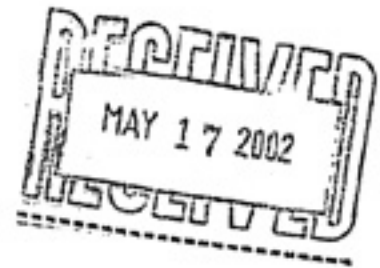




Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

2002-223

Agenda Item #7



02-IPI-0149

MAY 15 2002

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS ADVICE #127 – HANFORD SITE SOLID (RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS) WASTE PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (HSW EIS)

Thank you for your letter dated April 5, 2002, "Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement," requesting the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office extend the public review period for the HSW EIS to accommodate public meetings in September 2002. We have decided to extend the comment period from 60 to 90 days.

The public review period will start about May 23 and end about August 23. We will work with you and local stakeholders to schedule meetings for late July or early August, probably holding two meetings in Washington and two in Oregon. By doubling the standard public comment period from 45 to 90 days, we hope we will provide sufficient opportunity for review. In addition, by separating budget meetings and HWS EIS meetings by two months, we believe we will not overwhelm the public with DOE meetings.

If you have any questions regarding my agreement to extend the comment period by 30 days, please contact me, or your staff may contact Mike Collins, HSW EIS Document Manager, at (509) 376-6536.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Klein
Manager

(tn)

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