

OREGON HANFORD CLEANUP BOARD

June 16, 2003

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Mary Beth Burandt
Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 550 MS H6-60
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Analysis of Tc-99 Pretreatment in the Tanks Retrieval
and Closure Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Burandt:

The Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board (Board) is a group of Oregon citizens and legislators appointed by the Governor to advise him on Hanford cleanup issues. At the Board's May meeting in Cascade Locks, the Office of River Protection's (ORP) decision to eliminate Tc-99 removal from the low activity tank waste was discussed.

The Board is concerned that because of Tc-99's very long half-life and high mobility in the vadose zone and groundwater that this decision could have a significant detrimental impact on the environment at Hanford and ultimately the Columbia River. Accordingly, the Board advises ORP that the environmental impacts of this decision need to be thoroughly analyzed and recommends this analysis be done in the tanks retrieval and closure environmental impact statement currently being prepared.

Sincerely,



Shelley Cimon, Chair

cc: Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski
Mike Wilson, Washington Department of Ecology
Nick Ceto, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Russell Jim, Yakama Nation
Patrick Sobotta, Nez Perce Tribe
Todd Martin, Chair, Hanford Advisory Board