



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

RECEIVED

FEB 11 1997

Reply To
Attn Of: ECL-117

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
22250 Boulder Crest Lane, S.E.
Amity, Oregon 97101

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Advice Responses

Dear Ms. Reeves:

The following are responses to Hanford Advisory Board Advice packages. Our responses are grouped into several categories; budget/public involvement and environmental cleanup.

Budget/Public Involvement: Advice #44, 48, 49, 50, 54, and 57

Over the past year the Board has spent considerable effort in helping the agencies develop a cost effective cleanup program at Hanford. The Board's work on cleanup priorities has helped the agencies focus work and to "get on with cleanup". This past year the DOE Environmental Restoration program, where most of EPA's oversight is concentrated, made tremendous strides in getting field work going in the 100 Area, opening ERDF, and bringing many of the pump and treat systems on line. The Board can share in much of this success through your continued involvement in the budget and ER Program.

Advice #44 and #48 requested that DOE develop a system of independent cost reviews. In the past several months we have seen DOE begin to implement these recommendations and are confident that further cost and schedule efficiencies will be gained through this process. In addition, our progress and experience in field work are providing us the opportunity to use actual costs and work together to develop cost estimates supported by all three parties. Although Advice #54 is not directed at EPA, I wanted to take this opportunity to let the Board know that EPA is working closely with DOE and the Department of Ecology in the event a shortfall occurs in the ER Program, high priority projects such as clean up along the river and continued operation of pump and treat systems will continue to be funded.

The Board also gave the agencies considerable advice on public involvement activities on the budget process as well as public involvement in general in Advice #50. The agencies have previously responded to this advice and believe that our public involvement activities over the past several months has reflected your advice, including not holding a fall budget meeting as well as scheduling formal public meetings only when the public can influence a decision.

In December the Board's advice on Historic Preservation raised a concern regarding stakeholders access to the DOE decision process. It is our understanding that DOE is currently beginning dialogue with affected community members in an effort to develop a meaningful public process. EPA will continue to follow the developments of DOE's Historic Preservation Program as many of the facilities will be decommissioned using the Superfund process.

Environmental Cleanup Advice: #52, 53, 58, 60

Advice #52 recommended the use of the Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) to treat contaminated groundwater from the 200-UP-1 Groundwater. EPA agrees with the recommendation and the three parties will be issuing an interim action ROD soon authorizing the use of ETF.

Advice #53 describes the open process the agencies used to develop an effective program to meet Milestone M-33. The Boards input is especially important for milestones like M-33 which required significant integration efforts to be made across all DOE programs.

Advice # 58 regarding the Agreement in Principle to conduct Reactor Negotiations raised two points. Your advice asked the agencies to add a statement to the agreement in principle to verify the assumptions and values used in DOE's final Reactor EIS. This information was added as part of the negotiations and we will be updating the Board throughout the negotiation process. Also, in this advice the Board endorsed the concept of interim safe storage of the C- Reactor. Work is underway to place the Reactor in a safe storage condition.

Advice # 60 endorsed the preferred alternative for the Decontamination and Decommissioning of six 100 Area facilities. This proposal is significant for EPA as it is the first D&D actions at Hanford to be conducted under the Superfund program. An action memo has recently been signed by EPA authorizing the work to proceed.

The following advice packages were sent to DOE only or are outside of our oversight role. They are Advice #45, 46, 47, 51, 55, 56, 59, 61, 62.

If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call at (206) 553-1261 or Doug Sherwood of the Hanford Project Office at (509) 376-9529.

Sincerely,



Randall F. Smith, Director
Environmental Cleanup Office