

Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board

Fernald
Hanford
Idaho

Nevada
Northern New Mexico
Oak Ridge

Paducah
Rocky Flats
Savannah River

November 24, 2004

Mr. Paul Golan
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Subject: National Stakeholder Forum on Waste Disposition

Dear Mr. Golan:

The Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs reviewed the status of waste disposition interdependencies among Department of Energy (DOE) EM sites during their October 2004 meeting. The Chairs identified several vulnerabilities in the existing waste disposition assumptions. Some examples include: the lack of a disposition path for pre-1970 transuranic waste and orphan waste and multiple legal barriers to shipping for treatment or disposal. These and other disposition challenges raise concerns of potential gridlock resulting in skyrocketing costs and completion delays throughout the DOE system.

Therefore, the undersigned boards recommend DOE sponsor a national forum by the end of Calendar Year 2005 to produce technically sound, fiscally responsible, politically acceptable, sustainable, and comprehensive solutions to DOE's system-wide waste and material disposition challenges. The forum should be administered and organized by an entity independent of DOE.

This forum should include broad participation by DOE, the National Governors Association, regulators, Tribal governments, SSABs, and stakeholders. The forum should focus on complex-wide waste disposition challenges, contingencies, assumptions, and requirements. Ultimately, the forum should result in principles, priority-setting criteria, and recommendations to guide common sense solutions to current and future waste disposition challenges.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to your written response.

Sincerely,



James C. Bierer, Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board



Charles A. Phillips, Chair
Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board



Bill Tanner, Chair, Paducah Gaseous
Diffusion Plant Citizens Advisory Board



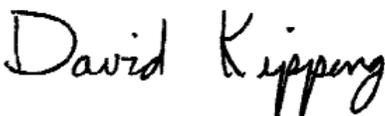
Todd Martin, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board



Tim A. DeLong, Chair
Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board



Victor Holm, Chair
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board



David Kipping, Chair, Idaho National
Engineering & Environmental Laboratory
Citizens Advisory Board



Kerry Trammell, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board



Jean M. Sulc, Chair
Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Sandra Waisley, DOE