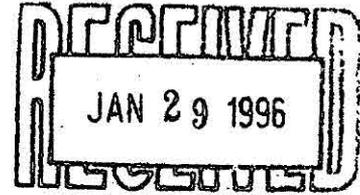




Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 11, 1996



Ms. Marilyn Reeves
Chairman
Hanford Advisory Board
22259 Boulder Crest Lane, SE
Amity, OR 97101

Dear Ms. Reeves:

I am responding to your letter of November 3, 1995, and the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB's) advice concerning the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and public involvement (HAB Consensus Advice #34).

As you know, partly in response to the HAB's recommendation, we have extended the Waste Management PEIS comment period until February 18, 1996. While we did receive some negative comments regarding the use of the video teleconference for public comment on the Waste Management PEIS, overall the feedback was positive.

As we discussed at the Plutonium Roundtable in Seattle, we are committed to pursuing an integrated approach to evaluating the impacts of waste management and materials disposition actions. Because of the complexity of these issues, it may take months to analyze alternatives for a meaningful public dialogue. We do not believe the Waste Management PEIS schedule should be delayed until this is completed. While the two decision making processes are related, they can proceed simultaneously.

We have received input from the Site Specific Advisory Boards, the Environmental Management Advisory Board, and the State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG) on the idea of a national dialogue on waste management and material disposition issues. We are now determining which DOE Office will take the lead for developing such a dialogue. We hope to have a decision and an action plan by early spring. My staff will keep you and the HAB informed of progress on the dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Grumbly".

Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED JAN 31 1996

JAN 29 1996

96-PID-010

Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
800 N.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 342
Portland, Oregon 97209-3715

Dear Ms. Reeves:

REVIEW OF FY 1996 BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REPORT (BEMR), MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM PLAN (MYPP), AND "SITE LEVEL ASSUMPTIONS" (HAB ADVICE #36)

Reference is made to your letter dated December 8, 1995, above subject. We have begun to work directly with the HAB task group on Strategic Planning, headed by Mr. George Kyriazis, with the intent of building a lasting process that addresses the concerns listed in your letter. Since this interactive process has just been initiated, we have not formulated a more specific response at this time. We hope that this interactive process will provide the board with an information understanding of our position on these issues. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) will provide a full written response to Advice #36 as soon as this interactive process provides a clear understanding of the issues raised in your letter and how RL will proceed in the future on those issues. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Jim Kautzky, of my staff, on (509) 376-7093.

Sincerely,

E. W. Higgins, Director
Planning and Integration Division

PID:JDK