

The Honorable Monica Regalbuto
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Regalbuto:

We are writing in regards to the draft Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review Project's *Interim Progress Report* (August 31, 2015), prepared by the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). The Hanford Advisory Board concurs with the States of Washington and Oregon who have expressed the opinion that although the report does provide some new information, it offers no substantive justification to deviate from the cleanup path at Hanford that has been pursued for more than 25 years and is spelled out in the Tri-Party Agreement.

Provisions of the Tri-Party Agreement and Records of Decision provide the blueprint for how cleanup should proceed. They are based on extensive scientific analysis including risk analysis and significant public review and input. Because of the involvement from the states of Washington and Oregon, Tribal nations, the Hanford Advisory Board and other stakeholders there is confidence in the plans that are in place.

Regardless of why this study was commissioned, we are concerned that its findings may be used to help justify doing less cleanup at Hanford. We have seen numerous attempts through the years to do just that – all based on the premise that it is too expensive to do the cleanup that DOE has signed up for. We believe that the waste that was generated by the federal government must be cleaned up by the federal government.

While the information in the CRESP study is interesting it was developed at significant cost and the funding came out of Hanford cleanup dollars. We wonder what additional cleanup progress could have been made this year with those dollars?

Based on what we have seen in the draft report, and given the fact that this report already covers the most significant and challenging cleanup work yet to be done at Hanford, it seems unlikely there would be meaningful insights from additional work. We do not see a value in spending additional cleanup dollars to complete this study. Therefore we strongly encourage you to not proceed with the remainder of this project.

Sincerely,
Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Stacy Charboneau, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy Richland Field Office

Kevin Smith, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection
Dennis Faulk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Hanford Project Office
Jane Hedges, Washington Department of Ecology, Nuclear Waste Program

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