



## U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

16-HAB-0021

Mr. Steve Hudson, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
EnviroIssues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Hudson:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD APRIL 14, 2016, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017 BUDGET AND  
FY 2018 INPUT REQUEST

Thank you for your input on the FY 2017 and FY 2018 budgets for the Hanford Site. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB or Board) continued interest in our budget process.

Each year the DOE Richland Operations Office (RL), Office of River Protection (ORP), and regulatory agencies conduct a public meeting regarding fiscal year budget formulation in support of maintaining progress toward cleanup of the Hanford Site. The input both DOE field offices received from the HAB and members of the public was beneficial in developing the requirements for the FY 2018 budget request.

DOE accepts the input from the Board relative to the RL scope and acknowledges that our key priorities do align and support the items on which the Board has provided input. RL's annual budget request places priority on funding for minimum safe operations to ensure safety for workers and the public, as well as protection of the environment. Minimum safe operations includes surveillance and maintenance of facilities and waste sites until they are dispositioned. Our FY 2018 through FY 2022 budget request is also guided by the work we have jointly engaged in with the regulatory agencies to renegotiate Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) commitments to align them with technically achievable deliverables and due dates. Our budget request will support TPA commitments, which resulted in an adjustment of the funding requirements.

Regarding project baseline summary (PBS) RL-100, RL has consistently requested sufficient funding for RL-100. Unfortunately, in recent years, RL has received level funding, while funding requirements for RL-100 activities have held steady or increased. This has resulted in yearly funding challenges for RL, requiring us to work to mitigate impacts to the many important activities funded in this PBS. We are encouraged to see the initial FY 2017 appropriations bill from the Senate Appropriations Committee recognize the escalating requirements and increase funding for RL-100.

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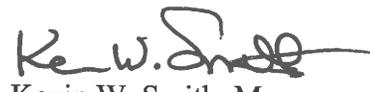
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DOE also accepts the input from the Board relative to the ORP scope, except the input related to funding new tank storage capacity. As you are aware, the Amended Consent Decree filed in U.S. District Court on March 11, 2016, established Milestone B-3, "Complete retrieval of tank waste in at least 5 of 12 single shell tanks by December 31, 2020," which provides Ecology the opportunity to petition the Court for an order requiring DOE to construct new double shell tanks.

ORP's annual budget request places priority on funding for minimum safe operations, including facility surveillance and maintenance to protect human health and the environment, tank retrievals, as well as completion and startup of the Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant. ORP's FY 2018 through FY 2022 budget request is also guided by the Consent Decree, as amended, and TPA commitments.

Thank you again for your input, and if you have any questions, please contact Kristen Holmes, RL, at (509) 376-5803 or Dieter Bohrmann, North Wind supporting ORP, at (509) 376-9292.

  
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OCE:KPS

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