



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

2009I-152

**MAR 25 2009**

Susan Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
Environissues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2008, conveying the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) consensus advice #210 Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Funding and Missed Milestones. I appreciate the HAB's interest in having additional funding provided to the Hanford clean-up mission in the FY 2009 budget allocations.

In planning its environmental cleanup efforts and developing the budget for those activities, Environmental Management (EM) seeks to focus on work that will produce the greatest environmental benefit and the largest amount of risk reduction. EM strongly believes that setting priorities and establishing work plans in this way is the most effective use of taxpayer funds and will have the greatest benefit, at the earliest possible time, to the largest number of people. That is why, as you noted, we have proposed additional funding for the cleanup of contamination along the River Corridor, even though doing so may adversely impact our ability to meet some Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones. This philosophy applies across the EM complex. Consequently, funding decisions must be made holistically. While there may be strong arguments for diverting additional funding to the Hanford site, that decision cannot be made without taking into account risk-reduction priorities and regulatory commitments at other sites within the EM portfolio.

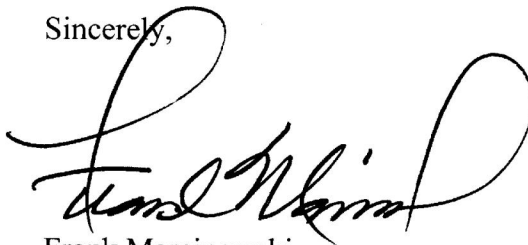
Nevertheless, as you may be aware, the Hanford site will be receiving a substantial amount of funding as a result of the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This "stimulus" funding will be instrumental in creating additional jobs in Washington state, shrinking the Hanford site cleanup footprint, and reducing life-cycle clean-up costs, as well as assist in meeting TPA milestones. The Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection managers will continue to provide briefings to the Hanford regulators, HAB and Tribal Nations regarding the specifics of the ARRA stimulus funding and the Fiscal Year 2009 budget.



We continue to consider the views of the Hanford Advisory Board and other stakeholders valuable in setting budget and cleanup priorities and will give them careful consideration as we make budget and other planning decisions in the upcoming months.

- If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Melissa A. Nielson, Director, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Accountability, at (202) 586-0356.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Marcinowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "M".

Frank Marcinowski  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Regulatory Compliance

cc: B. Levitan, EM-11  
M. Nielson, EM-13