

1 **Draft 5-6-2010**

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4 **To: Dr. Ines Triay, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management**

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6 **Subject: Recommendation on Baseline Funding Support**

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9 The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs are very
10 pleased with the boost in clean-up that each of our respective sites received from the American
11 Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) budget allocations. It has accelerated cleanup, in the
12 near-term, of sites, removing waste that would have been more problematic if left for future
13 remediation.

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15 The ARRA budget has also reduced the need for surveillance and maintenance of our sites with
16 the decommissioning and removal of old facilities and infrastructure. This has also provided
17 access to contaminated soils underneath these facilities in need of excavation. Along with
18 reducing site footprints, our communities will have land returned to them for reuse.

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20 ARRA money has also helped to build a stronger, more highly skilled work force which is
21 greatly needed to address the technical complexities of radioactive waste handling. At some of
22 our sites we have seen them move seamlessly from waste site to waste site, accomplishing
23 removal, treatment and disposal of thousands of cubic yards of soil and debris. The program has
24 had great rewards for DOE and its stakeholders across the country.

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26 As we move beyond 2011—when ARRA money for additional scopes of cleanup will essentially
27 cease—we have concerns. The EM SSAB Chairs believe that DOE/EM should ensure that the
28 momentum of cleanup at our sites through activities funded by ARRA dollars does not cease.

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30 We urge DOE/EM to request base program budgets for 2012 and beyond that are compliant with
31 meeting negotiated cleanup levels and timelines and takes advantage of the skilled workforce
32 now in place at each of our respective sites. In light of any anticipated budget constraints, the
33 EM SSAB Chairs encourage DOE/EM to apply the lessons learned under the ARRA program to
34 implement productivity improvements to ensure that no momentum is lost with
35 planned projects. This will assure the continued momentum of cleanup and provide a stable
36 workforce in our local communities.

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38 We do not want to see any of the 2012 and beyond base program funds for remediation reduced
39 or diverted away from DOE/EM. We, the EM SSAB Chairs, encourage DOE/EM to request, at a
40 minimum, continued base program funding for all planned projects. In maintaining base
41 program funding, DOE/EM will continue to reduce risks to human health and the environment –
42 a benefit to all citizens.

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44 We applaud all of the DOE/EM cleanup successes of the past couple of years and look forward
45 to a continued, determined effort focused on maximizing cleanup efforts across the EM complex.
46 The EM SSAB Chairs invite DOE/EM to discuss this issue at the fall 2010 Chairs' meeting.