

April 2, 2004

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

Roy Schepens, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
P.O. Box 450  
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Site Technology Coordination Group

Dear Msrs. Klein and Schepens,

Hanford's Site Technology Coordination Group (STCG) included senior Department of Energy (DOE) managers, contractors, regulators, tribes and three members of the Hanford Advisory Board (Board). It met each month and provided an opportunity for individuals interested in the technology needs of the site to be briefed on program needs, as well as the testing and deployment of science and technology required for cleanup activity at Hanford.

The STCG provided the opportunity for Board members, tribes, regulators, DOE site program and project managers, and contractor companies to gather and discuss common challenges. Funding requests for science or technology were reviewed and prioritized by the group.

The current administration cancelled funding for STCG coordination and the group was disbanded. Stakeholders have requested several times that DOE provide another forum for discussion of Hanford's science and technology needs. No such ongoing meetings have been arranged to date.

Hanford still faces daunting challenges that require new or better technology. The STCG was an excellent mechanism to screen ideas and prioritize DOE technology investments in areas of highest need and greatest potential.

The Board requests that an ongoing forum be created with the previous participating organizations of the STCG. Although funding for the DOE Environmental Management Science Program has been significantly diminished, some money is still available. Stakeholders deserve to know what science and

technology requests are being developed to address immediate and long-term Hanford cleanup challenges.

The DOE – Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) has made an ongoing effort to keep the Board’s Tank Waste Committee informed about science and technology issues. The Board’s primary concern relates to program areas under the direction of DOE-Richland Operations (DOE-RL). However, we encourage participation of DOE-ORP and DOE-RL in any forum that is created, in order to ensure that full cross-program integration occurs.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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*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: Ray Orbach, Director of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters  
John Iani, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Linda Hoffman, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Howard Gnann, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy  
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Sandra Waisley, 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  
David Wu

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Brian Baird  
Norm Dicks  
Jennifer Dunn  
Jay Inslee  
Richard Hastings  
Rick Larsen  
Jim McDermott  
George Nethercutt  
Adam Smith

State Senators (WA)

Pat Hale  
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