



[Advice # 99](#) From: Tom Fitzsimmons

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

October 12, 1999

Dear Ms. Reeves:

This letter is in reference to the Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #99, dated September 10, 1999. I would like to thank both you and Board members for continuing to urge Ecology, the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to reach agreement on enforceable milestones designed to effectively govern the construction and operation of a tank waste treatment complex at Hanford. I share your frustration that, to date, the Department of Energy has balked at establishing milestones. I also agree that successful cleanup of the Hanford site is highly dependent on a strong TPA.

Having said this however, I want to assure you and members of the Board that we are making progress on establishing enforceable milestones for construction and operation of a tank waste treatment complex. This agreement may be one of the more important and difficult ones for the complex. The agreement must provide both solid TPA milestones and flexibility for the Department of Energy to negotiate favorable contracts to achieve waste treatment. We believe that all levels in the Department of Energy must support whatever agreement we develop. Therefore, to allow more time for further discussions and better alignment with DOE contracting plans, I decided to allow a brief additional period for consideration within the Department of Energy. I assure you this decision was made after substantial consultation with my staff, EPA Region 10 management, and staff at the office of the Attorney General and the Governor.

We have extended the deadline for issuance of the final determination through November 15. This allows me additional time to consult with our congressional delegation, the Governor and the Attorney General, and others. We will provide you and Board members a status report on the negotiations at your November 4-5 meeting.

I look forward to discussing this most critical of Hanford site issues personally with you in the future. For now, through these negotiations, I believe we are on a course which hold good promise. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director

Department of Ecology

cc: Carol Browner, EPA HQ
Chuck Clark, EPA Region 10
Dick French, DOE ORP
Michael Gearheard, EPA Region 10, Christine Gregoire, WA AGO
Carolyn Huntoon, DOE HQ
Keith Klein, DOE RL
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
Dan Silver, Ecology

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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 #99 (September 9-10, 1999)
Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on TPA Response to HAB Advice
Letter from Tom Fitzsimmons, dated October 12, 1999
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