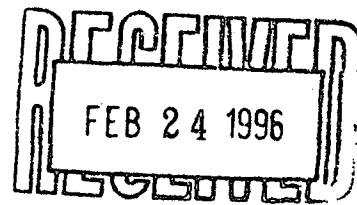




Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352



FEB 22 1996

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

Dear Ms. Reeves:

HANFORD SITE WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING

I want to thank you for your letter of February 2, 1996, offering advice on how our impending work force restructuring needs could be accomplished with the least impact to the morale and productivity of our workers. I also appreciated the opportunity to visit with Hanford Advisory Board members Mark Hermanson and Jim Watts to gain further insights into the Board's position on this matter. You may be interested to know that many of the comments we received on the draft addendum to the current Hanford Site Work Force Restructuring Plan raised a number of the same points expressed in your letter.

Your letter emphasizes the many advantages of an enhanced retirement program to the workers and community over other forms of separation programs. I fully agree that such a program would minimize the negative effects of work force restructuring. Accordingly, I will give your recommendation to offer another enhanced retirement program serious consideration as we progress towards further determining our restructuring needs for the balance of fiscal year 1996. In the meantime, our final version of the Work Force Restructuring Plan Addendum will be revised to state the U.S. Department of Energy's intent to consider such a program in any further work force restructuring.

Per your request, I will have Jon Yerxa schedule a convenient time for the Board to be updated on the implementation of work force restructuring at the site and the socioeconomic impact on the community. Please call me or your staff may call Jon on (509) 376-9628 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Wagoner
Manager

HRD:DJS

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Slade Gorton
Congressman Doc Hastings