

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

June 6, 2008

Advising:

US Dept of Energy
US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State Dept
of Ecology

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

CHAIR:

Susan Leckband

VICE CHAIR:

Rick Jansons

Shirley Olinger, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450 (H6-60)
Richland, WA 99352

BOARD MEMBERS:

Local Business
Harold Heacock

Labor/Work Force
Mike Keizer
Thomas Carpenter
Susan Leckband
Jeff Luke
Rebecca Holland

Local Environment
Gene Van Liew

Local Government
Maynard Plahuta
Pam Larsen
Rick Jansons
Rob Davis
Julie Jones
Richard Leitz
Bob Parks

Tribal Government
Russell Jim
Gabriel Bohnee

Public Health
Margery Swint
Jim Trombold

University
Doug Mercer
Gene Schreckhise

Public-at-Large
Norma Jean Germond
Keith Smith
Bob Parazin
Bob Suyama

**Regional Environ-
ment/Citizen**
Todd Martin
Greg deBruler
Paige Knight
Gerald Pollet
Susan Kreid

State of Oregon
Larry Clucas
Ken Niles

Ex-Officio
Confederated Tribes of
the Umatilla
Washington State
Department of Health

Re: HAB Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Budget

Dear Mr. Brockman and Ms. Olinger,

Over the past six years, the budget to support the work of the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) has been reduced to a point where the Board has been forced to suspend operations for portions of each year due to a lack of funds. The effect of the last five years of level funding represents an effective reduction of the Board's budget due to the compounding effects of inflationary pressures and dramatically increased travel costs. The Board's budget has been:

• FY 2002 Budget:	\$ 607,000
• FY 2003 Budget:	\$ 583,000
• FY 2004 Budget:	\$ 471,000
• FY 2005 Budget:	\$ 471,000
• FY 2006 Budget:	\$ 471,000
• FY 2007 Budget:	\$ 471,000
• FY 2008 Budget:	\$ 471,000

The Board has effectively managed and repeatedly curtailed its activities to the maximum extent practicable, including: reducing the number of committee and Board meetings, selecting meeting locations which minimize travel costs, completely eliminating Board facilitation and support for long periods of time, and for eliminating facilitation support for Site Specific Advisory Board activities. The Board is now approaching the point where budget shortfalls will prevent the Board from continuing to provide effective public input and advice on Hanford cleanup issues.

During the upcoming year, as in previous years, the Board continues to be committed to providing public input and advice, including work on institutional controls, waste site remediation and trenches, groundwater remediation, vitrification plant decisions, early Low Activity Waste startup, site-wide technology pilot project, tank retrieval, and public involvement goals. The Board anticipates work scope above our regular work load this year, including:

- Helping the Department of Energy (DOE) develop a robust public and tribal involvement process for release of the Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement in 2009
- Providing Board advice on the Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement in 2009
- Planning and participating in DOE Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection project baseline workshops
- Facilitating public and tribal input and providing advice on the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) negotiations
- Planning and participating in 100 and 300 Corridor Risk Assessment workshops
- Additional public involvement products and activities requested by the TPA agencies

Board funding levels are simply not adequate to sustain the high quality research, development and facilitation expertise required to support board activities. From FY 2002 to FY 2009, the Board's budget has been cut by 23%. We are below what we consider to be a funding level that will allow the Board to continue to function effectively.

To provide DOE and the regulating agencies with well-researched, insightful policy level advice and recommendations a strong facilitation team with deep technical knowledge and institutional memory is required. The Board has been subject to reduced facilitation expertise due to lack of appropriate funding. The level of facilitation which the Board requires must be at a high quality to ensure the agencies get the best products the Board can provide.

The Board also needs adequate budget to support necessary travel, regularly scheduled and ad hoc committee meetings and Board meetings that will enable us to accomplish our work load and meet the needs of the TPA agencies.

Given the Board's projected work load, increases in travel costs, facilitation needs, and our desire to avoid future periods of suspending all activities, as well as the Board's commitment to continue closely managing expenditures, a FY 2010 budget of \$560,000 is needed. The Board seeks to regain our ability to continue providing quality, values-based advice on Hanford cleanup that benefits DOE, the regulating agencies and the public.

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: Doug Shoop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Steve Wiegman, 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
John Fulton, President CH2M Hill
Con Murphy, President, Fluor Hanford
Bill Elkins, President, Bechtel national Inc.
Charles Spencer, President, Washington Closure Group
Doug Frost, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
Site Specific Advisory Boards
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations