



[Advice # 95](#) From: Carolyn L. Huntoon

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

August 9, 1999

Dear Ms. Reeves:

In your letter of June 4, 1999, to James Owendoff, you requested that the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) provide expert panelists to participate in the alternative financing and contracting mechanisms analysis for the Hanford Tank Waste Remediation Systems (TWRS).

By Public Law 105-62, the Congress provided \$35 million for external independent reviews of the Department of Energy (Department) construction and privatization projects. Congressional House conference language directed that the external independent reviews assess the project's technical scope, cost estimates, schedules, and supporting data and provide recommendations based on the review findings. Congressional House Report 105-271 directed that the reviews use independent, non-proponent, and external personnel. The Office of Field Integration has been designated as the responsible office within the Department for managing the external independent review process for all projects. They are partnering with the Department's Office of Privatization and Contract Reform for the external independent review of TWRS. Currently, they are in the process of contracting with an external independent contractor to perform an impartial, non-proponent review of TWRS. The external independent review will result in a report by the reviewers to Congress with their findings and recommendations.

Please note that the Office of Environmental Management is not involved in directing or conducting this external independent review. However, in response to your letter, I have discussed your request with the Offices of Privatization and Contract Reform and Field Integration. The parameters for the TWRS external independent review are being developed by these two offices consistent with the Congressional mandate for the external independent reviews and in accordance with congressionally approved criteria and process for the reviews. The Office of Field Integration in partnership with the Office of Privatization and Contract Reform will insure that the stakeholders are briefed in the planning and execution of the external independent review of TWRS.

Shortly, the external independent review contractor for IWRS should be seeking an expert panel of reviewers. The external independent review contractor directly hires the review team. One key qualification criterion for review team members is to have "an objective detachment from the project under review and the absence of other conflicts of interest or agenda." Because of this requirement, it is not appropriate for Hanford Advisory Board members to be represented on the external independent review team performing this review.

We look forward to the Independent Review and its evaluation. We certainly value your advice as we proceed with this phase of the TWRS Privatization Project. For any further information on the external independent review of TWRS, please contact Mr. John Wilcynski, Director, Office of Field Integration, at 202-586-2850.

Sincerely,

/s/

Carolyn L. Huntoon, Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc: Walter Howes, PC-1  
Mr. James Owendoff, EM-2

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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 #95 (June 4, 1999)  
Subject: HAB Consensus Advice on Tank Waste Treatment Alternative Financing  
Letter from Carolyn Huntoon, dated August 9, 1999  
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