



Department of Energy

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Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Confluence Northwest Hallmark Associates
1220 SW Morrison, Tenth Floor
Portland, Oregon 97205

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 1996, concerning public involvement in the Ten-Year Plan. As I emphasized when I met with stakeholders at Hanford recently, public involvement will be an integral part of the Ten-Year Plan process. Especially as we consider intersite opportunities or challenge long-standing assumptions, we need to engage the public in an open, deliberative process.

We appreciate the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB's) concern that major new assumptions only be incorporated into the integrated Ten-Year Plan after appropriate public involvement (HAB letter of advice, No. 51). Please be assured the draft Preliminary Ten-Year Plan did not incorporate any major new assumptions (e.g., changed cleanup standards, restricted land use, off-site waste import). The next draft will delineate our initial ten-year plan baseline as well as major assumptions and opportunities needing further public input and deliberation.

These assumptions and their impacts will be thoroughly reviewed in a process that involves the public before they are incorporated into a revised Plan or baseline. The Department of Energy is committed to working with the Hanford Advisory Board, stakeholders, and the Tribal Nations in the development of this public process for the Ten-Year Plan.

On November 18 and 19, we will convene the National Dialogue planning committee to examine the principles and values that might be applied to decisions concerning the Ten-Year Plan, as well as other Department of Energy decisions concerning the disposition of nuclear materials. As you know, this meeting stems from recommendations made by the planning committee at its July meeting in Chicago.

A slightly expanded committee will review the principles and values that have emerged from the Department's various advisory boards, hearings, and other activities. The committee will try to establish a common set of principles and values for developing the integrated Ten-Year Plan or for deciding "equity" issues concerning the disposition of nuclear materials and waste.

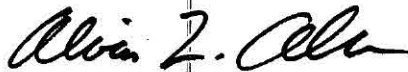


Depending upon the success of this trial process, we hope to conduct one or more similar sessions with a larger group of stakeholders in early 1997 that will include more opportunities for Hanford stakeholders to participate.

Whatever is generated through the National Dialogue process will be publicly available for further reviews at the Department's sites and other forums. Through an interactive process we hope to develop a coherent set of principles and values for the integrated Ten-Year Plan and other related Department decisions concerning nuclear materials disposition.

As my staff analyzes the plans submitted from around the complex, we need to continue working closely with all of our stakeholders. We appreciate the valuable contributions that the Hanford Advisory Board has made and look forward to working with the Board as we tackle the challenging task of cleaning up the legacy of the Cold War in a cost-effective, timely, and equitable manner.

Sincerely,



Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management