



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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August 14, 2014

14-NWP-165

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

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Advice # 279, "Proposed Amendments to the Consent Decree from DOE and Ecology"

Dear Mr. Hudson:

Director Bellon and I thank you for the Hanford Advisory Board (Board) advice on the importance of transparency in the ongoing negotiations between Washington State and the United States Department of Energy on proposed changes to the Consent Decree.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is committed to the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration. We understand the importance of involving the public, stakeholders, and tribes early and often in Hanford cleanup decisions.

We always strive to be as open and transparent as possible. However, there may be instances, particularly when Ecology is operating within legal or judicial situations, when communications are legally restricted. Our goal is to work to keep those periods of legally mandated restrictions as short as possible, and to share state information as soon as the legal processes allow.

We remain hopeful that the state and federal governments can come to a mutually agreeable path forward that ensures the safe and timely cleanup of Hanford tank waste. We appreciate your input and look forward to continuing discussions with the Board on these critically important decisions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jane.hedges@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 372-7905, or Dieter Bohrmann at dieter.bohrmann@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 372-7954.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: See page 2

