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Washington State Dept of Ecology

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Department of Health

June 6, 2007

Mike Weis, Acting Manager U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations P.O. Box 550 (A7-50) Richland, WA 99352

Elin D. Miller, Regional Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101

Con Murphy, President Fluor Hanford Inc. P.O. Box 1000 Richland, WA 99352

Re: K East Basin Sludge Removal

Dear Messrs. Weis, and Murphy, and Ms. Miller,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) congratulates the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fluor Hanford, Inc., and the Hanford workforce for completing the removal of sludge from the 105KE basin.

The Board has followed the K Basins Closure Project (formerly the Spent Fuel Project) for more than ten years. Among the values identified in the very first advice the Board provided to the Tri-Party Agencies in 1994 was the principle to "move ahead rapidly with cleanup in the 100 and 300 Areas." Successful completion of this most recent milestone speaks directly to that principle. A job well done by all involved!

The Board recognizes that sludge removal was yet another first-of-a-kind effort that presented many difficult challenges with constantly changing conditions. We also understand that completion of this milestone was accomplished by a dedicated, innovative workforce while developing and implementing new engineering solutions safely in the field.

The Board realizes that achieving sludge removal from the 105KE basin is one interim cleanup action in a series of actions in the 100K Area. The Board looks forward to the next remedial actions in the 100K Area that will further reduce contamination risks to the Columbia River.

Envirolssees Hanford Project Office 713 Jadwin, Suite 4 Richland, WA 99352 Phone: (509) 942-1906 Fax: (509) 942-1926

Hanford Advisory Board Subject: K East Basin 2007O-06 Page 1 Sincerely,

Susan Leckband, Chair Hanford Advisory Board

This letter represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.

cc: Dave Brockman, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S Department of

Energy, Richland Operations Office

Nick Ceto, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology

Doug Frost, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters

Site Specific Advisory Boards

Susan Lekhand

The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations