Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

03-HAB-0004

OCT 22 2002

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) CONSENSUS ADVICE #136 – DRAFT HANFORD SOLID WASTE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This letter is in response to the HAB advice regarding the supplemental information to address comments on the "Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement." As stated in Keith Klein's October 3, 2002, letter to regulators, Tribes, and stakeholders (attached), we are continuing to work on both the form and content of the information that will be issued in response to comments we've received, including HAB's advice #133 as supplemented by advice #136. We anticipate this information will be available for public review in early 2003.

With regard to shipment of transuranic waste to Hanford, the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) provided us with the following information. DOE-EM relied on analyses from several environmental impact statements. In particular, its decision was based on evaluations of potential impacts in the "Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" (WMPEIS) and the "Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement II." The total amount of transuranic waste Hanford would receive from the Battelle-Columbus and the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) sites is approximately 36 cubic meters -- a very small fraction of the transuranic waste that is already stored at the Hanford Site. It is also a very small fraction of the transuranic waste DOE considered for shipment to Hanford in the WMPEIS. The WMPEIS considered impacts at Hanford of offsite-generated transuranic waste from zero at a minimum to 2,400 cubic meters at a maximum. It concluded that the potential impacts of Hanford's receipt of 2,400 cubic meters of transuranic waste would be small. Therefore, the potential impacts from receipt of 36 cubic meters from the Battelle-Columbus and ETEC sites would be even smaller. Based on this analysis, DOE determined that no further review under the National Environmental Policy Act was needed for these shipments and described the basis for its conclusion in the amended record of decision.

With regard to specific mitigation measures, the Battelle-Columbus and ETEC transuranic waste would be placed in existing, secure storage at Hanford. The same mitigation and safety measures used to store Hanford's transuranic waste will be used for the Battelle-Columbus and ETEC transuranic waste. Furthermore, DOE has committed to ship at least two drums (or an equivalent volume) of transuranic waste from Hanford to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for every drum received from the Battelle-Columbus and ETEC sites within eighteen months of receipt of this waste.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Michael Collins, Waste Management Division, at (509) 376-6536.

Sincerely,

W. Wade Ballard

W. Wade Ballard
Deputy Designated Federal Officer

IPI: YS

Attachment

cc: See page 3

cc w/attach:
P. Mabie, EnviroIssues
M. Crosland, EM-11

U.S. Senators (OR)
Gordon H. Smith
Ron Wyden

U.S. Representative (OR)
Earl Blumenauer
Peter DeFazio
Darlene Hooley
Greg Walden

State Senators (WA)
Pat Hale
Mike Hewitt

U.S. Senator (WA)
Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representative (WA)
Norm Dicks
Jennifer Dunn
Richard Hastings
George Nethercutt

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02-COM-0001

OCT 3 2002

Dear Regulators, Tribes and Stakeholders:

PROPOSED PLAN FOR PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

On August 22, 2002, I issued a letter on our proposed plan for providing supplemental information on the draft *Hanford Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement* (HSW EIS). Since that letter was issued, we have met with the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Hanford Advisory Board about this proposal. Overwhelmingly we have heard it is much more important for us to provide high-quality, readable information than it is for us to provide information quickly.

With that in mind, we have decided to continue work on this information to ensure it is responsive to comments we have received on the initial draft and thus, do not intend to provide a supplemental package until early in 2003. When we issue this supplemental information, which will be part of the National Environmental Policy Act document process, we will hold a 45-day public comment period and regional public meetings.

We will continue to work on the form and content of this information with our regulators, area tribes, and stakeholders to ensure the final EIS is sufficient to allow the public and decision makers to weigh the environmental impacts of disposing of radioactive and hazardous waste at the Hanford Site. We will provide updates as we further refine our timeline.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Klein,
Manager

COM: MKM