



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

November 28, 2011

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

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #252 "Hanford's 2011 Lifecycle Scope, Schedule, and Cost Report"

Dear Ms. Leckband: *Susan*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would like to thank the Board for their advice on the 2011 Hanford Lifecycle Scope, Schedule, and Cost Report. Although several of your advice points are specific to this U.S. Department of Energy report, we would like to respond to your advice as well.

The EPA has reviewed the LCCS report and found it to be well written and useful in understanding the scope, schedule and cost for Hanford Site cleanup. We believe that the report satisfies TPA milestone M-036-01A.

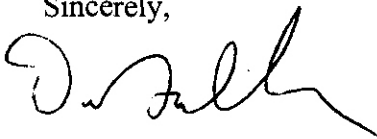
The EPA worked with the DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology to identify assumptions that were used to estimate the scope of projects where cleanup decisions have not yet been made. This assisted with determining the reasonable upper bound of estimates over a range of plausible alternatives. We appreciate the difficulty with determining costs for projects when cleanup remedies have not yet been selected.

We would like to emphasize that this LSSC report is not a decision-making document, but rather an informational tool. The plausible alternatives identified in the report should not be seen as a presumptive remedy selection. The EPA will use regulatory processes to identify and evaluate cleanup alternatives and select final cleanup remedies.

Though most of the Board's advice points are clear, we would like to comment on the second advice bullet. EPA appreciates the Board's desire to understand the impacts of delaying or accelerating individual cleanup projects. However, in our opinion, we do not see a practical way for the report to do this. Further discussion with the Board is warranted.

Thank you for your time in reviewing the LSSC report. Since this is a report that will be updated and issued annually, there will be continued opportunity for the HAB to provide input in the future. The EPA also plans on providing future input to DOE on this document, as necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Faulk", written in a cursive style.

Dennis Faulk
Program Manager

cc: Paula Call, DOE
Jane Hedges, Ecology