



Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20505

September 29, 2017

Mr. Jim Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management (EM-1)
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Jim:

Recommendations from EMAB Fall 2017 Board Meeting, September 12, 2017, Alexandria, Virginia

On behalf of your Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) members, I wanted to thank you for your time and engagement with the Board on the 12th of September at our Fall meeting in Alexandria. Your input and the detailed discussions with the Board were most important to our business at hand.

During the course of the Board's deliberations and discussions on the 12th as a matter of public record, the Board addressed several topics and agreed to recommendations for submittal to you for consideration and follow-up. This letter provides these recommendations accordingly.

The three recommendations and topics addressed are:

- **TOPIC: *Definition of High Level Waste (HLW) in the National Waste Policy Act (NWPA)***

The Board has been briefed on and supports many of the proposed changes in DOE waste management policies outlined in the September 2017 Energy Communities Alliance publication "Waste Disposition: A New Approach to DOE's Waste Management Must Be Pursued"

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c4c892e4b0d1ec35bc5efb/t/59b690b046c3c498eb2203a2/1505136818586/ECA+Waste+Disposition+Report-FINAL+DRAFT+9.8.17.pdf>

The board recommends that EM take the initiate efforts to clarify the definition of high-level waste in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and revise current waste management policies in a manner that would allow radioactive waste to be dispositioned based on its isotopic content and physical/chemical form, as opposed to its origin.

The board believes that these changes, along with consideration of certain regulatory barriers and methods for determining waste volumes at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), could result in safe, effective and efficient disposal alternative for a large fraction of the waste generated as a result of the remaining environmental remediation at Hanford and other Environmental Management sites.

- **TOPIC: *Post-Cleanup Visions for Hanford Reach and Hanford River Corridor***

The Board recommends that EM encourage State, Local, and Tribal Governments to work together to establish common near term and long term post-cleanup visions for the Hanford Reach and the Hanford River Corridor. Further, the Board recommends that EM provide for the participation of an impartial third party (i.e., emissary) who can facilitate the deliberations of the group and guide them to mutually agreed conclusions.

- **TOPIC: *Pilot Project – Closure of Hanford “C” Tank Farm***

The Board recommends that EM move forward to make progress on closure of "C" Tank Farm. This will need to include working with the regulators, tribal nations and stakeholders to conduct pilot studies to determine the most effective and cost efficient means to facilitate closure.

The Board's deliberations that led the above recommendations involved all members of the Board and included thoughtful discussion on the positive impact these recommendations – if acted on – could have on the EM Program for the long term. The recommendations above have the unanimous support of the Board.

We look forward to your reply to the above recommendations.

Should questions exist, please contact me at dauidswindlejr@comcast.net or phone at 240-447-5782. Alternatively, contact

Sincerely,



David W. Swindle, Jr., P.E.
Chairman – Environmental Management Advisory Board

Cc: Jennifer McCloskey, Designated Federal Official, EMAB (EM-4.32)
EMAB Board Members