



April 3, 1998

The Honorable Federico Peña
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Sharon Lloyd-O'Connor
LWVEF Energy Program Manager
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-4508

Subject: June Intersite Workshops

Dear Secretary Peña and Ms. Lloyd-O'Connor:

The Public Involvement Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board has reviewed the plans for the proposed June Intersite Workshops. The Board believes it is always valuable for the USDOE to convene the diverse stakeholder organizations to provide advice to the Secretary on waste management and material disposition issues. The success of such workshops will depend on the participation of the Secretary of Energy. In addition, each workshop must include representatives from all sites.

These planned June meetings are not a substitute for the National Equity Dialogue. The Board repeats its call to USDOE to convene a true National Equity Dialogue. The intent is to develop publicly supportable criteria and decision frameworks for issues concerning intersite waste, plutonium and nuclear materials transfer, treatment, storage and disposal. This must be done well before waste management decisions are made so there is sufficient time to consider input from the Dialogue into the decisions.

These decisions, as the Board has previously pointed out, will have profound cumulative impacts on the cleanup of Hanford, the Tri-Party Agreement and the Hanford Cleanup budget.

The Board's prior advice has objected to USDOE making intersite waste and materials decisions on a piecemeal basis without discussion of the scope of all the cleanup and consideration of inter-related and cumulative impacts. Without stakeholder consensus, USDOE will not be able to implement sustainable decisions.

A meaningful National Equity Dialogue requires an iterative process with full disclosure of waste materials (nationally and internationally), and the potential

cumulative impacts of multiple decisions and alternatives. The current proposal for the League of

Women Voters to convene one Midwest and one West coast meeting this June is not a National Equity Dialogue.

To succeed in utilizing values and perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders and to secure sustainable decisions, a National Equity Dialogue as outlined in the attached advice is critical. The National Dialogue need not be an overly burdensome or lengthy process. Indeed, had USDOE followed its original National Equity Dialogue plan, it would now be complete.

We in the Pacific Northwest remain committed to a National Equity Dialogue on nuclear materials disposition.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: James Owendoff, Department of Energy-Headquarters
John Wagoner, Department of Energy-Richland
Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington Department of Ecology
Chuck Clarke, Environmental Protection Agency
Alice Murphy, Designated Federal Official
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
Randy Smith, Environmental Protection Agency
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

[Attachment](#)

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.

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