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To: Dennis Faulk/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

cc: p53bhw@gocougs.wsu.edu

06/27/2001 11:28 AM

Subject: B-Reactor Support

Dear Mr. Faulk:

This message provides comments on the plans for cleanup work at B Reactor. The Tri-cities Technical Council (TCTC), a coordinating body for the 28 Technical Societies representing thousands of professionals in the Tri-Cities area, supports the third option of mitigating the hazards to make the building accessible to the public at large.

Many of our members helped to build and operate Hanford and would like to see key parts of it preserved for future generations to see what went on here. In the early days, the work was secret, and the building has been accessible since then only with radiation control procedures, so few people outside of the work force have actually seen what these reactors look like. Even photographs can not really show the magnitude of the effort it took to build these facilities.

The third option would preserve the building and the reactor in condition for a possible future museum, which the B Reactor Museum Association has been working toward for many years. The building is not far from the Vernita bridge, an area that has been suggested as a potential location for an interpretive exhibit or museum for the Hanford Reach. The B Reactor could easily be incorporated into that concept. There has also been interest in boat or train tours through the site, and a B Reactor display would make an excellent terminus for those trips. In addition the building could serve to house large equipment displays that could not be fitted into other Hanford museum structures.

The Council urges you to support option three for making the facility accessible to the public.

Donald E. Wood, President
Tri-Cities Technical Council

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