



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10 HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE  
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115  
Richland, Washington 99352

2007E-313

July 20, 2007

Susan Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) Consensus Advice #198 on  
FY 2008-2009 and Outyear Budgets and #199 on Costs and Baseline Schedules

Dear Ms. Leckband:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed your advice concerning both the FY 2009 budget and the baseline schedules. We appreciate your advice and thank you for the thought and effort put forward by the Board.

EPA believes that the public is best served by a frank and open dialogue about the Hanford site cleanup budget. As you know, for the past several years we have encouraged the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to work with EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology to develop a consensus best estimate of the scope, schedule, and budget for completing the cleanup mission at Hanford. While we recognize that some major cleanup decisions have yet to be made, we believe that successful long-term cleanup planning requires us all to understand the financial resources needed for Hanford. As you know, CERCLA Records of Decision require estimates of both capital and long-term operation and maintenance costs for selected cleanup alternatives. Such information is recognized as a critical tool in identifying and securing resources needed to complete Superfund cleanup projects.

With respect to our assessment of the 2009 budget, we continue to evaluate potential project-specific impacts as DOE responds to our requests for additional information. However, based on the information received to date and DOE's own assessment of the budget, it is clear that some work required by the Tri-Party Agreement will not be completed as scheduled unless significant over-target resources are received by the site.

We agree that funding needs to be increased to satisfy commitments and needs for groundwater cleanup across the site, continued cleanup progress along the river, and TRU retrieval, including the 618-10 and -11 burial grounds. We believe that it is imperative that DOE look forward to securing the funding that will be needed to begin remediation of the Central Plateau in order to meet Tri-Party Agreement milestones.

Our goal is to continue to make scientifically sound cleanup decisions that will protect the public and the environment, while making sure that the cleanup is completed as safely, expeditiously, and cost-effectively as possible. We look forward to continued dialogue with the Board on how to complete this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ceto". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicholas Ceto, Program Manager  
Hanford Project Office

cc: Jane Hedges, Ecology  
David Brockman, DOE-RL  
Shirley Olinger, DOE-ORP  
Frank Marcinowski, DOE