



[Advice # 81](#) From: Tom Fitzsimmons

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

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December 23, 1997

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
723 The Parkway, #200
MSIN: B1-41
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for forwarding Hanford Advisory Board Advice #81, in which the Board sets out some significant principles concerning Hanford's safety culture. Ecology welcomes the adoption of this statement of basic principles alongside strong statements of stakeholder values in such areas as protection of the environment and of public health.

Ecology believes that a strong safety culture is imperative as Hanford moves into more and more complex cleanup challenges. These are often not as predictable, safe and well understood as many previous site operations. The aging of facilities and systems and the loss of institutional operating memory make vigilance very important.

In many cases, safety issues are outside Ecology's regulatory scope; yet cleanup progress will falter if these issues are not properly addressed. We applaud the Board for its efforts to encourage and monitor improvements in the safety culture.

If you have any questions about Ecology's role in these matters, please contact me or Mike Wilson, Nuclear Waste Program Manager.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Fitzsimmons
Director

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov
Response to HAB Consensus Advice #81 (December 23, 1997)*

*Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on Hanford Safety Concerns
Letter from Tom Fitzsimmons, Ecology, dated December 23, 1997
URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/hab/response/081.htm>
Last Updated: 02/20/2001 15:10:27*