



U.S. Department of Energy  
**Office of River Protection**

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352

OCT 18 2007

2008I-029

07-TF-033

Ms. Susan L. Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) CONSENSUS ADVICE #201 ON S-102 TANK  
SPILL INVESTIGATION**

Reference: HAB letter from S. L. Leckband to S. J. Olinger, ORP;  
D. A. Brockman, RL; E. D. Miller, EPA; and J. Manning, Ecology, "Re:  
S-102 Tank Spill Investigation," dated September 7, 2007.

This letter responds to HAB Consensus Advice #201, *S-102 Tank Spill Investigation*. Specific responses to the HAB's recommendations and advice are as follows:

**The Board recommends and supports independent investigation(s) of the leak event that focus on worker and public safety, immediate and long-term emergency response and notification issues, and identification and dissemination of appropriate lessons-learned.**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) agrees that the waste spill at tank S-102 warrants a thorough and independent safety investigation. At the request of DOE Office of River Protection (ORP), a Type A Accident Investigation into the spill was initiated by the DOE's Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) on August 13, 2007, and concluded on September 20, 2007, with the release of the Type A Accident Investigation Report.

The Type A, the Department's most rigorous independent accident investigation, focused on potential health effects to workers located in the vicinity of the spill; emergency management plans and response to the event; engineering design, modifications, and approval of the current Tank S-102 pumping equipment; and the work control process associated with Tank S-102 retrieval pumping during the event.

The Investigation Board concluded that the accident at Tank S-102 was avoidable, and the resulting report identified corrective actions, or "judgments of need," to prevent recurrence of future events. The scope of the judgments of need in the report include: equipment engineering, design and review, industrial hygiene, emergency management, conduct of operations, and operational oversight.

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**The Board looks forward to the investigation results including the full response and investigation costs. The Board advises DOE-ORP ensure lessons learned are fully communicated and incorporated into operations in a manner that ensures workers now and in the future will benefit from them.**

The full Type A Accident Investigation Report, a copy of the transmittal memorandum to Shirley J. Olinger, ORP Acting Manager, and the press release announcing the completion of the investigation are available on DOE's HSS website at <http://hss.energy.gov>. A hard copy of the Accident Investigation Report is included with this response.

DOE agrees that lessons-learned must be fully communicated and incorporated into operations. DOE is developing a corrective action plan that will be approved by the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) to address the judgments of need identified in the report. EM will validate as effective the corrective actions prior to the restart of tank S-102 waste retrieval operations. We will also ensure that the lessons-learned from this event are fully incorporated into future tank farms operations.

Relative to the costs of the response and investigation, we are currently in the process of cleaning up the contaminated equipment and soils at Tank S-102, and the cost to date for that activity is approximately \$1.6 million. The Type A Accident Investigation was coordinated and conducted out of a DOE program office independent of EM, and therefore we do not have investigation costs to provide to the HAB at this point.

**The Board advises the results of these investigations be communicated to the public concerned with the cleanup.**

DOE agrees that the results of the Type A Accident Investigation should be communicated to the public and others concerned with Hanford cleanup. On September 20, 2007, the Accident Investigation Board provided a briefing on the results of the investigation and judgments of need to representatives from the Tribal Nations, HAB, interest groups, State of Oregon, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Government Accountability Office, and Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council. On the same day, the Investigation Report and transmittal memorandum were placed on the HSS website, a press release was issued, and a message was sent to all employees of the Hanford Site.

DOE looks forward to providing additional briefings to the public, HAB, Tribal Nations, and others as we develop and implement the corrective actions and lessons-learned from the spill at Tank S-102. DOE appreciates the HAB's interest and advice to ensure that tank waste cleanup continues in a manner that is safe to our workers and the public, and protective of the environment.

Ms. Susan L. Leckband  
07-TF-033

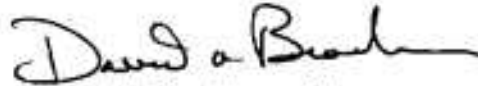
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If you have any questions, please call Mr. T. Erik Olds, ORP, (509) 372-8656, or  
Ms. Karen E. Lutz, DOE Richland Operations Office, (509) 376-4766.



Shirley J. Olinger, Acting Manager  
Office of River Protection



David A. Brockman, Manager  
Richland Operations Office

TOD:MCB

Attachment

cc w/attach:

J. A. Hedges, Ecology

J. Manning, Ecology

T. Holm, EnviroIssues

L. Lefkoff, EnviroIssues

M. Bogert, EPA

N. Ceto, EPA

E. D. Miller, EPA

D. Frost, HQ

K. E. Lutz, RL

The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations