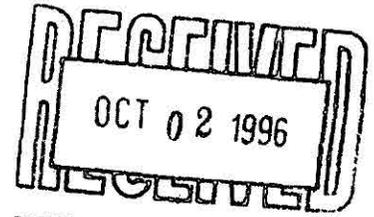




Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352



SEP 26 1996

96-EAP-389

Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
1220 S.W. Morrison, Tenth Floor  
Portland, Oregon 97205

Dear Ms. Reeves:

TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT M-33/M-90 CHANGE PACKAGE SOLID WASTE INTEGRATION MILESTONE  
(HAB ADVICE #53)

I want to thank you and the Hanford Advisory Board for your supportive correspondence dated September 6, 1996. The M-33/M-90 change package is an essential step for Hanford to plan and manage treatment, storage, and/or disposal of solid waste and materials. As the Tri-Party Agreement public comment process comes to an end, it is apparent to me that the Hanford Advisory Board's participation, particularly by the Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee, has contributed to the success of finalizing the change package.

The recommendation by the Board to extend the negotiations process by three months gave the agencies time to:

- Better characterize the nature and size of various waste streams;
- Establish ownership among the RL Programs generating or managing solid waste streams;
- Integrate RL Program responsibilities for waste streams; and
- Discuss with stakeholders public values on this issue.

The partnership among the agencies and stakeholders is an example for future negotiations. Through open, frequent briefings with stakeholders and Tribal Nations the negotiations more accurately focused on the issues. Ultimately the final change package appears successful, in large part because of the Hanford Advisory Board's participation with the negotiation team.

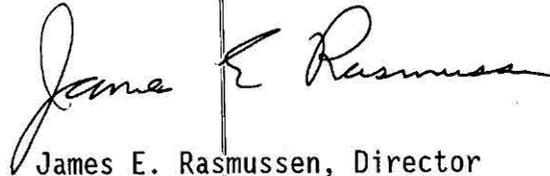
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Ms. Marilyn B. Reeves

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This project reinforces the value that public participation brings to Hanford's decision-making process. The Board's contributions in both time and input are greatly appreciated. If there are any questions, please contact Felix Miera of my staff on (509) 373-7589.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental Assurance, Permits,  
and Policy Division

EAP:FRM

cc: R. Belsey, HAB  
R. J. Guse, WHC  
P. J. Bengston, WHC