

2006I-218



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 15, 2006

Mr. Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your April 7, 2006, letter regarding your concerns with the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Congressional Budget Request for cleanup of the Hanford Site.

The FY 2007 budget request supports the Department of Energy's (DOE) needs in meeting its commitments at Hanford. In FY 2007 DOE is requesting more than \$1.9 billion for cleanup work at Hanford. This request represents over 33 percent of the entire Environmental Management budget and is a 6 percent increase over FY 2006 funding. This funding will allow DOE to address challenges and reduce risk, including characterization of groundwater beneath the Central Plateau, removal of sludge from the K-Basins, retrieval of transuranic waste from the burial grounds, demolition of facilities in the River Corridor, retrieval of sludge and salt waste from single-shell tanks, and continued construction of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

DOE will continue to focus on safe, cost-effective risk reduction and cleanup at Hanford and remains committed to working with the Hanford Advisory Board. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709, or Mr. Mark W. Frei, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Business Operations, at (202) 586-8754.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles E. Anderson".

Charles E. Anderson
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

