

OREGON HANFORD CLEANUP BOARD

December 5, 2005

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Mr. Matt McCormick
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MS A5-11
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. McCormick:

The Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board is grateful for the work done by your staff, and appreciates their willingness to attend our board meetings and update us on issues of concern. During its last two meetings the board has received considerable information about groundwater issues at Hanford.

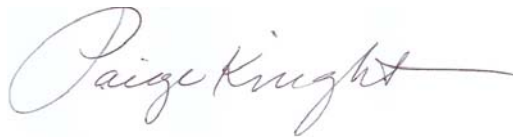
Staff had expressed concern that funding of groundwater projects was in danger of being reduced, and that there may not be adequate funds available to pursue promising new technologies to clean up groundwater. The board heard in the latest presentations that funding is available for groundwater projects and for research into two new technologies, apatite sequestration at the N area and the use of calcium polysulfide in the K area. We are pleased to learn that these approaches have been funded, and request that you advise us if that is not the case.

We were also told that an additional ten million dollars was pledged for further research into new technologies to clean up the groundwater and protect the Columbia River. In this era of significant budget cuts, it is reassuring to hear that these serious concerns will be addressed with adequate funding. The board was encouraged to hear that there is sufficient funding to cover the ongoing groundwater projects as well as remedial technology development.

Certainly research and development should not be funded at the expense of maintaining and continuing the progress already being made on groundwater cleanup, but by the same token, funding for research and development of new technologies will assure the progress towards cleaning up the groundwater at Hanford and protecting the Columbia River.

If the board has misunderstood the funding plans, please let us know. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing continued progress.

Sincerely,



Paige Knight, Chair

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www.energy.state.or.us/nucsafe/HWB/hwboard.htm