



U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

AUG 28 2009

09-HAB-0004

Ms. Susan L. Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (BOARD) FEBRUARY 6, 2009, ADVICE #213, "PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010, OUT-YEAR AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS BUDGETS" AND JUNE 5, 2009, ADVICE #220, "FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET REQUEST AND STIMULUS FUNDING"

This letter is a response to the Board's subject advice letters. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates the Board's continued interest in the cleanup work at Hanford. The advice DOE receives from the Board is important as we develop and implement a successful cleanup strategy. We appreciate the Board's interest in having additional funding provided to the Hanford cleanup mission through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget allocations and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

We agree ARRA funds will augment our ability to accelerate Hanford cleanup while meeting the President's goal of saving and creating jobs to promote economic recovery. During the implementation of ARRA-funded projects, we encourage feedback from the Board on our progress and look forward to sharing our accomplishments with you at future meetings.

The President's 2010 budget request for the Office of River Protection (ORP) reflects the Administration's sustained commitment to build the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) and address tank waste cleanup. As discussed during the Board meeting on June 4, 2009, the Tank Farms Project would receive \$408 million under the President's request, an increase of more than \$88 million over the 2009 appropriation. This increase, along with the development of better technologies and more efficient practices, will allow ORP to initiate design and perform retrievals of several tanks in FY 2010. In addition, FY 2010 planned accomplishments include conducting ultrasonic testing on five tanks, constructing the TY Interim Barrier, and conducting Surface Geophysical Exploration Characterization in two sites. Further, we will continue testing and procurement of the Mobile Arm Retrieval System (MARS), a technology that we hope to add to our retrieval tool box.

DOE and the Board share a common desire to increase double shell tank (DST) space by ensuring the integrity of current evaporator technologies and potentially increasing evaporator capacity with the development and testing of new technologies. As you may know, one of ORP's ARRA projects is to test a Wiped Film Evaporator, which could serve as a secondary

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form of evaporation and have the capability to be mobilized to various areas of the tank farms. Further, in FY 2009 we are completing the first two of three planned evaporator campaigns that have already achieved a waste volume reduction of approximately 665,000 gallons. We intend to conduct two more evaporator campaigns and 15 DST-DST transfers in FY 2010. We also plan to acquire three spare 242-A evaporator pumps to ensure evaporator operations should the current pump fail. Additionally, in FY 2010 the overall WTP project will be more than 50% complete and planned accomplishments include completing approximately 82% of the design and approximately 54% of the construction.

The President's 2010 budget request for the Richland Operations Office allows for continued progress towards DOE's 2015 vision to reduce Hanford's active cleanup footprint to 75 square miles on the Central Plateau. Focusing on our shared valued of protecting the Columbia River, work would continue towards finalizing a design for removing sludge from the K West Basin and placing it in interim storage on the Central Plateau. Other work that would be accomplished within the River Corridor would include remediating and monitoring groundwater; decontaminating and dispositioning surplus facilities; remediating waste sites and burial grounds; implementing N Reactor interim safe storage, and continuing risk assessment activities in support of final Records of Decision for the River Corridor's six geographic areas. Within the Central Plateau, facilities and essential infrastructure would be maintained to support cleanup; Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) special nuclear materials will be completely de-inventoried, and work will continue to transition PFP buildings - including 236-Z and cell/canyon, 242-Z, and the 2736 Z/ZB Complex.

In addition to work that would be executed under the President's 2010 budget request, projected workscope for ARRA funding includes expanding disposal cells and operational capacity at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility; demolishing facilities and remediating waste sites at the 100 K area and on the Central Plateau; dispositioning the K East reactor; remediating the 618-10 burial ground trenches; accelerating construction of pump and treat system for groundwater contaminants in both 200 West Area Operable Units; removing glove boxes, hoods and ducts at the PFP; continued retrieval and repackaging of transuranic waste and treatment of Mixed Low Level Waste, and continued development of a regulatory decision process for the Central Plateau. As discussed during several briefings with the Board and its subcommittees, developing a cleanup strategy for the Central Plateau will provide a strong basis for future budget requests and hopefully enable us to maintain the momentum gained from the infusion of ARRA funds.

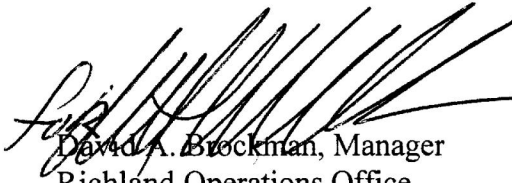
We value the advice of the Board and other stakeholders in setting budget and cleanup priorities and will continue to give your recommendations careful consideration as we make budget and planning decisions.

Ms. S. L. Leckband
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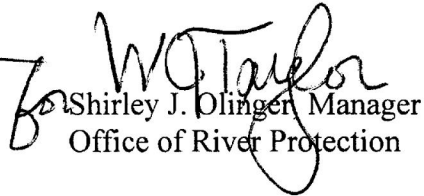
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If you should have any questions, please contact us or Lori Gamache, Office of River Protection at (509) 372-9130, or Paula Call, Richland Operations Office at (509) 376-2048.



David A. Brockman, Manager
Richland Operations Office



for Shirley J. Olinger, Manager
Office of River Protection

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