



The Deputy Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

March 9, 2004

Mr. Todd Martin  
Chair, Hanford Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your January 15, 2004, letter to Under Secretary Card regarding the transition of closure sites from the Office of Environmental Management (EM) to other Department of Energy (DOE) organizations, specifically the Office of Legacy Management (LM).

Public participation has been and continues to be an integral part of the DOE's cleanup efforts and the Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) have contributed to improving public understanding of site operations. However, with the shift in mission from active cleanup to long-term surveillance and maintenance for closure sites, DOE will need to evaluate the appropriate level of public participation and the most effective way to achieve that involvement. At this time, it is not clear that an EM SSAB approach or model is suitable for sites that are closing with no ongoing cleanup mission. Nonetheless, I have asked Mr. Michael Owen, Director, Office of Legacy Management, to examine the issues surrounding this question and to make his recommendations to me.

The LM office is committed to the following actions regarding public participation and involvement:

- Following the DOE's Public Participation and Community Policy (DOE P 141.2) on public outreach and involvement;
- Providing local public access to the Administrative Record and other records that are deemed relevant and important for protecting human health and the environment at the closure sites. Information will also be available over the Internet at the DOE website: <http://www.energy.gov/>;
- Working with Tribal Nations, State and local governments, and the general public, as appropriate, to develop post-closure public



communication plans that are appropriate for the level of decision-making and public involvement at the closure sites; and

- Meeting with the SSABs at the closure sites on a quarterly basis (at a minimum) during the transition process to understand the level and types of participation that will be needed post-closure. Further, lessons learned from our interactions with these advisory boards will provide guidance concerning other SSABs in future years.

Finally, EM will continue to adjust support for SSABs associated with closure sites as cleanup work is completed. It is important that we develop a complete understanding of the post-closure conditions and requirements before direction is given to the LM office relative to responsibilities for the closure site SSABs.

Thank you for your interest in the transition of sites from EM to the LM program and other DOE organizations. Together, we can make this transition a successful and seamless process.

If you have any further questions, please contact me, Ms. Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7709, or Mr. Michael W. Owen, Director, Office of Legacy Management, at (202) 586-7550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle E. McSlarrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kyle E. McSlarrow