



June 5, 1998

Dr. John Conway
Chairman Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Subject: USDOE Budgets for Hanford

Dear Dr. Conway:

The Hanford Advisory Board shares the concerns raised by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) on June 3, 1998. These concerns address the adequacy of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funding requests and targets to meet the compliance requirements of the Tri-Party Agreement and DNFSB from FY99 through 2006. We believe the enclosed advice of the Hanford Advisory Board, which is based on in-depth review of proposed budgets for FY97, 98, 99 and 2000, may be of interest to DNFSB. While this advice is lengthy, the major themes have been consistent since 1994. In particular, the Board has repeatedly advised that DOE is obligated to request full funding from Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Administration for all legally required cleanup and safety activities at Hanford for each fiscal year. The Board has also insisted that cleanup funds not be used for non-cleanup activities.

For four years, the Hanford Advisory Board has conducted in-depth reviews of DOE's proposed cleanup budgets. The advice from the Board has helped make cleanup more efficient, saving millions of taxpayer dollars. We worked with DOE-Richland to open the budget process and appreciate the cooperation and openness that have been shown. Our advice has been consistent: Get on with cleanup and meet Tri-Party Agreement commitments and DNFSB milestones in a cost effective way.

We have continued to pursue contractor efficiencies to allow more work to be done for less and worked to reduce overhead and indirect costs. We have supported Tri-Party Agreement changes to streamline cleanup costs and change milestones when they make good sense or are needed for technical reasons.

However, the compliance gap in budgets needed to comply with legal requirements at Hanford continues to grow from an estimated \$42.5 million this year to a projected \$222 million in FY2000. This is unacceptable. Reduced funding creates a backlog of delayed work and creates risks, threatening the very safety of Northwest citizens, the environment, and economy and violating the legally binding Tri-Party Agreement milestones.

Recognizing these risks, the Governors of Washington and Oregon, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology recently sent strong messages emphasizing the critical need for a FY2000 budget that will meet compliance with cleanup commitments (Enclosures 9-12). We urge that both EPA and Ecology work with DNFSB to secure adequate funding

for compliance with the Tri-Party Agreement and DNFSB recommendations.

This Board urges the DNFSB to use its authority to notify the President that DOE is underfunding cleanup programs and to warn Congress of the need for additional funding to meet DOE's legal commitments.

Very Truly Yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc:

James Owendoff, Department of Energy-Headquarters (w/o enclosures)
John Wagoner, Department of Energy (w/o enclosures)
Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington Department of Ecology (w/o enclosures)
Chuck Clarke, Environmental Protection Agency (w/o enclosures)
Alice Murphy, Designated Federal Official (w/o enclosures)
Randy Smith, Environmental Protection Agency (w/o enclosures)
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology (w/o enclosures)
Dan Ogg, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (w/enclosures)

Enclosures:

1. Consensus Advice #84, FY2000 Budget
2. Consensus Advice #85, FY2000 Budget Supplemental Advice
3. Consensus Advice #70, FY1999 Budget
4. Consensus Advice #44, FY1998 Budget
5. Consensus Advice #48, FY98 Supplemental Budget Advice
6. Consensus Advice #65, Unacceptable Program Impacts under FY97 Budget
7. Consensus Advice #54, FY1997 Budget Allocation
8. Consensus Advice #17, Fiscal Year 1997 Budget, Parts A thru G
9. Letter to Secretary Pena from Governor Locke, April 30, 1998
10. Letter to President Clinton from Governor Locke, April 30, 1998
11. Letter to Secretary Pena and Franklin Raines from Governor Kitzhaber, May 19, 1998
12. Letter to Jim Owendoff and John Wagoner from Tom Fitzsimmons and Chuck Clarke, May 14, 1998

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