



U.S. Department of Energy
~~Office of Environmental Management~~
P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

2009 I-272

AUG 14 2009

09-ESQ-099

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) ADVICE #212 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE TANK CLOSURE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
(TC & WM) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Thank You for the Board's #212 recommendations regarding the development of the Draft TC & WM EIS. We appreciate the Board's continued interest in the release of the Draft TC & WM EIS. The EIS is an important basis for Hanford cleanup decisions, which warrants review and public dialogue. DOE agrees that a 45-day review and comment period may not be sufficient and has extended the public comment period to 140 days for the Draft TC & WM EIS.

Prior to conducting the formal public hearings, DOE will host a one-day workshop in the Tri-Cities to familiarize stakeholders and others with the alternatives, layout of the document, and data presentation. As we discussed, the goal of that workshop is not to provide comment on the Draft EIS itself because this workshop is not a public hearing. Holding this workshop will provide information about the document to assist with your review.

Your consensus advice included very specific timeframes for activities to occur relative to the Draft TC & WM EIS. Based upon past experience, the timing of the workshop and the public hearings could be influenced by a broad array of factors including the exact release date of the EIS, availability of facilities, other public involvement activities and meetings, holidays, and the availability of key personnel.

We believe the HAB plays a role in helping inform the broader public on Hanford cleanup activities and decisions. As we move forward with the release of the document, we are cognizant of the number of cross-cutting public involvement activities. We look forward to working with the Board to have a meaningful public dialogue on the Draft TC & WM EIS.

Ms. Susan Leckband
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If you have any questions regarding the response to consensus advice #212, please contact Mary Beth Burandt, DOE TC & WM EIS National Environmental Policy Act Document Manager, (509) 372-7772.

Sincerely,



Shirley J. Olinger, Manager
Office of River Protection

ESQ:MEB

Attachment:
HAB Letter dated February 6, 2009