

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

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US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State
Dept of Ecology

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June 7, 2013

Matt McCormick, Manager
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Richland, WA 99352

Dennis Faulk, Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
309 Bradley Blvd., Suite 115
Richland WA 99352

Re: 300 Area Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RIFS) and Proposed Plan (Rev. 0)

Dear Messrs. McCormick and Faulk,

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 (HAB Advice #257). The Board agrees 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.

HAB Consensus Advice # 270

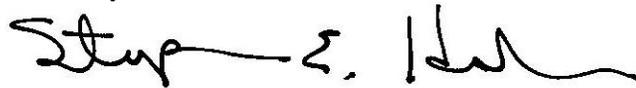
Subject: 300 Area RIFS
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Advice:

1. The Board advises DOE and EPA to undertake a treatability test to determine the effectiveness of uranium sequestration. Upon a successful test result, the Proposed Plan for a record of decision would be better informed and would be done in a more timely and cost-effective manner. If the test is not successful, the Board advises the agencies to continue to work with the Board on a path forward.
2. The Board advises DOE and EPA 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 and EPA to consider implementation of the phosphate technology for future cleanup actions on the Hanford Site if the technology is determined to be effective in removing uranium from groundwater.

Sincerely,



Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board

This advice represents Board consensus for this specific topic. It should not be taken out of context to extrapolate Board agreement on other subject matters.

cc: Jeff Frey, Deputy Designated Official, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology
Catherine Alexander, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Delegations