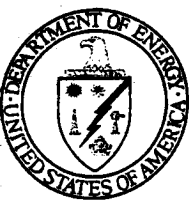
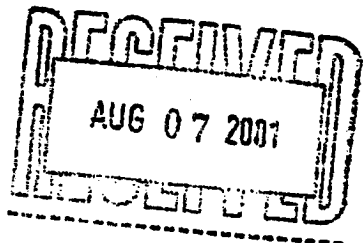


2001I-330



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



01-ERD-101

AUG - 6 2001

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

**REACTOR ENGINEERING/EVALUATION AND COST ANALYSIS (EE/CA) CONSENSUS
ADVICE**

I very much appreciate the timely consensus advice that the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) has provided to the three parties regarding the B Reactor EE/CA. The future management and interpretation advice you provided is also very useful to the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL). Providing for the environmental cleanup and historic preservation of B Reactor are requirements and challenges that RL welcomes. Your continued advice and support will be critical as this project moves forward.

The B Reactor EE/CA evaluates the cost and impacts of completing hazard mitigation requirements and maintaining the B Reactor for an interim ten-year period. The preferred alternative endorsed by the HAB is consistent with the alternative that RL, the State of Washington Department of Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency support. This alternative identifies cleanup requirements, hazard mitigation, cost estimates, and schedules to support limited public access to an expanded B Reactor tour route. Great care will be taken as these facility improvements are made, so that the historic nature and appearance of the building is maintained. The B Reactor Project, managed by Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) includes an integrated team of cleanup managers, historic preservation experts, and workers who are very experienced with this facility.

While the EE/CA is a critical step in the preservation of B Reactor, it addresses only the environmental cleanup requirements of the facility. Museum related improvements or upgrades are not part of the scope of the EE/CA.

The RL and BHI are now preparing a planning process appropriate for the definition of the long-term configuration of the B Reactor. This process will be open and inclusive, and will help answer the important questions about the future use, curation and possible operation of the B Reactor as a museum. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the B Reactor Museum Association, Columbia River Exhibit of History, Science and Technology, the State Historic Preservation Office, and other stakeholders will be a part of the process.

Mr. Todd Martin
01-ERD-101

-2-

While the hazard mitigation activities are in process at B Reactor, and the long-term planning is underway, the B Reactor will remain available, to the extent possible, for tours and limited public access. The B Reactor Project team is working to facilitate and improve access, while continuing to ensure the safety and comfort of our visitors.

If you have questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Chris Smith, Environmental Restoration Division on (509) 372-1544.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Klein
Manager

(for)

ERD:DCS

Attachment

cc w/attach:

D. H. Butler, BHI
M. C. Hughes, BHI
B. S. Kuntz, BHI
T. E. Logan, BHI
J. J. McGuire, BHI
R. F. Potter, BHI
G. Weisskopf, BRMA
C. Huntoon, DOE-HQ
J. H. Roberson, EM-1
R. E. Siguenza, EnviroIssues
M. Gearheard, EPA
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
A. Brooks, SHPO
G. Hughes, USFWS
Admin Record (100-B)

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

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H. Smith
Ron Wyden

State Representatives (WA)

Jerome Delvin
Shirley Hankins

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

DOE-RL Response to HAB EE/CA Specific Advice:

1. The Tri-Parties will select an alternative (the preferred alternative is “hazard mitigation for public access”) that permits the long-term historic preservation of the 105-B facility and its contents.
2. The HAB and the Tri-Parties support the preferred alternative. This alternative includes continuing surveillance and maintenance, hazard mitigation and escorted public access along an expanded route.
3. The Tri-Parties will prepare an Action Memorandum in August 2001, and will determine schedule requirements and possible inclusion into the Tri-Party Agreement at that time.
4. Cleanup funding will be used to accomplish hazard mitigation but will not be used for museum related functions, including historical “interpretation” or visitor accommodations.
5. The EE/CA covers the 105-B facility site conditions and the sources and extent of contamination. The EE/CA covers the hazard mitigation of radioactive and chemical substances, and industrial hazards. The D & D workers and field support managers are very familiar with 105-B and other reactors, and will oversee hazard mitigation.
6. The EE/CA evaluated three options. The preferred alternative will not preclude any future preservation or interpretation options within the next ten years.
7. Dialogue will continue with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service about the relationship of the B Reactor with the Hanford Reach National Monument. Several tours of B Reactor have already been provided for U.S. Fish and Wildlife managers.

DOE-RL Response to HAB Future Management and Interpretation Advice:

8. The DOE-RL will integrate all future decisions about the endstate use of B Reactor with its long-term stewardship plans.
9. The DOE-RL will ensure that the full range of viewpoints are represented as the history of B Reactor is “interpreted”. A public process to determine facility configuration and mission/vision will be used which is open and inclusive.
10. The DOE-RL and its contractors are currently examining their policies regarding access and visitor training. The issues of minors and foreign nationals will be evaluated and considered for revision as appropriate.