



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

02-WMD-034

NOV 8 2001

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair  
 Hanford Advisory Board  
 1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135: G1-04  
 Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

**RESPONSE TO HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) CONSENSUS ADVICE #117,  
 LOW-LEVEL WASTE BURIAL GROUND EXPANSION**

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of constructing and operating four new trenches for the disposal of low-level waste. The EA was sent to the HAB and others for review and comment. HAB advice and comments were provided in Consensus Advice #117 (HAB letter to Keith A. Klein, RL, from you, "Low-Level Waste Burial Ground Expansion," dated June 8, 2001).

No determination has been made as to whether this action will proceed based on analysis presented in the EA. A decision is expected by December 15, 2001.

If you have questions, please contact Michael Collins, Document Manager, at (509) 376-6536.

Sincerely,

W. Wade Ballard  
 Deputy Designated Federal Officer

WMD:MSC

cc: T. C. Fitsimmons, Ecology  
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