



November 5, 1999

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
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Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
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Keith Klein, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations
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Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Tri-Party Agreement Milestones

Dear Messrs. Clarke, Fitzsimmons and Klein:

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) Executive Committee has been planning for Year 2000 agenda topics and wants the three parties to be aware of the Board's plans. The Board holds the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) as the fundamental baseline for the cleanup of the Hanford Site and, as such, it is deserving of focused attention. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the regulators and the Board have failed to maintain this focus over the past few years. Collectively, we have been concerned about individual projects, while losing sight of the strength that all TPA milestones bring to bear on the urgency of Hanford cleanup and the Board's message of "get on with it." Coupled with that is the TPA's value to the public as a measure of cleanup success. As a result of this inattention, the TPA has become less comprehensive and often overlooked in cleanup decisions. Worse, the goal of TPA compliance has become optional rather than the primary driving force behind cleanup. (An example of this is the lack of tank waste treatment milestones.)

The Board welcomes Assistant Secretary Huntoon's focus on more structure in Environmental Management (EM) project management activities. It is with that same intent that the Board intends to bring the TPA back to the center focus for Hanford cleanup. To this end, the Board is planning for a minimum of two board meetings this coming year focused on the status of the TPA. For planning purposes, these will be at the fiscal mid-year (April) and after year-end (November) time-frames. These discussions will address the status of priorities, milestones, baseline schedules and costs, technical issues, risks, and potential expansion of the TPA to include currently excluded cleanup issues. Discussions among senior managers from DOE, the regulators, and the Board will form the basis for this exchange.

The Hanford Advisory Board invites and encourages participation by representatives of regional

political leaders and the public. This will be an opportunity for everyone to gauge the level of progress being made towards meeting cleanup milestones. The Board looks forward to a renewed focus and an attitude of accountability for the TPA as the baseline for cleanup throughout the Hanford community and region.

To facilitate this process, the Board Chair and Vice Chairs would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in the very near future to discuss the areas of focus for the Board.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Pete Knollmeyer, Acting Deputy Designated Federal Official
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

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

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