



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

12-HAB-0027

JUL 26 2012

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) JUNE 8, 2012, CONSENSUS ADVICE #256,
"FINAL TANK CLOSURE & WASTE MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT"

Thank you for your continued interest in the Tank Closure and Waste Management
Environmental Impact Statement (TC&WM EIS).

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) is aware of the Board's
concerns about not identifying a preferred alternative for supplemental waste treatment in the
TC&WM EIS. It is important that the HAB understand the Department remains committed to
the continued exploration of alternatives for vitrification of low-activity waste (LAW). As
technology improves, it is important to maintain an open and flexible attitude to finding new and
effective ways of treating Hanford's LAW.

The advice mentioned a 90-day review of the final TC&WM EIS and a public meeting. The
Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act Implementing
Regulation 40 CFR 1506.10 (b)(2) requires a 30-day waiting period between issuance of the
Notice of Availability on a final EIS and a Record of Decision (ROD), with some exceptions.
DOE does not anticipate a ROD on the TC&WM EIS prior to the 30-day waiting period.

As we have mentioned previously we will provide the Board briefings on the final EIS.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or Tiffany Nguyen, at (509) 376-3361.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Samuelson for

Scott L. Samuelson, Manager
Office of River Protection

HAB:TLN

Enclosure

cc w/encl: See page 2