



OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

MAY 09 2014

14-OCS-0064

Mr. S.E. Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin, Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Hudson:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD, CONSENSUS ADVICE #275, "PATH FORWARD ON TANK WASTE"

Thank you for your March 7, 2014, letter transmitting the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) Consensus Advice #275, "Path Forward on Tank Waste," to David Huizenga, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Acting Assistant Secretary Huizenga requested that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) respond to your advice.

DOE takes the advice of the HAB seriously and appreciates the recommendations you provide. While we recognize the HAB's concerns regarding openness and transparency, we respectfully request your continued understanding and patience as we navigate the legal requirements of the Consent Decree in the case of *State of Washington v. Department of Energy*, Case No. 08-5085-FVS and the associated litigation with the State of Washington. DOE recommends that the HAB review DOE's March 31, 2014, proposal to amend the Consent Decree and its April 18, 2014, response to the State of Washington's proposal. The centerpiece of DOE's proposal is the commencement of treating the tank waste as soon as practicable, combined with a rigorous tank integrity program. DOE believes that this is the most prudent use of limited resources to safely accomplish the tank waste cleanup mission.

DOE remains committed to updating the HAB and other key stakeholders regarding the resolution of technical issues associated with the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) and the technologies available for the immobilization and disposal of low activity tank waste.

Your letter also requested that DOE brief the HAB on the status and actions to address nuclear quality assurance concerns with the WTP. My staff will arrange for a briefing with the Tank Waste Subcommittee of the HAB at a future meeting.

MAY 09 2014

14-OCS-0064
Mr. S.E. Hudson, Chair

-2-

Thank you for your continued involvement and interest. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie C. Meyer, of my staff, at (509) 372-0810.



Kevin W. Smith
Manager *For*

ORP:SB

cc: J.A. Hedges, Ecology
D.G. Huizenga, EM-1
D.A. Faulk, EPA
S.M. Braswell, MSA
K.S. Ballinger, RL
M.S. McCormick, RL