



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

2011I-254

May 5, 2011

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

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #244

Dear Ms. ~~Leckband~~: *Susan*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would like to thank the Board for your advice titled "Cleanup Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2012, 2013 and Ensuing Years."

During this time of changing federal budgets, the Tri-Party agencies are faced with the difficult task of determining which projects will receive funding and which may be delayed. EPA fully expects the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to request funding to meet Tri-Party Agreement milestones. However, in the situation where DOE does not receive the full amount requested, it is important that Hanford cleanup priorities be identified. While cleanup across the entire Hanford site is important, decreases in funding may require that we prioritize the order in which cleanup activities occur.

EPA has identified the following priorities for Hanford: finishing cleanup along the River Corridor, protecting and cleaning up groundwater, continuing remediation at 100-K Area and K Basins, and demolishing the Plutonium Finishing Plant. We encourage the Board to provide input on budget priorities. This will help the Tri-Party agencies determine how to fund cleanup activities in the event of constrained budgets.

Thank you for your time and dedication to Hanford cleanup.

Sincerely,

Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office

cc: Jane Hedges, Ecology
Matt McCormick, DOE