

The Honorable Monica Regalbuto
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Subject: Discontinue funding for CRESA studies from Hanford cleanup dollars

Dear Assistant Secretary Regalbuto:

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) is writing with respect to the draft Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review Project's *Interim Progress Report* (August 31, 2015), prepared by the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESA). The Hanford Advisory Board concurs with the States of Washington and Oregon who have expressed the opinion that although the report does provide some new information, it offers no substantive justification to deviate from the cleanup path at Hanford that has been pursued for more than 25 years and is spelled out in the Tri-Party Agreement.

Provisions of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement), Consent Decree, and Records of Decision provide the blueprint for how cleanup shall proceed. These provisions are based on extensive scientific analysis including risk analysis and significant public review and input. Because of the involvement from the States of Washington and Oregon, Tribal nations, the Hanford Advisory Board, and other stakeholders, there is confidence in the processes that are in place.

Regardless of why the risk review project was commissioned, we are concerned that its findings may be used to help justify doing less cleanup at Hanford. We have seen numerous attempts through the years to do just that – all based on the premise that it is too expensive to do the cleanup that DOE has signed up for. We believe that the waste generated by the federal government must be cleaned up by the federal government.

While the information in the CRESA study is interesting, it was developed at significant cost and the funding came out of Hanford cleanup dollars. We believe that additional cleanup progress could have been made this year with those dollars.

Based on what we see in the draft report, and given the fact that this report already covers the most significant and challenging cleanup work yet to be done at Hanford, it appears unlikely there would be meaningful insights from additional work. We do not see a value in spending cleanup dollars to complete this study. The HAB strongly advises you not to proceed with the remainder of this project and to transfer the money back to Hanford cleanup.

cc: Stacy Charboneau
Kevin Smith
Dennis Faulk
Jane Hedges