2001I-343

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

August 14, 2001

Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Enviro-Issues
1933 Jadwin, Suite 135
Richland, WA 99352

Re: EPA Response to Advice #119, B Reactor

Dear Mr. Martin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed your advice on the B Reactor Engineering Evaluation & Cost Analysis and offers the following responses.

The Board supported the preferred alternative. In addition to the Board, over 50 individuals also supported taking this action. EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will issue an Action Memorandum later this month selecting hazard mitigation as the cleanup alternative.

The Board urged EPA to establish milestones for this project, and we will do that through the removal design report or through the negotiations that will occur for the River Corridor project.

We agree with the Board's position that cleanup funding should only be for hazard mitigation and alternative funding sources be secured for museum activities. The remaining parts of your advice are directed at DOE, but I wanted to comment on several of your points. EPA agrees that B Reactor could play an important role in long-term stewardship and that, in telling the story of Hanford, a wide range of views should be reflected.

We look forward to working with DOE and the Board to move toward converting the B Reactor to a productive asset for the region.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Environmental Cleanup Office

Response to Advice #119
HAB Consensus Advice: B Reactor Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis
Letter from Michael Gearheard dated 8/14/01