a general misalignment between your priorities and values and planned expenditures.

In response to HAB Advice on FY 2008, FY 2009, and Outyear budgets, the RL and ORP have enclosed our July 13, 2007, FY 2009 Environmental Management (EM) Budget submittals. RL requested \$1,430.8M which is required to continue to meet our commitment to clean up the legacy of the Hanford Site and is consistent with the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement). ORP requested \$1.081M in funding for FY 2009 consistent with our validated and Secretarial Acquisition Executive approved baselines. The ORP budget request is not consistent with achievement of the Hanford Federal Facilities Agreement and Consent Order upcoming milestones. Our final submittal letters describe in more detail what work both offices will accomplish in FY 2009.

We thank you for your comments and recognition of the enhanced information content that was made available and discussed with the Board, regulators, and the public. Because of the process developed at Hanford working with the Board, EM issued complex-wide guidance on how the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) should involve Site Specific Advisory Boards in the development of DOE budgets. In addition, we appreciate the collaboration and feedback from the Public Involvement Committee on our budget outreach efforts this year. Based on this collaboration, the Hanford Pie-Chart Priorities Exercise was developed. This exercise elicited more focused feedback from the public and served to promote greater interactive dialogue between members of the public and the agencies. Unlike past years where we could only provide DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ) with general themes (trends) from the public meetings, this year RL and ORP's budget submittal contained specific information on the public's priorities and values along with written comments.

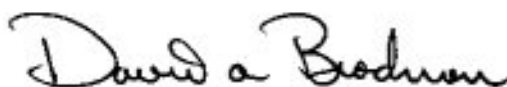
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As result of ongoing dialogue with the regulator agencies, public feedback, and consistent with the values and advice of the Board, RL has distinguished groundwater activities for the River Corridor and Central Plateau in an effort to focus on protection of the Columbia River. Ongoing efforts to look at cleanup strategies that emphasize groundwater overall at the Hanford Site continue, including deep vadose zone characterization. We also received numerous comments that funding for safeguarding plutonium and special nuclear material should not come out of EM's budget.

For ORP, the consistent theme from these ongoing discussions is that we should continue focusing the necessary resources on the design and construction of the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) and full funding at the target level is requested for FY 2009. Although comments and feedback were mixed for the Demonstration Bulk Vitrification Systems (DBVS), you are aware the department must continue to pursue a viable supplemental treatment technology to treat the volume of low-activity waste not treated by WTP, and FY 2009 over-target funding was requested for DBVS. ORP has requested target funding for 1 Single Shell Tank (SST) retrieval in FY 2009 for a total of 11 SSTs retrieved. Feedback received in the budget process indicates a high level of interest from the Board, regulators, public, and others in accelerating the pace of SST retrievals at Hanford.

We continue to appreciate the time and effort of the Board on budget and cleanup priorities and for the collaboration on the development of the FY 2009 budget outreach efforts. We will continue to seek input on cleanup priorities from our regulators, Tribal Governments, stakeholders, and members of the public through August 31, 2007. That input will also be provided to DOE-HQ for further consideration.

In the coming months we will continue to share information with the Budgets and Contracts Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Lutz (RL) at (509) 376-4766 or Erik Olds (ORP) at (509) 372-8656.

  
David A. Brockman, Manager  
Richland Operations Office

  
for Shirley J. Olinger, Acting Manager  
Office of River Protection

OEC:KEL

Enclosures

cc: See page3

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cc w/encls:

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Administrative Record  
Environmental Portal  
The Oregon and Washington  
Congressional Delegations

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M. Cantwell  
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