



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 18, 2014

14-NWP-134

Mr. Steve Hudson, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice # 277, "2015 Presidential Budget and 2016 Budget Request"

Dear Mr. Hudson:

Thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board's advice regarding the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) 2015 Presidential Budget and 2016 Budget Request.

Enclosed is a copy of the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) May 13, 2014, letter to USDOE regarding the 2016 budget. The letter expresses our concerns about the 2016 budget and funding levels needed to meet legal requirements at Hanford. We provided copies of this letter at the Hanford budget workshop on May 14 and at the Hanford Advisory Board's June meeting.

We share the Board's concern that the President's budget requests for USDOE Environmental Management cleanup for Federal Fiscal Year 2015 and 2016 are significantly less than what is needed to achieve full compliance with the existing Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) and Consent Decree. The result is that cleanup work is falling behind enforceable schedules, and risk to the environment and human health is increasing.

Ecology generally agrees with the advice you provided to USDOE, but would like to clarify our agreement on one point. In your fifth advice point, you stated:

"The Board advises DOE-ORP to request funding to test new technology that would dry liquid radioactive waste."

Ecology notes that TPA milestone M-062-40 (Submit a System Plan to Ecology) includes two requirements that are consistent with this advice point:

- System Plan scenarios will include "Identification of issues, techniques or technologies that need to be further evaluated or addressed in order to accelerate tank retrievals and tank waste treatment."
- "The [System] Plan will evaluate scenarios and identify potential near and long-term actions to optimize tank waste treatment so that the treatment mission is completed as quickly as is technically feasible but not later than the date established in Milestone M-062-00 ..."



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These M-062-40 milestone requirements would require USDOE to identify new technologies, but they would not require USDOE to request funding for them. If USDOE identifies the new technologies in System Plan scenarios, Ecology could initiate discussions about whether to fund testing.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact John Price at John.Price@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 372-7921.

Sincerely,



for
Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

Enclosure

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