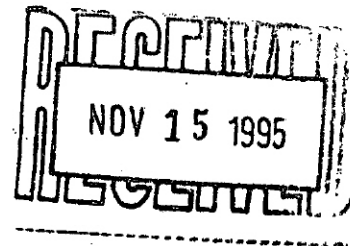




Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352



95-OEA-125

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

Dear Ms. Reeves:

TECHNICAL TEAM REVIEW OF PROPOSED NEW DOUBLE-SHELL TANKS AT HANFORD

Reference: Letter, M. Reeves, HAB, to J. D. Wagoner, RL, "Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice, Adopted April 6-7 and May 4, 1995," dated May 10, 1995.

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 1995, which you submitted along with a copy of the report, "Technical Team Review of Proposed New Double-Shell Tanks at Hanford." This letter provides the Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL) response to the consensus advice recommendations adopted by the Hanford Advisory Board based upon that report.

Evaluate, as a top TWRS priority, the possibility of a 102-SY clean-out to render this tank fully useable for storage and transfer.

TWRS will evaluate clean-out of Tank 102-SY, along with other alternatives for emergency storage and for staging waste for cross-site transfers. As currently envisioned, 102-SY clean-out could be one of the first double-shell tanks retrieved by our currently authorized under the Initial Tank Retrieval System, Project W-211. This retrieval would occur in FY 1998 when the new cross-site transfer system becomes available for use. As you know, we were able to remove more than 400,000 gallons of liquid waste from 102-SY in July 1995 by using the existing cross-site transfer system. (Reit, HAB Advice #17B reply)

Pursue the option of building a smaller transfer tank(s) to move SST liquid waste if 102-SY cannot be cleaned out.

We have briefly considered building small transfer tanks in the 200 West Area, but our initial assessment indicates the tanks would not be available until FY 1999. We need a solution to the 200 West Area waste transfer issue before then. We will continue to explore alternatives to resolve the Tank 102-SY issue, including consideration of small tanks such as the existing 20,000-gallon, double-contained receiver tanks. We prefer to avoid construction of new waste tanks to avoid adding to the already large number of facilities that will eventually need remediation/disposal. (Reit, HAB Advice #17B reply)

The Board accepts the DOE view that no additional immediate action regarding tank construction be taken for 200 East Area.

Additional double-shell tank storage capacity is not needed until FY 2004 or later.

Ms. Marilyn Reeves  
95-OEA-125

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Pursue and complete the fastest possible review and decision-making for the proposed new CSTS.

TWRS is pursuing ways to accelerate the cross-site transfer system project (Reit, HAB Advice #17B reply). The current Safe Interim Storage Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process promises to be the most expedient approach to meeting the National Environmental Policy Act requirements. RL is proceeding with the EIS, with adjustments to recognize the preferred option of no new double-shell waste tanks.

Develop a contingency plan to address the possibility that the current CSTS will not be operable in the 1995-1998 time frame (or until the new CSTS is operable).

We have an action plan which includes developing contingency plans for such things as the cross-site transfer line not being operable.

Prepare more quantitative risk analyses for each element of the system, and make these available to the interested and affected parties.

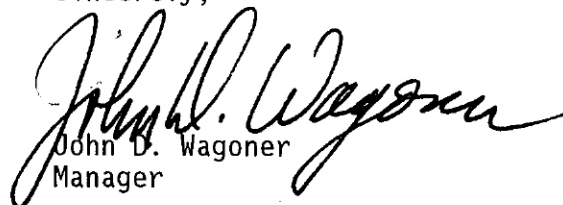
Quantitative risk analyses have been underway since the summer of 1994. Results of this effort were not yet available at the time of the HAB Team visit to Hanford. These will be developed further and used in future planning. The information will be made available to interested and affected parties.

DOE top management should carefully evaluate the new waste volume projections and monitor on a frequent, ongoing basis, whether predictions are borne out so that timely re-adjustments can be made to the operation of the entire Hanford waste storage complex.

RL has a tank operations staff dedicated to oversight of the waste tank facilities and program. Significant issues are conveyed to DOE senior management via a variety of routine and special report forums, to allow or to ensure re-adjustments to operation of the waste storage complex. In addition, a Waste Volume Projection Report is issued annually.

RL appreciates the resources the HAB committed to provide technical review of this issue and the advice which resulted from this review. We will continue to consult with the HAB regarding activities and progress made in this area.

Sincerely,

  
John D. Wagoner  
Manager

OEA:JKY