Ms. Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
723 The Parkway, Suite 200; B1-41
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Reeves:

RESPONSE TO HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) CONSENSUS ADVICE #108,


Thank you for your June 2, 2000 letter (Reference), expressing your viewpoints on making contractor information available to the public on the River Protection Project (RPP). This is of particular interest at this time with the recent solicitation for the design, construction, and commissioning of the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP).

Let me offer my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter. Some of the information you requested would affect the WTP solicitation proposal submission requirements, and we were unable to publicly state any proposal preparation instructions to the offerors prior to release of the draft solicitation on July 31, 2000.

It remains our intent to make the maximum amount of information on the WTP publicly available. To that end and specific to your bulleted issues, we offer the following:

- Each offeror will be required to submit a ten-page offer and proposal summary in their Volume II - Technical and Management Proposal in response to this solicitation. It is a requirement that this be written in a format that can be fully disclosed to the public immediately upon award for the successful offeror.

- ORP remains open to sharing key information or documents to its regulators, the tribes and the public. During the procurement process some information will be procurement sensitive and will not be available to share without risking delays from a protest. However, the Request for Proposal calls for a traditional government contract that will have less "business sensitive” issues associated with it compared to the privatization concept. When the contract is awarded in January the RPP will make information on key activities available.

Keeping all parties informed as work progresses is in the best interest of the project as it establishes a long-term solution for Hanford's tank waste. I hope the information at upcoming meetings illustrate our
intent to provide timely information and our commitment to continue pressing forward to start hot operations of a tank waste treatment facility in 2007. We look forward to working with you on this key Hanford cleanup project.

The point of contact for this letter is Peter Bengtson, Office of Communications, (509) 373-9931.

Sincerely,

Harry L. Boston,
Acting Manager

BMA:MKB

cc:  C. L. Huntoon, EM-1
     T. Fitzsimmons, Ecology
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     C. Clarke, EPA
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