



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

2009 I-264

August 10, 2009

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #219

Dear Ms. Leckband: *Susan*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to thank the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) for their advice on the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). We appreciate the Board's support for continued operation of the facility and the Board's thoughtful comments.

In particular, the Board's advice regarding the performance assessment (PA) is very helpful. The ERDF waste acceptance criteria must be kept current to ensure long-term protection of human health and the environment. EPA believes that the PA conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will serve as a mechanism to provide the analysis needed to update the waste acceptance criteria. We appreciate the Board advising that it is important for DOE to consult with EPA when performing the PA to ensure that EPA's data needs are met during the PA process. Also, the Board's advice that the PA not be linked to or delayed by completion of the Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS is timely given the announced delays to that EIS.

EPA appreciates the time and energy devoted to Hanford cleanup efforts by HAB members. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office

cc: Jane Hedges, Ecology
David Brockman, DOE