



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

May 24, 2010

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

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #227

Dear Ms. Leckband:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would like to thank the Board for their advice on the use of modeling versus more characterization at the Hanford site. We agree that adequate characterization is needed to make protective cleanup decisions. However, it is important to acknowledge that modeling, when done properly, is a useful and appropriate tool in the decision-making process. We further agree with the Board that accurate input parameters and assumptions should be used during model development to increase usefulness and validity. Sensitivity analyses are key to determining the level of confidence in modeling results and should be employed on critical assumptions. Conducting post-record of decision activities such as verification sampling allows us to ensure that we conducted a successful cleanup.

When dealing with a complex site such as Hanford, it is difficult to remove all sources of uncertainty in selecting cleanup response actions, and it should be recognized that uncertainty, to some extent, is part of the cleanup process. It is important that we understand and minimize uncertainty when possible to make the best cleanup decisions.

Thank you for your advice on this topic and we look forward to hearing from the Board in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Faulk".

Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office

cc: David Brockman, DOE-RL
Shirley Olinger, DOE-ORP
Jane Hedges, Ecology

Response to HAB advice #227
HAB Consensus Advice: DOE's Use of Modeling Versus More Characterization
Letter from Dennis Faulk dated 5/24/10