

April 4, 2003

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

Roy Schepens, Manager
U. S Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Draft Hanford Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement Comment
Period

Dear Messrs. Klein and Schepens,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) urges the Department of Energy (DOE) to extend the comment period for the Hanford Solid Waste EIS by 30 days and begin the hearings after May 15. This will ensure adequate time for public and agency review of and commentary on the EIS draft. The decisions to be made based on the EIS are monumental (e.g. disposal of onsite and offsite waste for 40 years) and of great regional concern. For example, public concern last year was so high that there were overflow audiences and a second hearing had to be held in Portland. It is vital for the public to receive the benefit of agency, Board, and stakeholder review, and for there to be adequate time for the public to receive and consider summaries of these reviews to be able to offer informed comment.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

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: Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
Headquarters

Bob Card, Under-Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
Headquarters
John Iani, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington State Department of Ecology
Marla Marvin, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of
Energy
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology
Sandra Waisley, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
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

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