



U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

July 16, 2020

20-HAB-0016

Ms. Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
ProSidian Hanford Project Office
713 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD FEBRUARY 6, 2020, CONSENSUS ADVICE #304, FISCAL YEAR 2022 HANFORD CLEANUP PRIORITIES

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) appreciates the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) commitment and time taken to support the Hanford cleanup mission. We understand the board's concerns about the Hanford Site funding and cleanup priorities processes.

The DOE Senior Advisor for Environmental Management (EM) to the Under Secretary for Science issued a response (attached) to EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) chairs on June 2, 2020, regarding their broader budget advice. This DOE EM Headquarters response includes updated guidance on how the EM field sites may provide timely and frequent engagement with stakeholders. The guidance is clear that field sites can discuss the details of the President's request, including funding amounts, work to be performed, metrics, and milestones, only after the request has been formally submitted to Congress, and only at the level of detail in the President's budget submission. Funding targets or specific tradeoffs are embargoed as part of the deliberative budget processes and cannot be shared. The EM guidance states, "all discussions with the Tribal Governments, the EM SSAB, stakeholders, and regulators should be confined to prioritized activities, not to funding levels associated with those activities."

Even with the constraints on release of funding level details, DOE is encouraged by the HAB's deliberation, discussion and generation of this fiscal year 2022 Hanford Cleanup Priorities advice. Inclusion of the HAB values, previous advice, and use of some of the planning products provides DOE insight into the process the HAB used to develop its prioritized cleanup activities. Specifically, DOE appreciates the HAB's use of the Hanford Site Five-Year Plan that DOE presented at the HAB October 2019 Committee of the Whole and HAB Budget and Contracts Committee (BCC). Starting in October 2019, the BCC began to work with the other HAB committees to gather cleanup priorities. The BCC followed a process to move this from the committees to the full board, and through much deliberation, ultimately culminated in consensus Advice #304 in February 2020.

While the HAB cleanup priorities in Advice #304 are not numbered sequentially, the HAB did organize its priorities around the Hanford Site Five-Year Plan. Furthermore, the board described those priorities in ways to highlight activities in which it agreed with the plan, activities it thought were missing and/or only partially addressed, and supporting activities that may not need inclusion in the plan, but are key to success at the Hanford Site.

DOE thanks you for your continued commitment to the Hanford cleanup mission. If you should have any questions, please contact me, or you may also contact JoLynn Garcia, HAB Federal Coordinator, Richland Operations Office, on (509) 376-6244.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Vance
Manager

HOC:JMG

Attachment

cc w/ attach:

D.A. Borak, EM-4.32

R.L. Bradbury, Ecology

L.C. Buelow, EPA

D.R. Einan, EPA

E. Laija, EPA

A.K. Smith, Ecology

E.B. Wireman, Ecology

Oregon & Washington Delegations

ATTACHMENT

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8 pages (including cover page)