



[Advice # 98](#) From: Carolyn L. Huntoon

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

September 13, 1999

Dear Ms. Reeves:

In your letter of July 16, 1999, you express concerns and offered advice, on behalf of the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB), concerning the Department of Energy's (Department) impending Record of Decision for low-level waste and mixed low-level waste disposal.

Issuing the Record of Decision (ROD) for disposal of low-level waste and mixed low-level waste is important to the Department. Continuing to store these wastes is costly, exceeding \$50 million each year. Further, several sites, such as Rocky Flats, need access to disposal to meet their closure goals. Closing facilities and moving waste from costly storage to disposal will enable the Department to direct more resources to other important cleanup missions.

The Commercial Disposal Policy Analysis is not and was not intended to be used as a decision document for the ROD. The cost analyses supporting the ROD derive from the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS) (issued May 1997), and subsequent analyses presented in the 1998 "Information Package on Pending Low-Level Waste and Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal Decisions" which was sent to you in October 1998, and is also available through the EM Home Page ([www.em.doe.gov/em30](http://www.em.doe.gov/em30)).

The next step in the ROD process will be the publication of the Department's preferences for LLW and MLLW disposal sites. The Department will make this announcement of site preferences in fulfillment of the commitment made in the WM PEIS. The Environmental Management Integration effort does not play a role in this decision making process. These disposal decisions will be made following the National Environmental Policy Act process.

The Department is continuing to work with the State of Washington and other states concerning these decisions. We expect to issue the announcement of preference by the end of this year.

Once the RODs are issued, shipments to any DOE disposal site will be made only if they are in compliance with the site's waste acceptance criteria and all applicable regulations, including any which are state-specific.

Thank you for your letter, and if you have any other questions concerning this matter, please contact Mark Frei, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

/s/

Carolyn L. Huntoon, Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

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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 #98 (July 15-16, 1999)*

*Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on Off-Site Waste*

*Letter from Carolyn Huntoon, dated September 8, 1999*

*URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/response/098.htm>*

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