



2006I-148

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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TTY 711 or 800-833-6388 (for the speech or hearing impaired)

February 27, 2006

Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
1933 Jadyln Ave.
Richland, WA 99354

Re: Response to Hanford Advisory Board Advice #184-Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Process

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the advice on the Tank Closure & Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process.

In our role as a cooperating agency on this EIS, we desire continued public dialogue about this issue. We agree the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) should ensure public involvement for this study thus maintaining the principles defined in the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) white paper on public involvement.

We support recent actions to extend the public comment period regarding the accelerated scoping process. The comment period began on February 2, 2006, and continues through April 10, 2006. This extends the comment period to sixty six days and allows for the HAB input. In addition, the scoping meetings are now set for March, which allows the recommended 30-day notice.

We also agree that the public meetings notices and outreach process should be timely and clear. We will continue to work with USDOE to help facilitate outreach that is effective and substantive.

We are aware that USDOE is compiling past EIS comments for citizen use. It is unclear at this time if that information will be available in an electronic format.

We also agree that the EIS should be developed in an open manner. This would ensure the EIS adequately addresses the technical issues associated with upcoming decisions on the central plateau of Hanford.



Mr. Todd Martin
February 27, 2006
Page 2

We appreciate your continued partnership on Hanford matters. If you would like to discuss the EIS further, you can contact Suzanne Dahl at 509-372-7892.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay J. Manning". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jay J. Manning
Director