



July 21, 1997

Rep. Darlene Hooley  
US House of Representatives  
1419 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-5711

**Subject: Hanford Advisory Board's Concerns on Funding for Hanford Cleanup**

Dear Representative Hooley:

On July 9-11, 1997, the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) had an extensive discussion on the adequacy of funding for cleanup of the Hanford site in Fiscal Years (FY) 1998 and 1999. The HAB is very deeply concerned that funding levels for Hanford cleanup in the next two years are inadequate for compliance with the Tri-Party Agreement. This Agreement has been in place since 1989 and provides the blueprint for stabilization and cleanup of Hanford in a safe and cost-effective manner.

Executive Order 12088 and the Tri-Party Agreement require DOE to use its best efforts to request the funding required for full compliance. DOE's Richland Operations Office estimates that full compliance with the Tri-Party Agreement will require \$1.084 billion in FY98 and \$1.144 billion in FY99 for Environmental Management. However, budget targets for Hanford are below these levels by \$96 million in FY98 and \$150-220 million in FY99. DOE-Richland has also been directed to identify the potential impacts of an \$836 million budget in FY99 (i.e., \$300 million short of that needed for compliance).

The HAB's deep concerns with funding inadequacies are summarized in Enclosure 1. These reflect a sense of outrage that proposed funding levels violate expectations raised during the past year's discussions of a Ten Year Plan (Focus on 2006) to accelerate cleanup with stable funding adequate to meet compliance levels. Also included is a discussion of the HAB's recommendations on DOE efforts to privatize treatment and stabilization of tank wastes, a top priority for Hanford cleanup. The HAB shares the views on funding for this privatization effort that were expressed in the enclosed letter from Governor Locke and Attorney General Gregoire (Enclosure 2).

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

[Enclosures](#)

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to [Hanford\\_Advisory\\_Board@rl.gov](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov)*

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