

June 6, 2003

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

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

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

Re: Accelerated Cleanup Initiative #3

Dear Messrs. Klein, Iani, and Fitzsimmons,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) has recently been informed of the progress that has been made to accelerate the stabilization and reduce the inventory of nuclear materials on site. These efforts are set forth in Strategic Initiative #3 of the Hanford Performance Management Plan. The Board has a long history of concern and advice on the K Basins, the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) and cesium and strontium capsules stored in the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility (WESF).

After years of challenges and uncertainty about the path forward, the Board is pleased to learn of the significant progress that has been made to remove spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins and put it in dry storage in the Central Plateau. We have long been concerned about plutonium waste in oxides, solutions, polycubes and residues at PFP. It is very encouraging to learn that most of these materials have been stabilized and packaged and that some of the material has actually been shipped off-site. Current plans to accelerate the cleanup and closure of the facility are strongly endorsed.

The material contained in the cesium and strontium capsules has been of concern and interest to Board members. We support efforts to study the option to put this material into dry storage. If this approach proves feasible, it would lower worker exposure, reduce security vulnerabilities, and reduce the ongoing costs of maintaining WESF.

The Board is pleased to see years of stakeholder, DOE, regulator, and contractor effort result in real cleanup progress. We want to express our appreciation to all of the people who have worked hard to achieve these important results. In particular, we would like to commend the Hanford workforce. These people have worked safely and have made a significant contribution that benefits the region and future generations.

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
Marla Marvin, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy
Michael Gearheard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology
Sandra Waisley, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
Dave Van Leuven, President, Fluor Hanford Inc.
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