



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

05-AMCP-0046

NOV 04 2004

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) ADVICE #166 – FUND U PLANT AREA
REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES**

In response to your letter dated September 10, 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), appreciates your recommendations contained in HAB Consensus Advice #166 regarding the U Plant Area Closure. The U Plant Area Closure prototype is vital to closing the Central Plateau in a safe, comprehensive, cost-effective manner that will be protective of human health and the surrounding environment. Various technical, regulatory, and cultural lessons learned have already been captured and will be applied to future area closures on the Central Plateau. In addition, RL continues to develop, address, and integrate activities key to closure of the Central Plateau. The U Plant Area Closure prototype is central to this strategy.

At the present time, we are working towards completion of Records of Decision for both the UW-1 Waste Sites and the 221-U Facility (Canyon Disposition Initiative) projects, remediation of four high-risk waste sites in the U Plant Area, completion of a pipeline Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the U Area pipelines by September 30, 2006, and initiation of U Plant Ancillary Facility demolition. The remaining work for closure of the U Plant Area that includes remediation of the remaining 29 waste sites, pipeline remediation, demolition of remaining ancillary facilities, and 221-U disposition, will transpire post-2006. In regard to waste disposal in the canyon facilities and cumulative impacts, this continues to be addressed and as results are developed, updates will be provided to the HAB.

RL continually balances activity priority and available funding. Higher risk and priority activities that include Spent Nuclear Fuel and Sludge Retrieval; Decontamination and Decommissioning of the Plutonium Finishing Plant; Transuranic Waste Retrieval and Shipment; high risk-waste sites; Tri-Party Agreement milestones; and required safety, surveillance, and maintenance work scope are addressed on a first priority.

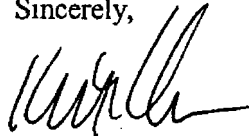
Mr. Todd Martin
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If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Klein
Manager

AMCP:LDR

cc: H. B. Gnann, ORP
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