



[Advice # 94](#) From: Chuck Clarke and Tom Fitzsimmons

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

May 4, 1999

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for transmitting the Hanford Advisory Board's advice on the Richland Operations Office proposed Fiscal Year 2001 budget and integrated priority list. As always, we appreciate the degree of effort individual Board members and the Board as a whole has put into the annual budget advice. We believe the Board can be proud of its past achievements in clarifying issues, supporting needed funding, and pointing the way to savings. This year should be no different.

Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency find useful advice in the Board's "Major Themes" statement. We appreciate the Board's perspective that greater efficiencies, contractor incentives, and focused use of cleanup funds can help significantly to close the "compliance gap." We concur with the Board's statement that removing and treating Hanford's tank waste is the highest priority for the site. We also agree that total cessation of soil and groundwater cleanup along the Columbia River is unacceptable, and that the K-Basin project is a prime candidate for cost reduction. Of course, real worker health and safety protection must not be sacrificed in the necessary effort to drive down costs. The "Major Themes" will be a key reference when we deal with the tough choices that may confront us once an actual Fiscal 2001 budget is adopted.

We are attaching the letter that Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sent to Mr. Hall on the Fiscal 2001 Integrated Priority List. We believe our agency comments are generally consistent with those presented by the Board. It appears that, while carrying forward the Board's view and ours that the target funding level for FY 2001 is inadequate, the Richland Operations Office has not materially changed its priorities based on our comments. We are disappointed that is the case, and we trust there will be continuing dialogue between the Department of Energy, the regulatory agencies, the Board, and other affected parties about outstanding, significant budget issues.

Again, our thanks to the Board for your continuing work on these difficult and complex issues.

Sincerely,

/s/
Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10

/s/

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
Washington Department of Ecology

cc: Mr. James C. Hall
Mr. James Owendoff

[Attachment - Letter to James C. Hall regarding the Fiscal 2001 Integrated Priority List](#)

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov
Response to HAB Consensus Advice #94 (March 26, 1999)
Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on U.S. DOE FY2001 Budget
Letter from Chuck Clarke & Tom Fitzsimmons, dated May 4, 1999
URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/response/094.htm>
Last Updated: 02/20/2001 15:12:13*