Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 8, 2015

Mr. Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Hudson:

Thank you for your letter of November 6 conveying the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) perspectives on the Methodology for the Hanford Site-wide Risk Review Project (HSRRP). The Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP), with assistance from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is conducting this project at the Department of Energy's (DOE) request. The project is also supported by a core team that includes senior managers from the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) Headquarters office, as well as the Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection.

The purpose of the HSRRP is to provide information that the Department and its regulators can use to identify current risks in a way that supports risk-informed decision making for the remaining Hanford cleanup mission. The review also affords Tribal Nations, the local community, and other stakeholders another opportunity to provide input into the cleanup decision-making process.

The review is another tool that DOE can use to inform the sequencing and timing of future cleanup actions at Hanford. The review does not supplant the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act processes for identifying and evaluating current and potential future risks, or for selecting and designing appropriate remedial actions informed by those risks. Nor does it supplant the obligations established in the Tri-Party Agreement, or the regulatory authority of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology. It is only meant to provide information, and identify current gaps in that information, that all parties can use to better inform the remedy-sequencing process going forward.

As this risk-review process continues, I hope you will see its value to the decision-making process. I encourage you to continue providing input to CRESP and to Stacy Charboneau and Kevin Smith as the respective EM Managers at Hanford. DOE will provide a draft of CRESP's risk-review report to the HAB and others before the report is finalized. We will also continue to provide the HAB and other stakeholders with opportunities to provide input as decisions about the remaining cleanup work at Hanford are considered.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration, at (202) 586-0755.

Sincerely,

Mark Whitney
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: Doug Shoop, Acting Manager, DOE-RL
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