



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

August 22, 2008

Ms. 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 letters of April 4, 2008, enclosing the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) consensus advice #205 concerning priorities for restoring Hanford cleanup funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 and consensus advice #206 concerning the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) budget requests for FY 2010. We are hopeful that our FY 2009 budget will allow us to continue many of the cleanup activities that you have discussed.

In FY 2009, the Department plans to continue construction of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant; complete retrieval of one C-Farm Single-Shell Tank; continue shipment of plutonium to the Savannah River Site; procure additional casks to support shipment campaign; and complete demolition of the K-East Basin project. We also plan to receive materials associated with the construction of a new pump and treat facility in the 100-D Area; increase in-situ remediation activities within the HR-3 Operable Unit; and increase characterization drilling along the Columbia River. Other items include completion of interim cleanup for high-priority waste sites, continuation of building cleanout and demolition, on-going operation of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, and continued cleanup of burial grounds along the Columbia River.

We acknowledge the potential impacts to Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones and will continue to work closely with the Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mitigate these impacts. The Department appreciates the HAB's continued commitment to working with DOE to identify solutions to the challenges presented by funding constraints and technical issues. We remain committed to maintaining an open and ongoing dialogue as we work to achieve our common goal of safe and effective cleanup of the Hanford Site.

Planning for the FY 2010 budget represents our best efforts to align the challenges, both technical and fiscal, with our commitment to make significant cleanup progress at the Hanford Site and reduce the active cleanup footprint. The FY 2010 budget includes a focus on the River Corridor Project, K Basins Closure Project, and River Corridor Groundwater Remediation. We will continue to fund



the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) to support the start of hot operations in 2019 and continue the retrieval of single-shell tanks, and complete upgrades in the tank farms to support waste feed to the WTP when operations begin. At the same time, we will continue to negotiate key cleanup actions under the TPA with the Washington State Department of Ecology and EPA.

The views of the Hanford Advisory Board, Tribal Nations, stakeholders, and others are important to this Program and provide valuable information for annual cleanup site budgets. Your recommendations will be given careful consideration. The challenge during this time of tight budgets across the entire Federal Government is to provide the maximum cleanup while reducing risks given our limited resources. We appreciate the HAB's continued input on priorities to help us accomplish that.

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

Sincerely,



Inés R. Triay (Acting for)  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management