Ms. S. L. Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) JUNE 8, 2012, CONSENSUS ADVICE #256, "FINAL TANK CLOSURE & WASTE MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT"

Thank you for your continued interest in the Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (TC&WM EIS).

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) is aware of the Board’s concerns about not identifying a preferred alternative for supplemental waste treatment in the TC&WM EIS. It is important that the HAB understand the Department remains committed to the continued exploration of alternatives for vitrification of low-activity waste (LAW). As technology improves, it is important to maintain an open and flexible attitude to finding new and effective ways of treating Hanford’s LAW.

The advice mentioned a 90-day review of the final TC&WM EIS and a public meeting. The Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulation 40 CFR 1506.10 (b)(2) requires a 30-day waiting period between issuance of the Notice of Availability on a final EIS and a Record of Decision (ROD), with some exceptions. DOE does not anticipate a ROD on the TC&WM EIS prior to the 30-day waiting period.

As we have mentioned previously we will provide the Board briefings on the final EIS.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or Tiffany Nguyen, at (509) 376-3361.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Samuelson, Manager  
Office of River Protection

HAB:TLN  
Enclosure  
cc w/encl: See page 2