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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 13, 2011

11-NWP-069

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Advice #245 – System Plan (Revision 6)

Dear Ms. Leckband:

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) advice on the *River Protection Project System Plan, Revision 6*. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) agrees that system planning is important to an efficient cleanup at the Hanford site. We also agree that system planning is critical to managing processes, costs, and schedules.

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) and Ecology have worked closely over the past year to ensure that planning efforts are effective. System Plan preliminary scenarios and associated assumptions are reviewed periodically, and the agencies discuss the scenarios before each model run. The Board's Tank Waste Committee is also regularly briefed on the system planning progress. We believe this approach works very well and should be continued to ensure the most effective and efficient system planning process.

Ecology will continue to work closely with DOE to evaluate new approaches that make the best use of available technologies and funding, as well as mitigating risks. That evaluation will include the maturity of technologies and the capabilities of equipment and systems that show potential for use.

We appreciate the Board's emphasis on system planning as it relates to the successful retrieval, treatment, storage, and disposal of tank waste. We will continue to communicate with the Board's Tank Waste Committee on this process and welcome their input.

If you have questions or want to discuss the System Plan, please contact Dan McDonald at 509-372-7988 or dan.mcdonald@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

