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A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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US Environmental
Protection Agency
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of Ecology

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November 2, 2007

Ines Triay

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
EM-1/Forestal Building
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Improved Openness and Transparency in Budget and Baseline Development

Dear Ms. Triay,

This letter is to express our commitment to working openly and productively with you and your staff in the upcoming, challenging process of developing the 2010 budget and project baselines.

We have been concerned by recent mixed messages from the Department of Energy (DOE) about the amount of information and level of detail that will be made public at the site level as we proceed with public involvement efforts to develop the 2010 and future outyear budget requests. At the Site Specific Advisory Board meeting in Paducah, we learned the DOE Headquarters may reduce the amount of information and level of detail that will be made public at the site level. We were therefore encouraged by your recent commitment at the Intergovernmental group meeting in Utah, in which you endorsed providing the same level of budget detail as we received from DOE Richland Operations Office at Hanford during the FY 2009 budget process.

The FY 2009 budget development process at Hanford, that involved extensive discussions about priorities and trade offs by the Richland Operations Office, was cited as a positive example for the rest of the Environmental Management sites. The Hanford process was only successful because of the meaningful level of detail of proposed funding on a programmatic basis that DOE presented at the beginning of and throughout the process. Your commitment at the Utah meeting to repeat that level of disclosure is very much appreciated. We also appreciate your commitment to making the new baselines under development transparent, providing stakeholders an opportunity to get involved in their formulation.

We have been encouraged by opportunities for communication and collaboration that occurred at the intergovernmental meetings. The follow-up actions taken by DOE

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from the November 2006 conference have made a real difference. We sincerely appreciate the time you took to engage in meaningful dialogue with us in Utah and the commitments you made at the end of the meeting. We look forward to opportunities to work together in the future on the budget development process.

Sincerely,



Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

This letter represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.

cc: Shirley Olinger, Acting Manager, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official,
U.S Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Dave Brockman, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations
Office
Doug Shoop, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S Department of
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Nick Ceto, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology
Doug Frost, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
Site Specific Advisory Boards
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations