



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
825 Jadwin Ave Suite 210
Richland, Washington 99352

Ms. Susan Coleman
Hanford Advisory Board Chair
245 Torbett Street
Richland, WA 99354

Dear Ms. Coleman:

RE: HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD FISCAL YEAR 2026 HANFORD CLEANUP PRIORITIES (HAB CONSENSUS ADVICE #315)

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board's (HAB) February 6 advice No. 315, regarding cleanup priorities for fiscal year 2026. The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies -- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) -- value the HAB's advice and appreciates its recommendations. We recognize and appreciate the time and effort you and the HAB put in to produce this advice. Below are EPA's responses to the items listed in the FY2026 Critical Priority Aligned with 5-Year Plan Goals table.

ADVICE & RESPONSE:

- **C-a:** EPA believes that this is a good suggestion and that we will continue to look to see what method works best to communicate these efforts.
- **C-b:** Under CERCLA, the Records of Decisions (RODs) will contain the Responsiveness Summaries for all comments received during the public comment period issued with the Proposed Plan. We continuously aim to improve public outreach and engagement, including increasing developing materials in multiple languages and supporting public meetings (e.g., HAB meetings, cleanup priorities, etc.) during the evening.
- **WT-b:** This is generally under DOE and Ecology's purview, but the EPA does support the transition towards renewable/alternate energy sources.
- **R-a:** The EPA is working with DOE to meet these obligations.
- **R-b:** The EPA is working with DOE to accomplish the scope of work as required by the TPA milestones.
- **R-c, R-d, R-e:** The EPA appreciates this advice and acknowledges that it aligns with our agency's programmatic goals for the Hanford Site.
- **WM-b:** The EPA is working with DOE to meet these obligations in addition to monitoring releases from the burial ground.

- **WM-c:** The EPA appreciates this advice from the Board and its highlighting of this priority. Efficiently and appropriately using ERDF disposal capacity is a shared requirement of the ERDF ROD, as amended.
- **C-c, C-d:** These items generally fall under DOE's scope of work and therefore EPA does not have any comments on them.
- **WT-a, WM-a, WM-d, WM-e, WM-f:** These items fall under DOE's and Ecology's purview and therefore EPA does not have any comments on them.

Once again, EPA appreciates the HAB's time and effort in developing this advice and appreciate its recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact Roberto Armijo, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, at (509) 376-3749 or Armijo.Roberto@epa.gov .

Sincerely,

David Einan,
Project Manager
U.S. EPA Hanford Project Office

CC:

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