



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 12, 1997

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Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves
C/O Technical Resources International
723 The Parkway
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for your letter detailing the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) advice regarding the 2006 Plan and the Complex-Wide Environmental Management (EM) Integration Initiative.

The EM program remains committed to stakeholder participation in the development of the 2006 Plan and in the resolution of nuclear materials and waste disposition issues, and agree that the process for public participation in these matters should be clearly defined. Accordingly, we intend to publicly outline this process at the time we release the Discussion Draft of the 2006 Plan, which will be on June 12, 1997. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly describe those plans for public involvement.

In response to stakeholder comments such as the HAB's, EM is extending the process for public participation in the development of the Initial 2006 Plan. The upcoming release of the Discussion Draft of the Plan will be followed by a public comment period of 90 days. We then plan to issue a Draft 2006 Plan, which will be followed by another 45-day public comment period. The initial 2006 Plan is now scheduled to be released in early, 1998. We hope this extended process will allow for full and effective public participation and comment.

We plan to brief Secretary Peña on the National Dialogue in the next two weeks. This will allow us to integrate the 2006 Plan effort and the National Dialogue based on his guidance. We will then seek input from each of the Site specific Advisory Boards on how best to maximize public involvement. In fact, I plan to meet with the Hanford Advisory Board on June 19, 1997, to discuss the 2006 Plan and our involvement strategy in person.

Similarly, we will establish a process for regulator, Tribal Nation, and public involvement in the consideration of the recommendations from the Complex-Wide Environmental Management Integration Initiative. At this time, EM has not made any decisions regarding which recommendations should be pursued. After reviewing these recommendations and the public comments, EM will develop Action Plans to outline a process for resolving those recommendations

that may be technically and programmatically beneficial. These Action Plans will be developed in collaboration with regulators and stakeholders, and will outline the process for public participation. Some of the national issues raised in this Report could be the subject of discussions in the National Dialogue. I assure you that no decisions will be made until we have had a comprehensive stakeholder dialogue.

We believe that this process and schedule is consistent with the HAB's recommendations and will ensure meaningful public participation in our decisions.

Thank you for your continued leadership of the Hanford Advisory Board.

Sincerely,



Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management