



U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site

June 22, 2022

22-HAB-001771

Mr. Steve Wiegman, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
245 Torbett Street
Richland, Washington 99354

Dear Mr. Wiegman:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD MARCH 24, 2022, CONSENSUS ADVICE NO. 312,
FISCAL YEAR 2024 HANFORD CLEANUP PRIORITIES

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) March 24, 2022, Advice No. 312, regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Hanford cleanup priorities. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) values the perspectives the members of the HAB contribute through consensus advice on cleanup priorities and recognize the time and effort the HAB put into producing this advice.

In general, the prioritization provided in Advice No. 312 is reflective of the cleanup priorities published in the DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) [Strategic Vision: 2021 – 2031](#), demonstrating the continuing constructive engagement between DOE and the area communities represented by HAB members. The coming decade will see the successful launch of one of EM's largest and most significant cleanup activities: the start of tank waste treatment at Hanford through the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program. This will address one of the largest environmental challenges in the EM complex.

Regarding your advice on indirect/supporting activities, workforce issues are a critical activity at Hanford, and we appreciate your recognition of our collective efforts. The One Hanford team of DOE and our major contractors recently held a highly successful job fair to inform the public and potential job seekers about opportunities at Hanford. Keeping our workforce safe and preparing the next generation of workers are top priorities here.

As the result of years of hard work and success, Hanford enjoys the support of our local leaders and the congressional delegation. This support has translated into record funding for the site, which will allow us to do more work. However, the HAB's recommendations to accelerate some projects would require significantly larger appropriations than Hanford currently receives and are not realistic. In the existing fiscally constrained environment, this advice is not actionable.

Mr. Steve Wiegman
22-HAB-001771

-2-

June 22, 2022

Again, thank you for taking the time to provide input. DOE appreciates the HAB's commitment to the Hanford cleanup mission.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or you may also contact Mike Berkenbile, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, on (509) 372-9125.

Sincerely,

HAB:GLY

Brian T. Vance
Manager

cc: D. B. Bowen, Ecology
D. R. Einan, EPA