



02-HAB-0006

JUL 11 2002

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

CONSENSUS ADVICE #132: EXPOSURE SCENARIOS TASK FORCE ON THE 200 AREA

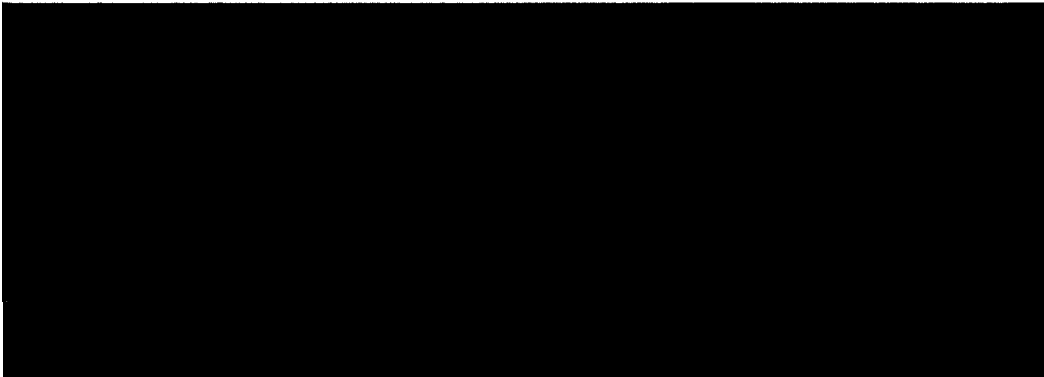
This is in response to your advice #132 dated June 7, 2002, regarding the Central Plateau risk framework and exposure scenario development.

The three agencies appreciate the effort the Board has undertaken to provide us with advice as we enter this critical phase of remediation and closure of Hanford's Central Plateau. Your advice, combined with the input we received from Tribal Nations and interested citizens, provided us with the guidance we needed to develop a credible exposure scenario for the Central Plateau.

We believe that the risk framework delineated in the attachment to this letter adheres closely to your advice. In the cases of minor departure, the agencies considered your advice and made the decisions to deviate based on technical and logistical factors. The inclusion of S-Ponds and B-Pond in the core zone was based on the following: the need to expand the core zone to include the footprint of the Waste Treatment Plant (Vitrification Plant), and the need to avoid splitting waste sites of anticipated similar closure strategies. Notwithstanding such a deviation, the agencies fully support the notion of evaluating the possibility of shrinking the core zone. We support your advice to maximize the potential for beneficial uses in the core zone. The potential for extended human activities in the core zone would provide an added advantage of maintaining the knowledge of the waste left in the core zone after the remedial actions are completed.

We intend to fully integrate the decisions for the remediation of the source units with those for the remediation of groundwater using the appropriate regulatory process. Establishing points of compliance and remedial objectives will be done in adherence regulations. Also, we have started an effort to evaluate groundwater technologies necessary to deploy to remediate groundwater in the core zone. This effort will be advanced through the regulatory documents and reviews of the corresponding groundwater operable units.

Washington State Department of Ecology ▲ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ▲ U.S. Department of Energy



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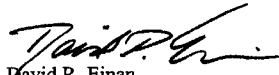
One of the major missions the three agencies have embarked on is the coordination of the risk assessment efforts on the Central Plateau to maintain consistency in the standards used across the site, including data collection, accurate inventory, and land use assumptions.

The U.S. Department of Energy is developing a Long-Term Stewardship (LTS) Plan for the Hanford Site. The recommendation for the creation of a "coalition of groups, to include the Tribes, local government, and other affected entities" to administer the LTS responsibilities of the site should be discussed and evaluated within the context of developing the site LTS Plan. We welcome any proposals from the Board to start such a discussion and evaluation.

We reiterate our appreciation for the work you have done to support the risk framework. If you need further information or assistance, please contact the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Public Involvement Manager, Yvonne Sherman on (509) 376-6216.



Keith A. Klein, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office



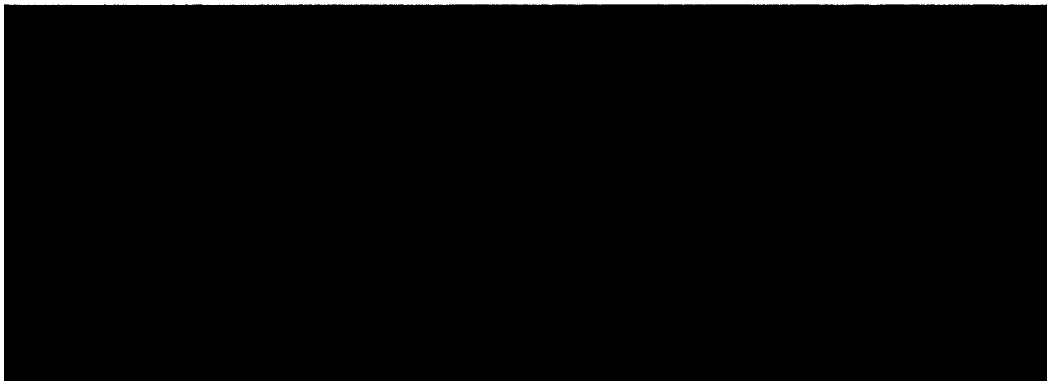
David R. Einan
Acting Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
State of Washington Department of Ecology

IPI:YS

Attachment



02-HAB-0006

cc:

P. Mabie, EnviroIssues
M. Crosland, EM-11

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H. Smith
Ron Wyden

U.S. Representative (OR)

Earl Blumenauer
Peter DeFazio
Darlene Hooley
Greg Walden

State Senators (WA)

Pat Hale
Mike Hewitt

U.S. Senator (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representative (WA)

Norm Dicks
Jennifer Dunn
Richard Hastings
George Nethercutt

Decision Strategy (Risk & Regulatory Framework)

Risk Framework Description (Tri-Party Agreement):

1. The Core Zone (200 Areas including B Pond (main pond), and S Ponds) will have an Industrial Scenario for the foreseeable future.
2. The Core Zone will be remediated and closed allowing for "other uses" consistent with an industrial scenario (environmental industries) that will maintain active human presence in this area, which in turn will enhance the ability to maintain the institutional knowledge of the wastes left in place for the future generations. Exposure scenarios used for this zone should include a reasonable maximum exposure to a worker/day user, to possible Native American users, and to intruders.
3. DOE will follow the required regulatory processes for groundwater remediation (including public participation) to establish the points of compliance and remedial action objectives. It is anticipated that groundwater contamination under the Core Zone will preclude beneficial use for the foreseeable future, which is at least the period of waste management and institutional controls (150 years). It is assumed that the tritium and iodine-129 plumes beyond the Core Zone boundary will exceed the drinking water standards for the period of the next 150 to 300 years (less for the tritium plume). It is expected that other groundwater contaminants will remain below, or be restored to drinking water levels outside the Core Zone.
4. No drilling for water use or otherwise will be allowed in the Core Zone. An intruder scenario will be calculated for in assessing the risk to human health and environment.
5. Waste Sites outside the Core Zone but within the Central Plateau (200 N, Gable Mountain Pond, B/C Crib Controlled Area) will be remediated and closed based on an evaluation of multiple land use scenarios to optimize land use, institutional control cost, and long term stewardship.
6. An Industrial land use scenario will set cleanup levels on the Central Plateau. Other scenarios (e.g., residential, recreational) may be used for comparison purposes to support decision making especially for:
 - The post-institutional controls period (>150 years).
 - Sites near the Core Zone perimeter to analyze opportunities to "shrink the site".
 - Early (precedent-setting) closure/remediation decisions.
7. This framework does not deal with the tank retrieval decision.

