



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

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JUL 20 2009

09-ORP-010

Ms. Susan L. Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Leckband:

RESPONSE TO HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) ADVICE #215

Reference: HAB Letter from S. L. Leckband to S. J. Olinger, ORP and I. R. Triay, HQ,
"Surface Storage Capacity for Vitrified High-Level Waste is Needed to Facilitate
Completion of Hanford Cleanup," dated February 6, 2009.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) appreciates the HAB recommendation regarding the surface storage capacity for vitrified high level waste (HLW) at Hanford.

DOE agrees that an interim storage facility is critical to the operation of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) and completion of the ORP mission to safely store the immobilized HLW (IHLW) canisters. ORP is considering building a new Hanford Storage Facility (HSF) with the ability to store and ship IHLW canisters, based on a recent cost-benefit analysis. This new facility would include an initial capacity to store 2,000 IHLW canisters with the ability to add additional storage modules, providing ORP greater flexibility to increase storage capacity. Building an integrated storage and shipping facility would cost approximately the same amount as our prior plans to complete Vaults 2 and 3 of the Canister Storage Building (CSB) which would allow ORP to store a total of 880 canisters, roughly two years worth of production from the WTP.

The Washington River Protection Solutions LLC will develop functional requirements and project alternatives. This phase of the project will specifically address design life, design standards, and regulatory requirements. Alternatives analysis, consistent with our project management directives, will enable ORP to proceed with the most cost-effective IHLW storage solutions.

ORP appreciates the HAB's substantial efforts to better understand the holistic approach needed to successfully complete the ORP cleanup mission. We look forward to further discussions on the interim storage needs for Hanford's IHLW canisters.

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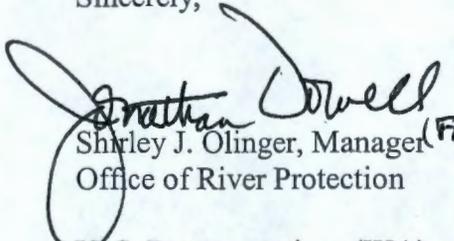
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If you have any questions, please contact me, or you may contact Lori M. Gamache,
(509) 372-9130.

Sincerely,


Shirley J. Olinger, Manager (For)
Office of River Protection

ORP:LMG

cc: I. R. Triay, EM-1
C. Brennan, EM-13
J. Manning, Ecology
J. A. Hedges, Ecology
N. Curtis, Ecology
S. Hayman, EnviroIssues
D. Faulk, EPA
E. Miller, EPA
D. A. Brockman, RL
P. Call, RL
D. Shoop, RL

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