

Draft Letter: Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget and FY 2019 Budget Request v. 1

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) has found that providing annual budget advice to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in late spring is probably not the most effective way to influence budget decisions. Local DOE offices prepare their budget in the September to December time frame. Therefore, this budget advice for the Fiscal Year 2018 Hanford budget formulation is being offered in December in the hope that it is timely and DOE will be able to incorporate more of the HAB's priorities into the budget request that is submitted to DOE Headquarters.

HAB Advice #288 was submitted to DOE in June 2016 in which the Board outlined its long-term and near-term priorities for the first time. These priorities were developed with input from the Board's committees and in reference to letters sent to DOE HQ from the State of Oregon and the State of Washington. DOE's response to the advice says that "DOE...acknowledges that our key priorities do align and support the items on which the Board has provided input." However, that is not entirely accurate. Board priorities listed in the June 2016 advice that do not necessarily match DOE's Hanford priorities include a resumption of transuranic waste retrieval and shipments to WIPP; supporting a dialogue about the end state of cleanup; accelerating movement of the cesium and strontium capsules to dry storage; and moving forward more expeditiously to deal with the concentrate waste beneath the 324 Building.

These remain priorities for the HAB, and are among a number of items we highlight as our near-term funding priorities as noted below.

- Fully-fund the groundwater program each year and expand pump and treat operations to treat additional waste water streams.
- Continue funding the demolition on the Plutonium Finishing Plant until it is in a slab-on-grade condition. Establish a monitoring plan for future safe controls.
- Fund the complete demolition and below ground cleanup of the 324 Building in the 300 Area. Plans for this cleanup were completed in 2015 and a path forward should be funded to complete the mission.
- Continue funding for the remediation of the 618-10 Burial Grounds.
- Increase funding to accelerate removal of cesium and strontium capsules at Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility into long-term dry storage.
- Complete sludge movement from K Basins (Milestone M-016-175).
- Restore funds for continued installation and activation of the strontium barrier along the Columbia River and other groundwater protective activities.

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Issue Manager: Peltier with suggested edits from Niles; changed advice to letter based on RAP committee discussion

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- Fund the planning and final disposition of the PUREX tunnels. Review the status of the PUREX tunnels structurally and the final disposition of the tunnel solid waste contents.
- Annually provide necessary funds to perform maintenance, repair and replacement of aging infrastructure to support cleanup across the site and to ensure the health and safety of the workforce and our adjacent communities.
- Appropriate necessary funds for the initial startup of the LAW Facility and the completion of the WTP. Though a small portion of the tank waste cleanup, the Board feels it is an important start to this long-term program.
- Provide adequate funding to the DOE RL-100 account to support the Board's activities. The FY 2017 and FY 2018 should be sufficient to provide for at least one Board meeting annually outside the Tri-City region. By doing so, DOE ensures increased transparency and opportunities for broader public attendance.
- Support dialogue about the final end state of cleanup.
- Fund the characterization and technology demonstration of the deep vadose zone remediation.
- Resume retrieval and shipment of transuranic waste.