



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 20, 1996

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
800 N.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 342
Portland, OR 97209-3715

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for sharing with us a copy of Hanford Advisory Board Advice #39, dealing with workforce restructuring. We appreciate the effort the Board has put into this issue.

We agree with the Board that economic stability of the Tri-Cities is an important goal. The impact of Hanford cleanup decisions cannot help affecting that stability. We know that overall reductions in the Hanford workforce are inevitable as we get more efficient about cleanup. The reductions have been sharper than one would hope, from the standpoint of stability, due to Congressional budget cuts.

In any case, the Board makes a persuasive case that early retirement options provide greater community stability at no greater cost to the federal budget than other alternatives. There is much to be said for keeping in the community experienced workers and professionals who may assist diversification by developing new businesses and careers.

The Department of Energy has a difficult challenge to manage: Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of cleanup, sharply reduce costs, and be a good corporate citizen. I hope the Board will continue to work with the USDOE as it seeks constructive responses to that challenge.

Sincerely,


Dan Silver, Assistant Director
Waste Management Division

Response to HAB Advice #39 (February 1-2, 1996)
3161 Workforce Restructuring and the Health, Safety, and Dignity of the Hanford Workforce/Social Economic Impacts
Letter from Dan Silver, Ecology, dated February 20, 1996