



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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2007I-014

October 5, 2006

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

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Advice (HAB) #192 – Tank Waste Program Path Forward

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board's advice on the need for a credible plan to retrieve, treat, and dispose of all of Hanford's Tank Waste in a timely manner.

Developing and implementing a credible plan for Hanford tank waste is of a great importance to the Department of Ecology. We agree that simply moving the due dates to meet the new construction schedule is no longer acceptable and that developing mitigation measures to offset the delay in treatment is essential. This is a primary part of Ecology's approach.

It is clear to us that the plan:

- Must address the risk currently posed by the waste in the single-shell tanks.
- Must address all the interconnected issues and risk posed by additional delays.
- Is absolutely necessary to garner both the regional and national support that this project will require to be completed.

Ecology plans to be involved in development of this new tank waste plan in order to ensure that it meets all of our needs and is credible. As the plan evolves, Ecology will rely on the HAB to provide a forum for discussion and consideration of the new Tank Waste Retrieval and Treatment plan.

We agree that delays in the Waste Treatment Plant should not translate to delays in retrievals of single-shell tanks. All credible, environmentally-sound methods to allow single-shell tank retrievals to continue should be considered. Ecology is also very concerned about the existing groundwater contamination from the single-shell tanks. We are encouraging the U.S. Department of Energy to implement remedial methods where possible.

I look forward to our further collaboration on this important issue for the environmental health of the northwest.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program