



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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MAR 29 1995

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
800 NW Sixth Avenue
Suite 342
Portland, Oregon 97209-3715

Dear Ms. Reeves:

PURSUIT OF POSSIBLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AT HANFORD

The Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, is in receipt of your letter, dated February 8, 1995, advising the Department of Energy to encourage and cooperate with the examination and development of private ventures, such as using Hanford's radioisotopes for beneficial medical and other purposes. Richland Operations Office concurs with this advise and is currently in the process of identifying potential economic opportunities through the development of an interim business plan.

Although presentations at the Hanford Advisory Board and the Cultural & Social-Economic Impacts Committee focused primarily on the yttrium-90 (Y-90) for cancer treatment, a part of this plan will also touch on cesium-137 (Cs-137) for food irradiation. It is estimated that the interim business plan will be completed towards the end of May 1995.

Other activities that support using Hanford's radioisotopes for beneficial uses include: a stakeholders workshop on March 17, 1995, of which members of the Hanford Advisory Board attended; an industrial workshop on April 21, 1995, to inform the industry about radioisotopes Hanford has to offer and obtain feedback from the industry on their needs and expectations of the Government; and responding to outside inquiries about radioisotopes at Hanford.

Many letter proposals have been received requesting radioisotopes that apply to: diagnostic and therapeutic medical treatment; food and blood irradiation; medical equipment sterilization; industrial and environmental tracers; standards; and research. Recently a proposal was received from Gray*Star, Inc. requesting the use of Cs-137 for food irradiation. Using Cs-137 certainly will reduce waste while playing an important part in controlling foodborn diseases. While Cs-137 is being looked at it is still the policy of HQ Waste Management (EM-30) that no action be taken on Cs-137 at this time. Thus far, yttrium-90 is the only radioisotope shipped on a regular basis.

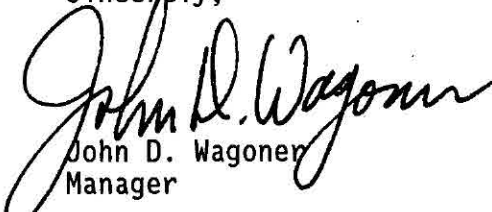
Ms. M. B. Reeves

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The Richland Operations Office will continue to pursue possible economic opportunities at Hanford. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Bill Sellers, Strategic Transition Initiatives Division, at (509) 376-3831 or Ms. Julie Schmitz, Laboratory Management Division, at (509) 372-4015.

Sincerely,



John D. Wagoner
Manager

LMD:JKS