

**OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION**

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Richland, Washington 99352



JUL 03 2018



18-HAB-0109

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
713 Jadwin Ave., Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Ms. Leckband:

**HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD ADVICE #295, "SYSTEM PLANNING PROCESS"**

Thank you for your March 12, 2018, letter regarding the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) concerns on the negotiations of System Plan 8 and related Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestone. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) appreciate the HAB's ongoing engagement in the system planning process.

ORP's System Plan describes how Hanford's tank waste retrieval and treatment mission could be achieved given an underlying set of assumptions. It identifies the potential mission impacts of key issues and uncertainties. The plan is a modeling exercise of the complex interactions of the operations of the tank farms and the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

Please see ORP and Ecology's responses below to each of the Board's advice points. For convenience, the HAB advice is set forth in italics with ORP's and Ecology's response following.

***Advice Point #1:** The Board advises that before the completion of current milestone negotiations, ORP and Ecology engage the Board and the broader public in discussion of goals, values, and principles related to tank waste treatment to provide input to their negotiations. This would offer Agencies the opportunity to solicit input on areas of the negotiation where DOE and Ecology may be having difficulty reaching resolution. This may prove beneficial for achieving stakeholder acceptance of the negotiated path forward.*

**Response:** During the March Board meeting we asked the Board to recommend a specific System Plan 8 scenario consistent with the wording of the M-62-45 milestone. The agencies

understand the Board is currently working on draft advice for the September 2018 meeting. We are open to ongoing discussions on the system plan as negotiations continue.

**Advice Point #2:** *The Board advised that ORP honor the commitments in the ORP responses to Board advice #238 and #245, by meeting with the Board to seek Board recommendations for planning assumptions and scenarios prior to the next revision of the System Plan.*

**Response:** The system planning process is structured around the production of a triennial update. Key activities include scenario definition, assumption definition, model development, model execution, results interpretations, and report creation. ORP is willing to brief the HAB and consider its input during development of scenarios and assumptions for the next System Plan update. These activities are expected to begin in March 2019 and continue through August 2019.

**Advice Point #3:** *The Board advises that due to the growing risk associated with the tank farms and aging infrastructure, the milestone negotiations between DOE-ORP and Ecology should evaluate the risk of system component failures as a supplement to the existing System Plan 8 analysis. Any preferred scenario for the waste treatment mission should be "stress tested" to quantitatively simulate the mission impacts, system vulnerabilities, and response capabilities if significant system component failures occur.*

**Response:** Consideration of risk associated with aging infrastructure in the tank farms is among many issues the agencies are discussing during the ongoing TPA milestone negotiations.

**Advice Point #4:** *The Board advises the Agencies to engage the HAB in formal discussions regarding how risks have been and will be defined, managed, and/or mitigated. The Board believes all risks should be addressed, including project technical risks, public and worker health & safety; as well as environmental risks.*

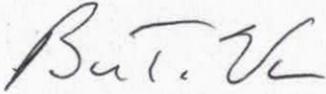
**Response:** The agencies look forward to continued discussion with the Board on how risks are addressed and considered in the system planning process.

**Advice Point #5:** *As ORP considers using Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) for removal of cesium-137 from the Low Activity Waste stream, the Board advises the TPA Agencies to fully evaluate, prior to completion of milestone negotiations, the potential cost, schedule, and feasibility of implementing TSCR, including the use of a non-elutable ion-exchange resin on the overall tank waste treatment mission.*

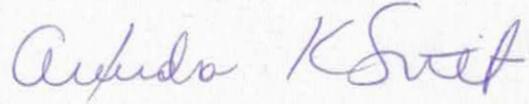
**Response:** ORP is currently evaluating contractor proposals regarding this initiative, and will be evaluating the elements identified by the Board as part of its standard business practices.

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Thank you again for your input on this important topic. ORP and Ecology are committed to keeping the Board informed on the system planning progress. If you have any questions, please contact John Price, Tri-Party Agreement Section Manager at (509) 372-7950 or Echo Dahl, North Wind supporting ORP, at (509) 376-7112.



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HAB:ESD

cc: J.B. Price, Ecology  
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ORP Correspondence Control