

February 7, 2003

Keith Klein, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
P.O. Box 550 (A7-50)  
Richland, WA 99352

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

John Iani, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: K Basins Achievement

Dear Mssrs. Klein, Fitzsimmons, and Iani,

The Hanford Advisory Board congratulates the Tri-Party Agencies on the completion of a key Hanford cleanup milestone, the removal of 975 metric tons of spent fuel from the K Basins. The Board has a long history of advice on spent fuel issues. Throughout the mid 1990's the Board's advice urged the agencies to make the spent fuel project a top priority – at one point advocating increases in spent fuel funding by re-directing funding from other important cleanup activities.

Ensuring the protection of the Columbia River has always been one of the Hanford Advisory Board's fundamental goals, so it is clear why we have watched the Spent Nuclear Fuel project so carefully. Removing the fuel from its precarious position so close to the river's edge and into safe, long-term storage in the Canister Storage Building is one of the most tangible acts of environmental protection at Hanford today. To have successfully made it to the halfway mark – with more than 25 million curies of radioactivity now in safe storage – is a great achievement.

The Board is pleased to see years of stakeholder, DOE, regulator and contractor effort result in real cleanup progress. This milestone is a great success for the entire Hanford community and we hope you pass our congratulations and gratitude on to all the contributing agency, regulator, and contractor personnel.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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*This letter represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.*

cc: Wade Ballard, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy  
Steve Veitenheimer, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
Michael Gearheard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Martha Crossland, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
Doug Sherwood  
Dick Belsey  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
Site Specific Advisory Boards  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

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

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

U.S. Representatives (OR)  
Earl Blumenauer  
Peter DeFazio  
Darlene Hooley  
Greg Walden  
David Wu

U.S. Representatives (WA)  
Norm Dicks  
Jennifer Dunn

Richard Hastings  
George Nethercutt

State Senators (WA)

Pat Hale  
Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)

Jerome Delvin  
Shirley Hankins