



May 28, 1999

[Advice # 93](#) From: Tom Fitzsimmons, Dick French, and Chuck Clarke

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
723 The Parkway, Suite 200
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Reeves:

RE: Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #93 dated March 26, 1999

We appreciate the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) continuing efforts to bring our agencies together to negotiate Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) commitments governing Hanford's tank waste program. As you know, efforts to initiate negotiations have been slow and frustrating for each of us. With the help of the Board, and Todd Martin and members of the Board's Tank Waste Treatment Ad Hoc Committee, Ecology, EPA, and the Department of Energy have resolved outstanding issues and have reached agreement on our tank waste negotiations Agreement In Principle (AIP). A copy is being forwarded to the Board under separate cover. We are fully committed to begin these critical negotiations immediately and anticipate their completion by July 31, 1999.

However, our negotiators will be addressing many complex and challenging regulatory, technical, financial and contractual issues. The Board's continuing commitment to tank waste treatment and willingness to act as our sounding board through the coming months will be critical to our success. Again, we want to stress our thanks to you and Board members for helping the agencies conclude this critical phase of the negotiation process.

The Office of River Protection's tank waste vitrification program is the highest priority, most expensive, and longest term for cleanup of the Hanford Site.¹ There is a great urgency in moving forward without further delay in the retrieval and immobilization of Hanford's 54 million gallons of high-level radioactive hazardous tank waste. Successful issuance of an Authorization to Proceed with treatment facility construction and operation will require that we continue to work closely with one another.

Agency staff are working to develop and establish new TPA requirements and an updated DOE, Office of River Protection (baseline) work schedule. We appreciate your suggested initial milestone ideas, and note that in many respects they are similar to commitments that we expect to see established under the TPA.

We are continuing to work with the Public Involvement Steering Group (established on the Board's recommendation) as we design a comprehensive and responsive public involvement approach for implementation over the coming year and a half. Steering Group discussions are scheduled to continue through June, at which time a public involvement plan will be finalized. We anticipate that this effort will conform to the Board's advice. Meanwhile, we will conduct near term negotiations with

opportunities for the Board to review and comment on progress and negotiation issues. We look forward to working with you and Board members on this most critical of Hanford Site cleanup issues.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
Washington Department of Ecology

/s/

Dick French, Manager
Office of River Protection
U.S. Department of Energy

/s/

Chuck Clarke, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10

cc: Mary Lou Blazek, OOE
David Mears, WA AGO
Keith Klein, DOE RL
Michael Gearheard, EPA
Region 10
Russell Jim, YIN
Patrick Sobotta, NPT
J.R. Wilkinson, CTUIR

¹ Letter transmitting HAB Consensus Advice #94: Marilyn B. Reeves, Chair, Hanford Advisory Board to Chuck Clarke, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, Tom Fitzsimmons, Director, Washington Department of Ecology and James Hall, Acting Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, March 26, 1999.

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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 #93 (March 26, 1999)
Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on Tri-Party Agreement Milestones & Public Involvement
Letter from Tri-Parties, dated May 28, 1999
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