

# HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

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

**Advising:**

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

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Washington State  
Department of Health

December 5, 2008

Inez Triay

Acting-Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management  
EM-1/Forestal Building  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Merle Sykes

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Program Planning & Budget, Environmental  
Management  
Forestal Building  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Fiscal Year 2009 Funding and Missed Milestones

Dear Ms. Triay and Ms. Sykes,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) has previously expressed its concern regarding funding shortfalls for Hanford Site cleanup programs. The Board continues to be concerned with potential delays in the cleanup of the Hanford site, caused by a lack of funds. The most recent evidence of these delays is contained in a November 5, 2008 letter from David Brockman, Manager, Richland Operations, to the State of Washington, Department of Ecology and the United States Environmental Protection Agency notifying them that an additional 23 Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones will not be met due to funding limitations.

This latest failure to meet TPA milestone commitments was a result of a Department of Energy (DOE) decision to shift funding to the cleanup of site contamination along the Columbia River in preference to the cleanup of the Central Plateau. We strongly urge the DOE to seek additional funding so that cleanup of the site can be accomplished in accordance with currently committed TPA milestones for the entire Hanford Site. The federal government has a legal and moral commitment to provide the necessary funding to meet its commitments to cleanup Hanford's legacy wastes in accordance with TPA milestones.

With the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Continuing Resolution, followed by the FY 2008 Omnibus Bill, we recognize how great the pressures are on a FY 2009 federal budget that has yet to be finalized. The FY 2009 Continuing Resolution is a slight improvement over the proposed FY 2009 budget; it still falls far short of meeting TPA milestones. We also recognize that the Administration's FY 2010 Budget, which will be distributed by February 10, 2009, may have additional impacts.

The Board believes that a central issue is that the DOE's funding for Hanford is inadequate to ensure compliance with the legally enforceable requirements of the TPA.

The DOE has experienced continuing drastic reductions in the department's Environmental Management budget from \$7.8 billion in FY 2005 to the \$6 billion requested in FY 2009. In previous years the Hanford Site was informed by the DOE that some of the cleanup work at Hanford would be delayed to permit the shifting of funding to the early completion of cleanup at other DOE sites. At that time we were assured that funding would be increased for Hanford programs when the work at smaller sites was completed. In fact, work at the targeted sites has been or is largely completed. Instead of an increase in Hanford Site funding, we are continuing to experience a shortfall in funding to meet committed TPA milestones.

### **Advice**

It is with these considerations in mind that the Board advises additional funding be provided to the Hanford Site in the FY 2009 Budget allocations. Board Advice #205 (April 4, 2008) explains how these additional funds should be allocated to address associated risks.

### **RICHLAND OPERATIONS**

\$144 million for the underfunded activities:

- Solid Waste Stabilization RL-13C
- River Corridor and Central Plateau Cleanup RL-41
- 300 Area and Groundwater Cleanup RL-30
- Central Plateau Soil and Vadose Zone Cleanup RL-40
- Community Support RL-100

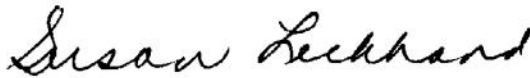
## OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION

\$90 million for the following underfunded activities:

- Early Low Activity Waste
- Interim Pretreatment
- Single Shell Tank Retrieval
- Tank Farm Facility Upgrades and Soil Stabilization

The Board requests your serious consideration of ways to meet the FY 2009 funding shortfalls identified above.

Sincerely,



Susan Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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

cc: David Brockman, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
Shirley Olinger, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
Elin D. Miller, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Jay Manning, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Doug Shoop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
Steve Pfaff, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
Dennis Faulk, Environmental Protection Agency  
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Doug Frost, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations