



Congressman Doc Hastings 4th District, Washington

1214 Longworth Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • 202-225-5816

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CONTACT: Jessica Gleason
Office: 202-225-5816
After-Hours: 202-225-4466

Hastings: Key Piece of PNNL's 300 Area Project Approved *Private Sector Financing for Two New Buildings Gets Green Light*

Washington, D.C. – After months of federal review, approval has been given to use private sector financing to build two of three new facilities needed to replace Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) work currently conducted in buildings slated for cleanup and demolition in Hanford's 300 Area.

Congressman Doc Hastings announced the decision today and heralded it as “a gigantic leap forward over what's been a very difficult hurdle.”

“I can't tell you how much diligent work and rework PNNL and DOE personnel put into this proposal,” Hastings said. “It's taken months to get it approved, but the private sector can get these buildings built faster and cheaper than the federal government could do it. This was the right decision.”

The 300 Area replacement lab project has always planned for private sector financing to be used to build the Biological Sciences Facility (BSF) and Computational Sciences Facility (CSF). The federal government would pay to construct the Physical Sciences Facility (PSF) that would house programs requiring unique laboratories and equipment. Approval is needed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before any federal entity can enter into a “third party financing” plan for the private sector to pay to construct a building and then lease it to the federal government.

Hastings first spoke with officials about the plan's approval late last week, but waited to announce the decision until all parties had been properly notified.

“I've talked and met with Administration officials since last year about the need to get this plan approved and it's a great relief for it to finally pass the test after an exhausting review,” Hastings said. “The dedication and commitment of PNNL and DOE to getting the 300 Area replacement labs built really shown through during this long process.”

Because of the tight time schedule to complete the replacement lab buildings without increasing the cost of 300 Area cleanup, PNNL and DOE are poised to act quickly to start the BSF and CSF construction process.

The cost of the BSF and CSF is estimated to be \$90 million and the federally funded PSF will cost \$225 million.