



## OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352

**NOV 12 2013**

13-WSC-0022

Mr. S. E. Hudson, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
Enviroissues Hanford Project Office  
713 Jadwin, Suite 4  
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Hudson:

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013, CONSENSUS ADVICE #272,  
"DOE-ORP BUDGET REQUESTS"

Thank you for advice #272 on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) budget requests. ORP appreciates the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) continued interest in understanding our budget process and providing us with consensus advice on cleanup priorities.

Each year DOE conducts a public meeting and workshop on fiscal year (FY) budget formulation and funding submissions and ORP welcomes the feedback we receive from the Board. As mentioned previously, due to the technical and funding uncertainties, ORP was unable to provide a FY 2015 Priority List for the HAB's review. ORP was able to provide the opportunity for stakeholders to address priorities and concerns based on FY 2013 accomplishments and FY 2014 planned accomplishments. The input we received from the HAB and members of the public was very beneficial in developing the requirements for the FY 2015 budget request.

On September 24, 2013, the Secretary of Energy issued a framework for completing the ORP mission and how we will work with the State of Washington to resolve concerns regarding completion of the waste treatment mission at the Hanford Site. This framework, in ORP's view, represents a prudent and reasonable approach to immobilize waste in a glass form as soon as practicable while working to resolve the technical issues associated with Pretreatment and High-Level Waste Facilities.

Safety will always remain a priority in everything we do at ORP. We continue to consider the near-term and long-range plans for the safe storage of chemical and radioactive tank waste for both FY 2014 and FY 2015. ORP continues to engage the DOE Office of Environmental Management and with members of our congressional delegation to ensure that current tank farm challenges are considered and at the forefront throughout the congressional process.

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DOE looks forward to engaging with the State of Washington, and ultimately Hanford's stakeholders, to discuss this framework approach to the tank waste mission and to create a sustainable path forward for addressing Hanford tank wastes. ORP will continue to update the Board as information is available, with the intent to provide early involvement in the FY 2016 budget formulation process. Thank you again for your advice on this subject. If you have any questions, you may contact me or you may contact Kim Ballinger, DOE, Richland Operations Office, Office of Communications and External Affairs at (509) 376-6332.



Kevin W. Smith, Manager  
Office of River Protection

TF:JAD

cc:  
S. M. Braswell, MSA