



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 17, 2005

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your April 29, 2005, letter regarding your concerns with the fiscal year (FY) 2006 budget request and the FY 2007 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) target budget guidance as they relate to Hanford cleanup. As you are aware, progress has been made in reducing risk at the Hanford site, including:

- removing all the spent nuclear fuel from the K-reactor basins;
- completing the stabilization and packaging of all the plutonium solutions, solids, and residues;
- removing pumpable liquids from the single-shell waste tanks and initiating the emptying of those tanks;
- placing four production reactors in interim safe storage (with the fifth reactor to be completed this year);
- continuing design and construction of the Waste Treatment Plant;
- removing and disposing of 60 percent of estimated contaminated material along the 210 square mile Columbia River Corridor;
- initiating construction of the bulk vitrification test facility and of the integrated disposal facility; and
- initiating retrieval of transuranic waste from the Central Plateau burial grounds.

In developing the FY 2006 budget request, the Administration took into account the work that has been completed as well as the work planned in the Hanford Site's baseline. However, because of programmatic and legal uncertainties associated with the work, as well as overall budget constraints, an investment larger than the \$1.8 billion in FY 2006 that has been requested in our budget is not prudent. DOE will continue its efforts to clean up the Hanford Site in a safe, compliant, and timely manner and to continue to work with you and the Hanford Advisory Board.



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As to the FY 2007 budget request, the Department is currently considering requests from all of its field offices. We continue to value the input of the Board, stakeholders and public regarding Hanford cleanup, and we will consider your consensus advice in the formulation of the FY 2007 and out-year budgets for Hanford.

My staff is available to further discuss Hanford issues with you. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709, or Mr. Mark W. Frei, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Business Operations, at (202) 586-8754.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Anderson  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management