Mr. Todd Martin, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
1933 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 135  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Martin:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) ADVICE #164 – TANK CLOSURE EIS ALTERNATIVES


In response to HAB Consensus Advice #164, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations requires agencies such as the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP) to analyze a full range of alternative actions in each EIS, including the no action alternative, and the potential impacts associated with those alternatives. ORP believes that alternatives currently under development in the draft EIS are consistent with tank waste treatment commitments under the Tri Party Agreement.

Public discussion during the scoping phase of the Tank Closure EIS focused on inclusion of an all Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) vitrification alternative and general timeframes for completion of the various alternatives to be evaluated. The EIS currently focuses on two aspects relative to treatment, an all glass WTP vitrification alternative and an all glass WTP with supplemental treatment vitrification alternative. Both alternatives are consistent with the Tri Party Agreement commitments for treatment of tank waste.

The draft EIS also evaluates a range of completion dates for the alternatives to examine the short-term and long-term impacts. These timeframes include dates for completion of waste treatment in 2024, 2030, 2034, 2083, or 2153, depending on the assumptions for the particular alternative. In the preliminary evaluation, slight shifts in timeframes (between two and five years) between the start and completion of the longer operational cycles have minimal impacts. The 2028 timeframe is incorporated in the range of treatment dates analyzed, specifically the 2024-2034 periods, and is consistent with TPA commitments for completion of tank waste treatment.

As ORP has briefed the HAB on several occasions, the River Protection Project baseline achieves the completion of tank waste treatment in 2028 - a TPA commitment ORP intends to meet or exceed. We look forward to further discussions with the HAB regarding the draft Tank Closure EIS and to the HAB’s advice once the draft is released for public review in the fall.
If you have any further questions please contact me, or you may contact Mary Beth Burandt, ORP, (509) 373-9160.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Manager

ORP: TEO

cc: S. L. Waisley, EM-33
    M. Wilson, Ecology
    M. Gearheard, EPA
    J. Iani, EPA
    K. A. Klein, RL
    The Oregon and Washington
    Congressional Delegations

U.S. Senators (OR)
Gordon H. Smith
Ron Wyden

U.S. Senators (WA)
Maria Cantwell
Patty Murray

U.S. Representatives (OR)
Earl Blumenauer
Peter DeFazio
Darlene Hooley
Greg Walden
David Wu

U.S. Representatives (WA)
Brian Baird
Norm Dicks
Jennifer Dunn
Richard Hastings

State Senators (WA)
Jerome Delvin
Mike Hewitt

State Representatives (WA)
Shirley Hankins
Sean McGrath

Rick Larsen
Jim McDermott
George Nethercutt
Adam Smith
### TASK INFORMATION

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### ROUTING LISTS

1. Route List
   - Burandt, Mary E - Review - Concur - 06/25/2004 0731
   - Gnann, Howard B - Review - Concur - 07/08/2004 1303
   - Schepens, Roy J - Assign - Completed - 07/08/2004 1217

### ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments

### COMMENTS

- **Poster**: Brazil, Kelly (Brazil, Kelly) - 07/08/2004 0107
- **CLOSED**: Roy signed out letter on July 8, 2004

### TASK DUE DATE HISTORY

No Due Date History

### SUB TASK HISTORY

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JUL 08 2004

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bcc: ORP OFF File
ORP MGR Rdg File
HAB Rdg File

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**COMMENTS**

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