February 3, 2006

Roy Schepens, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450 (H6-60)
Richland, WA 99352

Jay Manning, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Tank Closure & Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement
Scoping Process

Dear Messrs. Schepens and Manning,

The Hanford Advisory Board (Board) is concerned that the planned accelerated
scoping process for the expanded Tank Closure and Waste Management
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as proposed by the Department of Energy
(DOE) and agreed to by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology),
will not result in broad public involvement throughout the process. This new EIS
results from the inadequacies of previous EISs. DOE should make every effort to
conduct a thorough and credible process from the outset.

The Board sees no justification for the proposed short time line; it does not meet
minimum standards under the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) Community Relations
Plan. While these standards do not strictly apply to National Environmental Policy
Act actions, DOE should meet these standards in good faith for this EIS. We are
concerned that the language in the proposed newspaper ad does not include
sufficient information to stimulate public participation in the process.

Advice:

1. The public comment period on the scoping process should be extended to
   April 10, 2006 to allow for Board deliberation and advice.

2. The public meetings should be rescheduled to allow a minimum of 30 days
   notice.
3. Notice of the scoping meetings and comment opportunities should be clear and informative. The notice should identify the significant decisions concerning nuclear, chemical and other wastes that will be made using the EIS as a basis.

4. DOE should conduct additional outreach beyond newspaper ads. We urge DOE to follow the suggestions found in the Board’s Public Involvement White Paper (see attached) and be consistent with the spirit of the TPA Community Relations Plan.

5. The Board recommends that comments from the relevant previous EISs and draft EISs (draft Tank Closure EIS and all versions of the Hanford Solid Waste EIS) should be available to the public on a website and should be considered as comments pertinent to this EIS. Also, to the extent practical, members of the public who provided comments on these EISs in the past should be directly notified of this scoping opportunity.

6. Ecology should require that DOE fulfill the terms of the settlement agreement that speak to “effective citizen involvement.”

This is the single most comprehensive EIS at Hanford. The settlement agreement and the spirit of the TPA charge DOE to engage the public from beginning to end on the document that will be the foundation for major cleanup decisions at Hanford for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

This advice represents HAB consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.

cc: Keith Klein, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
    Michael Bogert, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
    Shirley Olinger, Co-Deputy Designated Federal Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection
Nick Ceto, Environmental Protection Agency
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology
Doug Frost, U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations

U.S. Senators (OR)                      U.S. Senators (WA)
Gordon H Smith                         Maria Cantwell
Ron Wyden                             Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (OR)
Earl Blumenauer Greg Walden
Peter DeFazio  David Wu
Darlene Hooley

U.S. Representatives (WA)
Brian Baird   Cathy McMorris
Norm Dicks    Jim McDermott
Jay Inslee    David Reichert
Richard Hastings    Adam Smith        Rick Larsen

State Senators (WA)                      State Representatives (WA)
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Mike Hewitt Shirley Hankins