



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

01-IPI-153

JAN 31 2001

Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Reeves:

HANFORD 2012: ACCELERATING CLEANUP AND SHRINKING THE SITE
(HAB Advice #113)

First, let me thank you very much for your response to our request to provide the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (RL) with an in-depth review of our plan, "Hanford 2012: Accelerating Cleanup and Shrinking the Site." We appreciated your insights, your time commitment, and your conditional support. We developed the plan based on what we believed were your priorities, and your letter confirms we hit the mark in many areas, especially cleanup along the river.

You requested that the Tri-Party Agencies embrace the vision of unrestricted use along the river. The Environmental Protection Agency's January 4 response to this advice restates the CERCLA Records of Decisions (RODs) for the 100 and 300 Areas. We intend to follow and comply with the current RODs for the 100 and 300 Areas, which is to clean up to industrial use standards for the 300 Area. We believe getting on with cleanup of the 300 Area (rather than reopening the issue of cleanup standards at this time) is critical and will significantly reduce groundwater and other contamination threats.

We will meet our commitment to establish appropriate milestones to assure the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds are remediated in a timely and safe manner. While actual remediation of the burial grounds will not occur until after 2012 because of safety and technical issues, we will continue to monitor these areas closely to determine if remediation should be accelerated.

We are committed to seeking resources to implement the Hanford 2012 plan. We believe this approach is one DOE Headquarters and Congress will support. That said, we can only provide them a vision, a realistic plan, and a path forward and hope they share our excitement about Hanford 2012. We look forward to working with the new Administration on Hanford 2012, but do not expect even a final, more detailed Presidential budget submission until April. We hope

JAN 31 2001

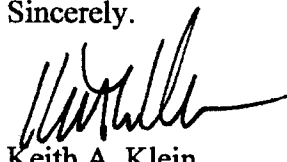
the enthusiasm of our regulators, stakeholders, and others will provide the momentum necessary to provide sufficient funding for full implementation of Hanford 2012. In any case, we are hopeful that our new contract with Fluor Hanford, Inc., other contracting initiatives, resequencing activities, critically examining requirements, and finding other efficiencies will help reduce the funding required to meet the 2012 goal.

It is important to remember that the Hanford 2012 plan maintains existing funding levels for our most important RL projects: the spent nuclear fuel project and the plutonium finishing plant. Like you, these are our priorities and we recognize these projects must remain on schedule. Built into Hanford 2012 is support for the Office of River Protection's vitrification facility, stabilization of plutonium, movement of spent fuel out of K Basins, and remediation of groundwater. We are hopeful we can increase funding for groundwater remediation, especially the in-situ redox manipulation technology. Likewise, we plan to invest in technology development for remote-handled waste, such as that in the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds. This technology is critical to ensuring worker and public safety.

Finally, we intend to work with the regulators and fully comply with the TPA's established process for addressing any milestones that might need to be modified to align to the Hanford 2012 plan. Like our regulators, we are committed to the public process established in the TPA. In fact, we believe that we have gone beyond the TPA's formal public involvement requirements by seeking HAB's and the public's early involvement in the development of the Hanford 2012 plan (i.e., through the HAB workshops, the public comment period on the draft Hanford 2012 plan, and the public comment period on the Report to Congress on the Columbia River Corridor Cleanup).

Again, thank you very much for your hard work on Hanford 2012. We look forward to continuing our dialogue on this plan and other important cleanup challenges facing the Hanford Site.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Klein
Manager

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cc: M. S. Crosland, EM-11
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