



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

MAR 19 2009

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

Thank you for your letter dated December 5, 2008, providing the Hanford Advisory Board's (Board) Consensus Advice #211. I appreciate the Board's participation and counsel during the meetings to discuss the future of the Hanford Site cleanup program as well as the recommendations contained in your letter.

I wish to assure you that the Board will continue to be consulted, through currently established processes, in major Hanford Site program planning activities. The Office of Environmental Management (EM) remains committed to meeting the Tri-Party Agreement Milestones related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site and, with your assistance, will continue our efforts to eliminate inconsistencies between regulatory requirements, funding, and the Hanford Site project baselines. Likewise, EM will continue to engage our regulatory agencies and stakeholders in review of our project baselines, baseline assumptions, and activity priorities.

While portions of the Integrated Priority Lists (IPL) developed for each of the EM Field Offices can be provided, the IPLs in their entirety are business sensitive internal planning documents and cannot be released for public review and comment.

I look forward to the Board's continued involvement in the EM's program planning activities at the Hanford Site. Should you or your staff have additional questions or comments, please contact me on (202) 586-8754.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merle L. Sykes".

Merle L. Sykes
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Program Planning and Budget
Office of Environmental Management

cc: Inés Triay, Acting, EM-1
Dave Brockman, RL
Shirley Olinger, ORP

