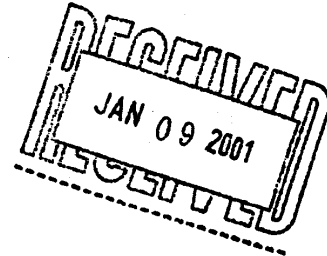




STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 5, 2001

Merilyn Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
1933 Jadwin Suite 135  
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advise #113, Hanford 2012: Accelerating Cleanup and Shrinking the Site (Hanford 2012)

Dear Ms. Reeves:

The Washington State Department of Ecology has reviewed the consensus advise (#113) provided to the Tri-Party agencies regarding the Hanford 2012 proposal developed by the United States Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL). We are aware that the Hanford Advisory Board spent many hours reviewing the Hanford 2012 proposal documents to become familiar with the elements of the plan and the proposed timetables for completing the activities. We appreciate your diligence in addressing this proposal and providing our agency with the advice letter.

Ecology has previously stated its support for activities that accelerate cleanup of the Hanford site, bring a strategic focus to the cleanup, and/or leverage additional funding for use in cleanup. Ecology agrees with the Board's vision to cleanup groundwater threats to the river by 2018. Ecology's past regulatory efforts regarding soil and waste site cleanup along the river corridor have been focused on meeting that goal. We too, are aware of the concerns regarding treatment and remediation of contaminated groundwater and have indicated to DOE-RL that increased attention/funding for groundwater cleanup and technology will be needed if the vision is to be attained.

Ecology agrees with the Board's position that tank waste stabilization and vitrification are the highest priority for site cleanup. The integration of the Office of River Protection into the 2012 planning activities is critical. Your direction to the agencies that we not adversely impact work toward established priorities is a notable reminder. We are aware that if the 2012 plan is to be implemented, even if additional funding is provided, some activities will be delayed, particularly in the areas of waste management. The timing and technology to carry out mixed waste treatment, in particular remote handled TRU, which is critical to the safe and successful remediation of the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds must be factored into the planning and



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budget development for the 2012 plan. We have voiced our concerns on these issues to Energy and will continue our vigilance in ensuring that the issues are not ignored.

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) will continue to be the road map for driving work plans and schedules for cleanup. Any changes to the TPA will follow prescribed criteria, including public involvement. During the upcoming year Ecology and EPA will be meeting with DOE-RL to look at changes that may be necessary to institutionalize the 2012 vision. If changes are proposed, change packages will be provided for public comment.

We look forward to continued discussion and involvement with the Board regarding Hanford 2012.

Sincerely,



Tom Fitzsimmons  
Director