



[Advice # 90](#) From: Tom Fitzsimmons

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
723 The Parkway, Suite 200
Richland, Washington 99352

January 5, 1999

Dear Ms. Reeves:

RE: Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #90 dated December 4 1998.

Thank you for your December 4, 1998 letter to Assistant Secretary Owendoff, John Wagoner, and me regarding the Department of Energy's (USDOE's) Hanford tank waste treatment contract, and associated Tri-Party Agreement financing and funding considerations. I share the Board's concern over the slow progress by USDOE and Ecology in initiating the negotiation of Tri-Party Agreement tank waste compliance requirements. Ecology proposed in mid-October that the agencies agree to segment necessary negotiations in order to negotiate near term commitments on a fast track; and then to focus on other critical building blocks of the program in the Spring-Summer of 1999. To date, we have not received a USDOE response. We are now evaluating what action(s) the state may take to force movement toward positive negotiations.

My staff and I have been far from inactive as we design and implement a regulatory strategy centered on ensuring that USDOE acquire needed tank waste treatment capacity, and that it break the cycle of delay that we have seen over the past ten years. This includes the establishment of enforceable milestones that will effectively drive issuance of USDOE' spending Phase I Part B (2) contract for the construction and operation of a tank waste treatment complex. Hanford's tank waste, including the continuing failure of USDOE's single-shell tanks, the fact that its double-shell tanks are nearing capacity and design life, and data indicating that tank waste releases to the environment have begun to impact area groundwaters each underscore the need to act.

I also agree with your call for an early and continuing series of public involvement opportunities associated with agency negotiations. As you know, our draft Agreement In Principle governing negotiations calls for such a process. I have asked that my staff design and plan to implement such a program to ensure that the Board, affected Indian Nations, and the public have adequate information and the opportunity to express their concerns as the negotiations move forward.

My staff and I look forward to working with you and the Board on this most critical of Hanford issues in the new year.

/s/
Tom Fitzsimmons
Director

cc: Chuck Clarke, EPA Region 10
Michael Gearheard, EPA Region 10
James C. Hall, DOE-RL
Russell Jim, YIN
Jackson Kinzer, DOE-RL
Kathy Mix, WA AGO
David Mears, WA AGO
Donna Powaukee, NPT
James C. Owendoff, DOE-HQ
J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR

[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

Response to HAB Consensus Advice #90 (December 4, 1998)

*Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on Tank Waste Treatment Contract, TPA Milestones, Financing and Funding
Letter from Tom Fitzsimmons, dated January 5, 1999*

URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/response/090.htm>

Last Updated: 08/04/2003 14:40:30