



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 31, 2019

19-NWP-180

Susan Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin Avenue Suite 3
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Hanford Advisory Board Consensus Advice #302, "Public Involvement in Budget Development," dated September 19, 2019

Dear Ms. Leckband:

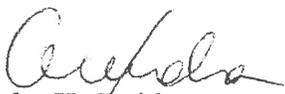
The Department of Ecology (Ecology) thanks the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB) for Advice #302, to the United States Department of Energy - Office of River Protection (USDOE). The advice addresses USDOE's budget process for Hanford cleanup, and Ecology concurs with the HAB's stated concerns.

Ecology supports the HAB's request that USDOE follow Tri-Party Agreement Article XLVIII Section on Cost, Schedule, Implementation, Planning and Scope. Paragraph 149, Section M, directs USDOE, Ecology, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on public and stakeholder engagement:

"The three parties agree to inform and involve the public and stakeholders at key stages of integrated (cross programmatic) decision making, and at key stages of budget formulation and execution consistent with the Interim Report of the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee. The process for informing and involving the public and stakeholders will be developed and included in the Agreement CRP."

Ecology believes that timely and knowledgeable public and stakeholder participation is essential to Hanford cleanup. We will continue to work with USDOE and EPA on public and stakeholder engagement. We appreciate the HAB's dedicated assistance to the public, and look forward to continuing to work with you on Hanford issues.

Sincerely,


Alexandra K. Smith
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program



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cc: See page 2



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cc electronic:

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