August 1, 2014

Steve Hudson
Chair, Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin Ave
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: EPA Response to Advice 276,277,278

Dear Mr. Hudson:

EPA has reviewed your advice 276 in regard to the Lifecycle Scope, Schedule and Cost report and agree that the agencies should review whether the report needs to be updated and reissued when there has been no change in baseline schedules from year to year. In regard to the advice to include a variety of funding scenarios, it is not clear to EPA what the benefit of this would be. For the past several years the report has been clear that the Hanford cleanup is not funded at a level needed for DOE to complete all the work required on an annual basis. The report does highlight that and also allows the reader to see the growing funding shortfalls from year to year. EPA would like to point out that the current report does provide cost estimates for remaining clean up actions therefore no change to the report is needed to implement your advice point regarding this.

Advice 277 highlights the Boards recommendations on the 2015 and 2016 DOE Budget request. In general, EPA agrees with your advice points and in particular appreciates your advice point requesting DOE HQ to request full funding to meet all legal requirements.

Advice 278 relates to clean up of the 100 D and H Area. EPA appreciates the Board pointing out that we should reevaluate alternatives for strontium 90 in the groundwater and we will work with the State and DOE to look at this issue more closely. In regard to your advice point that this clean up action should be reviewed by the EPA Remedy Review Board we do not agree. The cleanup actions proposed are nearly identical to the issues that the Remedy Review Board gave advice on related to the 100 K Area cleanup. The EPA Hanford Project office sees little benefit to tie up Remedy Review Board resources when the issues they identified in K Area are just as applicable to the D and H proposal.

Sincerely,

Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office