

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

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

Advising:

US Dept of Energy
US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State Dept
of Ecology

CHAIR:

Todd Martin

CO-VICE CHAIRS:

Shelley Cimon
Susan Leckband

BOARD MEMBERS:

Local Business
Harold Heacock

Labor/Work Force
Mike Keizer
Thomas Carpenter
Susan Leckband
Jeff Luke
Rebecca Holland

Local Environment
Gene Van Liew

Local Government
Maynard Plahuta
Pam Larsen
Gwen Luper
Jerry Peltier
Jim Curdy
Bob Parks

Tribal Government
Russell Jim
Gabriel Bohnie

Public Health
Margery Swint
Jim Trombold

University

Jane Twaddle

Public-at-Large
Martin Yanez
Norma Jean Germond
Keith Smith
Bob Parazin

**Regional Environ-
ment/Citizen**
Todd Martin
Greg deBruler
Paige Knight
Gerald Poilet
Madeleine Brown

State of Oregon
Larry Clucas
Ken Niles

Ex-Officio
Confederated Tribes of
the Umatilla
Washington State
Department of Health

September 9, 2005

Jim Rispoli, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Waste Treatment Plant

Dear Mr. Rispoli,

The Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) is absolutely vital to public health, protection of the environment, and cleanup success. The WTP is being designed and constructed to safely immobilize Hanford's 53 million gallons of tank waste. The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) has always supported efforts to expedite and accelerate tank waste treatment in order to reduce risk. The Board believes the greatest risk reduction is achieved by vitrifying the most tank waste possible.

The Board is alarmed that increased costs may jeopardize project completion. The Board is concerned that WTP construction cost and schedule reviews being conducted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have not been publicly available. The Board places high priority on the successful completion and operation of the WTP. The Board supports DOE's plans to evaluate alternatives to maintain forward progress as long as such alternatives comply with the Tri Party Agreement (TPA).

The revision of the seismic design criteria for the plant is a significant setback. For the Board and its members to continue to defend the WTP to the public, Congress and others, it is crucial the Board has timely and complete information.

Advice

The Board advises DOE to identify and request all of the funds required to complete construction of the WTP with no delay to the TPA schedule and without jeopardizing other Hanford projects.

The Board urges DOE not to delay progress on the vitrification plant, and to continue to explore compliant alternatives to keep moving forward while resolving seismic and other design issues.

The Board advises DOE to expeditiously share the WTP cost and schedule status and potential project impacts with Congress, the Board, regulators, and the public.

Sincerely,



Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

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: Charles Anderson, Assistant Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Ines Triay, (EM-3) U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
Roy Schepens, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Keith Klein, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office
Michael Bogert, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Jay Manning, Washington State Department of Ecology
Howard Gnann, Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy
Nick Ceto, Environmental Protection Agency
Michael Wilson, Washington State Department of Ecology
Melissa Nielson, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

U.S. Senators (OR)

Gordon H. Smith
Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)

Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (OR)

Earl Blumenauer Greg Walden
Peter DeFazio David Wu
Darlene Hooley

U.S. Representatives (WA)

Brian Baird	Cathy McMorris
Norm Dicks	Jim McDermott
Jay Inslee	David Reichert
Richard Hastings	Adam Smith
Rick Larsen	

State Senators (WA)

Jerome Delvin
Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)

Larry Haler
Shirley Hankins