



December 3, 1999

Ms. Carolyn Huntoon, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Six Principles for Environmental Management

Dear Ms. Huntoon:

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) was very pleased to receive your message containing Environmental Management's (EM) six principle themes; Safety, Good Project Management, Science and Technology Application, Long-Term Stewardship, Keeping our Promises, and Bolstering Public Confidence. Continued emphasis and implementation of these principles is vital for sustained cleanup and waste stabilization at Hanford and throughout the complex.

We are particularly pleased that you recognize the importance of the Department of Energy (DOE) keeping its promises. Through greater openness, stakeholder involvement, tribal consultation, community outreach and demonstrated progress in your other major themes, together we will greatly bolster public confidence in Hanford cleanup. All of these themes directly correspond to the long-established core values adopted by the Board. Over 100 separate consensus advice statements have been provided to DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology based on such values. We look forward to working with you and the Tri-Party Agencies to fully implement these principles.

In recent years, major decisions relating to several key cleanup issues - particularly tank waste treatment - have been made without the depth of public involvement that bolsters public confidence or results in keeping promises.

The Tri-Parties have a legal responsibility to provide public involvement opportunities on key issues involving the cleanup of the Hanford Site. Using compliance with the Tri-Party Agreement as a foundation, the citizens of the Northwest expect to be fully engaged in the decision-making process on key policy and budget issues. If the public's involvement is to be truly meaningful, the Department of Energy and other agencies must actively and willingly seek out public input well before decisions are made and then seriously consider that input as part of the decision making process. Aside from the legal requirement to involve the public, it has often been demonstrated that early, continued, and meaningful engagement with stakeholders results in more sustainable, less contentious decisions that are more likely to be implemented and fully funded. Again, the Hanford Advisory Board welcomes the opportunity to continue working with EM and the Tri-Party agencies in getting on with cleanup at Hanford and looks forward to the implementation of the working themes you have identified.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Keith Klein, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations
Dick French, Manager, Office of River Protection
Tom Fitzsimmons, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Beth Bilson, Acting Designated Federal Official
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
Michael Gearheard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

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Last Updated: 01/26/2001 10:38:55*