

April 5, 2002

Keith Klein, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations
P.O. Box 550 (A7-50)
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Klein,

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) commends the Department of Energy (DOE) for preparing to issue the long-awaited Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This is an extremely important document and a prime input into the upcoming Record of Decision (ROD).

The Board is sensitive to the need for timely RODs at cleanup sites, however, DOE has the responsibility, after years of delaying the EIS, to work with stakeholders to construct the most effective public process possible.

Currently, the public comment period for the EIS is scheduled for mid-May to mid-July. Because this Solid Waste EIS will have such a profound impact on the ROD and the future of Hanford cleanup, the Board respectfully requests that DOE schedule the public review and comment period to accommodate September 2002 public meetings.

Scheduling the public meetings in September rather than during the summer months or close to the Tri-Party Agreement planned budget meetings will allow the public, stakeholders and the Board to engage in the detailed review and comment process of the Solid Waste EIS.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

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: John Iani, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington State Department of Ecology
Wade Ballard, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of
Energy
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology
Martha Crosland, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H Smith
Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (OR)

Earl Blumenauer
Peter DeFazio
Darlene Hooley
Greg Walden

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Norm Dicks
Jennifer Dunn
Richard Hastings
George Nethercutt

State Senators (WA)

Pat Hale
Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)

Jerome Delvin
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