



Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request

The Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft 2010 Environmental Management (EM) budget. We have reviewed the draft budget and find it to be in accord with priority needs and the baseline data. We strongly support the budget request and emphasize our concern that the EM program remain on schedule and be cost effective.

We would like to highlight one concern, the Sodium Bearing Waste (SBW) project, which needs an additional \$60 million to stay on schedule. At current funding levels, this would result in a two year delay in construction completion and the Department of Energy (DOE) would miss the December 2012 milestone for tank closure. The lack of funding would result in a compliance issue and a costly mistake.

Therefore, we the members of the CAB support a baseline funding request of \$455,600,000 and strongly support an over baseline request of \$60 million in 2010 for SBW construction work. This will enable Settlement Agreement and Consent Order compliance and save \$20 to \$30 million in out-year project costs.

The CAB members also encourage DOE to provide supplemental funding in 2008 and 2009 to avoid the need for over baseline funding in 2010. It is our understanding that if this is provided, then the \$60 million in 2010 would not be needed.