

September 10, 2004

Keith Klein, Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations  
P.O. Box 550 (A7-50)  
Richland, WA 99352

Linda Hoffman, Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Ron Kreizeneeck, Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Subject: U Plant Closure Plan

Dear Mssrs. Klein, Kreizeneeck, and Ms. Hoffman

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) is pleased that work is currently funded and ongoing for the U Plant Area remediation. The Board applauds the Tri-Party Agencies' holistic approach to the U Plant Area. The Board understands the U Plant Area remediation will not be entirely finished when it is time for future decisions about other canyons. The Board also notes the agencies and stakeholders have not yet reached agreement for waste disposal in the canyons and that cumulative impacts of the use of canyons for disposal (and from not removing canyon facilities) remain to be analyzed. However, the Board believes continued funding is needed. Continued funding allows some remediation processes and concepts applicable to a great majority of Central Plateau remediation activities to be tested prior to making many future decisions. Completion of some activities also provides important lessons learned applicable to continued development of Central Plateau cleanup strategies. The Board looks forward to reviewing and providing further comments on the proposed plans beginning in November 2004.

Advice: The Board advises the Department of Energy to fund the U Plant Area remediation activities to ensure they are completed in a timely manner to facilitate 200 Area closure decisions.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board

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

cc: Roy Schepens, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection  
Howard Gnann, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy  
Dan Opalski, Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Sandra Waisley, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters  
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

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Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)

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Adam Smith

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Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)

Jerome Delvin  
Shirley Hankins