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A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State
Dept of Ecology

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September 7, 2012

Scott Samuelson, Manager

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection

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Richland, WA 99352

Matt McCormick, Manager

U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations

P.O. Box 550 (A7-50)

Richland, WA 99352

Re: Preservation of Historical Properties and Artifacts

Dear Messrs Samuelson and McCormick,

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB or Board) congratulates the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on the path forward taken to identify and preserve historical properties and artifacts on the Hanford Site. Your response to HAB Advice #242 contained additional information from DOE Program Director Colleen French that addressed several of the Board's advice points, and the Board commends DOE for its recently improved preservation program.

To ensure continued preservation improvement the Board encourages DOE to increase understanding of the intent and focus of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by DOE and contractor staff to continually improve active participation in the identification and preservation of Hanford artifacts. Education regarding artifact identification and preservation will only be realized through involvement and support of all levels of DOE and contractor management and staff that have responsibility and direction for demolition projects.

The Board encourages DOE to send an all-employee letter apprising Hanford Site employees of the preservation program and encouraging their involvement as appropriate. The message should also warn workers not to retrieve items from controlled areas due to potential contamination. We hope you will make it easy for Hanford workers to access "drop-off" locations where they can bring items/artifacts for evaluation and possible inclusion in the preservation program.

We encourage DOE not to limit preservation to only those "true" artifacts required by NHPA, but to identify and preserve artifacts and other properties worth of preservation for the "enhanced benefit" of historians, researchers and the general public, and economic value (often referred to as category 2 artifacts) in accordance with NHPA intent. To its

Hanford Advisory Board

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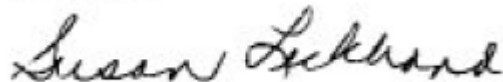
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credit, DOE has preserved some category 2 items; for example, the locomotives transferred to the B Reactor Project. In many cases the preservation of both “true” and category 2 artifacts is less costly than disposing them in a landfill.

The Board is encouraged by DOE’s improvements to its preservation program and looks forward to continued success in identifying and preserving these vital pieces of Hanford history for future generations. Hanford history is important and belongs to all of us. We look forward to continuing funding of the preservation program and welcome an update on the program at the end of this year.

Sincerely,



Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

This letter represents Board consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.

cc: Scott Samuelson, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Dana Bryson, Deputy Designated Official, U.S. Department of Energy
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology
Dennis Faulk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Catherine Alexander, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Delegations