

OREGON HANFORD CLEANUP BOARD

March 5, 2004

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Mr. Mike Thompson
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Field Office
P.O. Box 550, MS: A6-38
Richland, WA 99352

Re: U area regional closure

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board consists of Oregon legislators and citizens appointed by the Governor to advise him on Hanford cleanup issues. At the Board's January meeting in Portland we heard a presentation from our staff on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) current work on cleaning up waste sites adjacent to the U plant (U area regional closure). The Board has several concerns and questions:

- We would like to know what has been done to inform the public about these plans;
- We would like to know whether these plans are consistent with the Tri-Party Agreement, and if not, what changes in the plans would be necessary;
- We would like to know how the environmental regulations will be applied and enforced, particularly concerning characterization;
- We would like to know which regulations are controlling;
- We have concerns about the reliance on the use of monitored natural attenuation (MNA), and we would like to know how DOE and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance on MNA are applied; and
- We would also like to know what DOE's contingency plans are should MNA not prove to be a satisfactory strategy.

The Board requests and offers DOE the opportunity to have DOE staff come to our next meeting on May 19 in the Hermiston area to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Jarvis, Chair

cc: Russell Jim, Yakama Indian Nation
Patrick Sobotta, Nez Perce Tribe
Todd Martin, Chair, Hanford Advisory Board