



2006I-205

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 2, 2006

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

RE: Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #189 – Tank Waste Systems Integration


Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter regarding tank waste system integration. The state of Washington shares your concerns regarding future storage, retrieval, treatment, disposal, and closure of high-level tanks and tank wastes. Governor Gregoire and I visited Washington, D.C. on April 26, 2006, to carry that message to Congress and the Department of Energy Headquarters.

Ecology is also very protective of the Tri-Party Agreement milestones. We have changed cleanup schedules and methods when it made sense. However, we do have the responsibility to hold the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) to task on making progress.

It is a fundamental Ecology value that the work be performed in a way that is protective of human health and the environment. The Department of Ecology is particularly aware that ongoing delays increase the future risk that waste poses to the environment. We are proceeding as rapidly as possible while still maintaining safety. We are waiting for the USDOE-Office of River Protection to provide an integrated approach to retrieving, treating, and disposing all 53 million gallons of high-level tank waste. The integrated approach documentation will be the basis for any future baseline and Tri-Party Agreement discussions on tank waste remediation.

Sincerely,


Jay J. Manning
Director

