

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

JAN 31 1996

95-OEA-228

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
22250 Boulder Crest Lane, SE
Amity, Oregon 97101

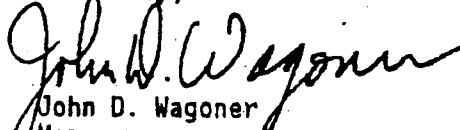
Dear Ms. Reeves:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) ADVICE #37

This is in response to your letter of December 8, 1995, in which you recommend that the Department of Energy (DOE) work with stakeholders to initiate activities to form and charter an Openness Panel at Richland. As you may know, I met with a number of interested stakeholders, several members of my staff, as well as DOE Headquarters representatives on November 17, 1995, to explore mutual goals related to the Secretary's openness commitments including an openness panel. One of the action items from that meeting was for the stakeholders to formulate such a proposal. We received Tom Carpenter's draft charter for such a panel and Karen Randolph of my staff is setting up a meeting to discuss the proposal and determine how to make it a reality for the Hanford Site.

I appreciate your support, on behalf of the HAB, for an Openness Panel. Unfortunately, because of continuing funding uncertainties and the stringent requirements of the Federal Facilities Compliance Act regarding creation of new advisory groups, it is not feasible to establish a separate panel. The existing charter of the HAB appears to provide the best means to institutionalize procedures for dealing with the openness issues raised by the stakeholders in our meeting and which you mention in your letter. I will work with the HAB's Environmental Restoration Committee and Mr. Patt, or an ad hoc committee under the auspices of, and approved by, the HAB on these issues.

Sincerely,


John D. Wagoner
Manager

OEA:JKY

cc: R. Patt, HAB
T. P. Grumbly, EM-1
C. Clarke, EPA
C. Kelly, EM-2
L. Lingle, EM-5
M. Riveland, Ecology
Washington State
Congressional Delegations
Oregon Congressional
Delegations