



February 4, 2000

Ms. Carolyn Huntoon, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

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

Dick French, Manager
Office of River Protection
2440 Stevens Center
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: Openness

Dear Ms. Huntoon & Messrs. Klein and French:

In December 1998, the Hanford Advisory Board (Board), through consensus advice (#89), encouraged the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to embrace the concepts of 51 recommendations issued by participants of the Hanford Openness Workshops. These recommendations were designed to help DOE-Richland and DOE-Headquarters improve public access to Hanford information and improve government and contractor accountability for openness.

In 1999, the Openness Workshops focused on the theme "Is Openness Working?" While many areas of progress were recognized, workshop participants concluded that openness is not truly institutionalized within DOE. A follow-up report contains additional recommendations to continue the progress and ensure openness becomes a part of everyday business at Hanford.

The Board commends DOE for the progress it has made in fostering openness. The Board encourages DOE-Richland, DOE-Office of River Protection, and DOE-Headquarters to continue progress toward openness. We also request that DOE conduct periodic reviews of how it is addressing issues related to openness, and provide a response to the Board by its June 2000 meeting explaining its progress so far.

We look forward to your response and to periodic progress updates on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Chuck Clarke, U.S. EPA
Tom Fitzsimmons, Washington Department of Ecology
Wade Ballard, Deputy Designated Federal Official
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
Michael Gearheard, Environmental Protection Agency
Dan Silver, Washington Department of Ecology

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.

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*For questions or comments, please send [email](mailto:Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov) to Hanford_Advisory_Board@rl.gov
HAB Consensus Advice #104
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