



U.S. Department of Energy  
Hanford Site

JUN 15 2012

12-HAB-0025

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

Dear Ms. Leckband:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) APRIL 13, 2012, CONSENSUS ADVICE #254,  
"FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 BUDGET REQUESTS"

Thank you for your advice #254 (enclosure 1) regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013/2014 budget request for cleanup activities at the Hanford Site. On behalf of Special Assistant for Environmental Management (EM) David Huizenga, we appreciate the HAB's continued interest in the cleanup work at Hanford. We are committed to achieving the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) cleanup and regulatory obligations safely, efficiently, and with the best use of the available resources. As in the past, both the DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) and DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) will include the HAB's advice with our FY 2014 budget requests to Headquarters.

Below are the responses to the points in your advice:

**Advice Point #1:** The Board advises that DOE field and Headquarters future budget planning and budget requests should be based on full compliance with regulatory and Consent Order requirements.

**Response:** RL and ORP will continue to identify and request funding consistent with regulatory commitments and cleanup plans and objectives at Hanford.

**Advice Point #2:** The Board advises that prior to submitting proposed budgets to Headquarters, DOE-RL and DOE-ORP should present to the Board, stakeholders, and the public the alternate budget scenarios, including integrated priority lists, consistent with the DOE Headquarters' budget guidance to the sites. The Board believes it is essential that DOE consider the budget levels as called for in the Lifecycle Report as the foundation for the out year budgets.

**Response:** Alternate budget scenarios developed from FY 2014 budget formulation data are considered part of the deliberative process and, as a result, we are prohibited from sharing this information with the public at this time. RL and ORP have constructed the FY 2014 budget request based on compliance with the regulatory requirements which is also the basis for the Lifecycle Scope, Schedule and Cost Report (Lifecycle Report). For the FY 2014 budget request, RL and ORP formulated requests by taking into account the FY 2013 President's Budget request, the FY 2012 appropriation, prior year progress, and the values and feedback of the HAB and

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stakeholders. Also, both RL and ORP provided priorities as part of the FY 2014 budget briefings. These briefings, along with detailed description of work and cost (Analytical Building Blocks [ABB]) provides information needed to determine what work may not get funded at various funding levels, such as FY 2012 funding, or the FY 2013 President's Budget request.

**Advice Point #3:** The Board advises that funding should be identified to accelerate the schedule to bring stored mixed wastes into compliance before there are additional leaks or a more serious accident, as urged in HAB Advice 252. Since that advice was issued, there have been additional serious leaks from drums which are not legally supposed to have liquids.

**Response:** RL will continue to request funding to meet regulatory requirements.

**Advice Point #4:** The Board advises DOE-RL to develop and fund characterization, including remediation technologies, for the vadose zone. See previous Board Advice 231.

**Response:** RL will continue to request funding to meet regulatory requirements. Placing some retrieval and treatment activities on hold reflects cleanup priorities.

**Advice Point #5:** The Board advises DOE to fund and implement the plan to characterize in order to retrieve, remediate, and dispose of pre-1970 TRU waste. See previous Board Advice.

**Response:** RL will continue to request funding to meet regulatory requirements. Placing some retrieval and treatment activities on hold is consistent with FY 2012 appropriated funds for Hanford and reflects overall Hanford cleanup priorities.

**Advice Point #6:** The Board advises that funding for resuming TRU retrieval and treatment should be restored, rather than kept on hold.

**Response:** RL will continue to request funding to meet regulatory requirements. Placing some retrieval and treatment activities on hold reflects cleanup priorities.

**Advice Point #7:** The Board advises that DOE work with the Board to develop Priority Lists based upon risk, plus other factors, for the future work since, overall, there never appears to be enough money to do everything required.

**Response:** At the HAB Budgets and Contracts Committee meeting and at DOE's public meeting both held on March 15, 2012, RL and ORP provided briefings which represented our proposed priorities for FY 2014 budget formulation. In addition, RL provided an ABB listing (enclosure 2) for FY 2014 which included a detailing of the planned work scope, including that noted in your advice above, as well as all scope to support compliance with the TPA, and each individual element's relative ranking. We have asked for your comments, along with comments from the public, relative to the proposed ranking of these work items but those specific

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comments were not provided in your advice letter. Although we have an appreciation for each advice point made, we were disappointed to see that there did not appear to be an evaluation of the proposed ranking or a suggested movement up or down in the prioritized listing. It is with this type of input that we are best postured to take into account your relative priorities as we execute the highest priority work while communicating the resulting impacts in the event we receive funding which is less than our full request. DOE will continue to work with the HAB and seek HAB input on Hanford cleanup priorities.

**Advice Point #8:** The Board advises funding the costs of the Pretreatment Facility construction following resolution of safety and engineering concerns.

**Response:** The HAB's advice and priorities remain aligned with ORP's current priority to resolve the remaining technical issues related to the planned operations of the Pretreatment and High-Level Waste Facilities. At the same time, ORP will work to complete the design and construction of the WTP's Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility, Analytical Laboratory, and Balance of Facilities.

**Advice Point #9:** The Board recommends that the 2014 budget request include funding to begin efforts to have specific waste streams from Single Shell Tanks treated in order to make progress towards the required removal and treatment of wastes prior to the Pretreatment Facility becoming operational in the coming decade.

**Response:** ORP is currently evaluating options and technologies for the potential treatment and immobilization of LAW prior to full operations of the Waste Treatment Plant. If it is determined that the treatment of LAW prior to full operations is technically and safely achievable within current project parameters and resources, ORP will request the funding necessary to support that decision.

**Advice Point #10:** The Board advises DOE-RL to request, and the regulators to ensure funds for identified regulatory and community support activities, including public involvement programs.

**Response:** See Response for Advice Point #7.

**Advice Point #11:** The Board advises funding should be identified within the target budget for groundwater action to meet TPA and regulatory schedules, including at 200 UP-1, K Area, and the 300 Area.

**Response:** See Response for Advice Point #7.

Thank you again for your advice. We value the opportunity to collaborate with the HAB and all stakeholders during the execution and planning of this very important Hanford cleanup mission. We look forward to continued input to the prioritization of RL and ORP work as we drive to continued success in the challenging environment where funds are becoming increasingly more constrained. We look forward to continued advice and recommendations from the HAB

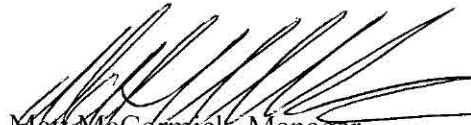
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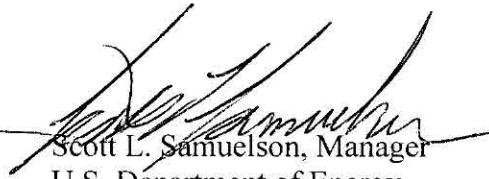
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reflective of its values and priorities for cleanup at the Hanford Site.

If you have any questions, you may contact us, or your staff may contact Tiffany Nguyen, RL,  
at (509) 376-3361,



Matt McCormick, Manager  
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Scott L. Samuelson, Manager  
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OCE:TLN

Enclosures:

1. HAB Advice #254 letter
2. ABB Listing

cc w/encls: See page 5