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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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February 20, 1996

Ms. Marilyn Reeves, Chair  
Hanford Advisory Board  
800 N.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 342  
Portland, OR 97209-3715

Dear Ms. Reeves:

Thank you for your letter transmitting Hanford Advisory Board Advice #40, dealing with the Hanford Sitewide Groundwater Remediation Strategy. Ecology supports the Board's recommendations 1 and 2. Recommendation 1 is to incorporate the Sitewide Groundwater Remediation Strategy into the Hanford Site Groundwater Protection Management Program. Recommendation 2 urges continuation of successful pump-and-treat programs in the 100 area to control strontium-90 and chromium.

We also concur with the Board's cautious approach to proposed use of a subsurface absorbent barrier at N-Springs. Funding should not be diverted from pump-and-treat activities to this as-yet unproven barrier. The barrier should also be evaluated alongside other alternatives, such as *in situ* use of phosphatic materials to stabilize radionuclides. Ecology will submit technical comments on the barrier proposal to the Department of Energy by February 29. We will be happy to share our position with the Board's Environmental Restoration Committee.

The Board is to be commended for its painstaking work to assess ongoing cleanup work and to help both the USDOE and the regulators balance the search for new technologies and the desire to "get on with it."

Sincerely,

Mary Riveland  
Director

Response to HAB Advice #40 (February 1-2, 1996)  
Hanford Site Wide Ground Water Remediation Strategy  
Letter from Mary Riveland, Ecology, dated February 20, 1996

