



December 5, 1996

Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Mary Riveland, Director  
Washington Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

John Wagoner, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
P.O. Box 550 (A7-50)  
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Historic Preservation

Dear Messrs. Clarke and Wagoner, and Ms. Riveland:

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) recognizes that the Hanford Site's heritage includes Manhattan Project and Cold War era facilities with significance in American history. The Board also understands and respects that Hanford has unique historical, archeological, and cultural sites and areas with sacred significance to Native Americans, and that the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) must follow the laws guiding their management. This advice focuses specifically on the preservation of historic buildings in the context of the Hanford cleanup.

We believe that USDOE must involve the stakeholders with expertise or concerns about preservation, engineering, and museum interests in decisions about the preservation of historic structures.. The community must be involved in documenting its own history. Access to decision processes for these individuals has been very limited. This involvement will allow the planning to proceed more smoothly, which will save even more cleanup dollars.

We believe the Programmatic Agreement USDOE signed with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which designates the Hanford Site as a historic district and sets up a streamlined approach, is a sensible step in the right direction.

We applaud the concept of documenting 180 representative structures rather than all 2200 structures. We strongly support efforts that keep cleanup dollars focused on cleanup, and if USDOE's projections of bringing historic preservation costs from \$28 million to \$2.2 million are accurate, this is indeed good news.

Since the Programmatic Agreement's streamlining plan will release most facilities from historic review requirements, it is important to work with stakeholders immediately to agree on the 180 structures to evaluate, and then complete the historic documentation on those 180 facilities before they are slated for cleanup or demolition.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires that the Department of Energy consult with the SHPO to obtain views on the evaluation of historic properties. This opportunity for consultation is only that. USDOE is the ultimate decision maker and should not abdicate any final authority to the SHPO.

The Board looks forward to your written response, as called for in our charter.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Alice Murphy, Designated Federal Official  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations  
Dave Hansen, Washington State Historic Preservation Officer

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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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