



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
*P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600*  
*(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006*

May 3, 2004

Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
1933 Jadwin Ave. Suite 135  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

This letter is in response to your recent Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #156 requesting re-establishment of a forum to discuss Hanford's science and technology issues.

Ecology agrees that the previous Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG) provided a useful forum for coordination of science and technical issues, and we support the concept. However, we also realize there is concern over the cost of conducting this process. Additionally, it is our concern that discussion with too many people and technologies interferes with meaningful dialogue.

Therefore, while we believe this type of forum should be resumed, we also believe that the process should be refined and conducted in a manner that would be more cost effective and resource effective than previous iterations.

Our recommendation would be to:

- Hold these discussions on a quarterly basis;
- Implement a process that would narrow the focus to the most promising technologies in order to ensure the most useful discussions;
- Limit attendance to the necessary participants, again to ensure meaningful dialogue.

That being said, we fully believe that Board representation in this type of forum is crucial to helping identify potential concerns as early as possible in order to allow time to deal with such concerns before they unnecessarily hamper deployment of promising new technologies. Therefore, Ecology strongly supports both the request for these forums and the Board's participation.

RECEIVED

MAY 10 2004

DOE-ORP/ORPCC



Todd Martin  
May 3, 2004  
Page 2

We appreciate the Board's ongoing involvement in these critical issues, and thank you again for providing us with a copy of your letter to the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,



Linda Hoffman  
Director

cc: Keith Klein, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
Roy Schepeius, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
Ray Orbach, Director of Science, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
John Iani, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Howard Gnann, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy  
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency  
Sandra Waisley, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters