

## Draft Advice re: Draft 300 Area Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan

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### Background

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB or Board) provides this advice to supplement previous advice on the 300 Area groundwater uranium problem (HAB Advice #257). Final decisions about cleanup at Hanford's 300 Area are important because of their potential impacts to the Columbia River. The 300 Area Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and Proposed Plan will provide a template for subsequent River Corridor and similar Central Plateau groundwater-uranium decisions that follow. It is important to the Board that the 300 Area decisions are dependable, protective, defensible, and well supported.

The latest alternative of the 300 Area RI/FS and Proposed Plan proposes to do an application of polyphosphate to the most contaminated location in the lowermost 300 Area vadose zone to bind with uranium, thereby limiting its ability to migrate into the Columbia River. The Board supports an active effort to limit uranium contamination in groundwater. The Board advises that such a treatability test will help determine whether the approach is effective and help develop an optimum approach for the application of phosphate for groundwater uranium remediation.

### Advice<sup>1</sup>:

1. The Board advises that a treatability test to determine the effectiveness of uranium sequestration could be done more quickly than to proceed through the RI/FS and Proposed Plan process. Upon a successful test result, the proposed plan for a final ROD would be better informed and would be done in a more timely and cost effective manner.
2. The Board advises DOE to communicate its plan for detecting and determining the effectiveness of uranium sequestration using polyphosphate injection in the 300 Area.
3. The Board advises DOE to consider further application of the phosphate technology if it is determined to be effective in removing uranium from groundwater.
4. The Board reiterates HAB Advice #257 and advises DOE to create a proactive cleanup backup plan in the event uranium sequestration does not work.

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<sup>1</sup> **PLEASE NOTE:** These advice bullets are numbered for ease of editing; they do not reflect order of importance and will be revised to a bulleted list following the editing process.