

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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Hanford  
Oak Ridge

Idaho  
Paducah

Nevada  
Portsmouth

Northern New Mexico  
Savannah River

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February 27, 2013

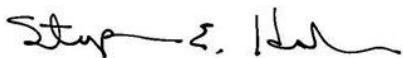
Mr. David Huizenga  
Senior Advisor for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Huizenga:

The Office of Environmental Management's (EM) budget is composed of several components, including costs to maintain the EM complex in a safe 'operations ready' state, out-year compliance costs to meet future regulatory milestones, current-year compliance costs to meet regulatory milestones in the current fiscal year and other costs not directly tied to regulatory milestones.

Included in these costs is funding for the development of new technology that will improve the productivity of cleanup projects across the complex. The enhanced solvent for the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site is an example of a successful research and development (R&D) project.

As the current federal budgeting activities continue to constrain EM cleanup activities, the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) recommends that the Department of Energy not constrain funding in areas of technology R&D. The EM SSAB recognizes that without innovative solutions for the future, the cost and timing of cleanup projects could jeopardize compliance with regulatory milestones and extend cleanup costs beyond reasonable expectations.



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Hanford Advisory Board



Kathleen Bienenstein, Chair  
Nevada SSAB



Ralph Phelps, Chair  
Northern New Mexico  
Citizens' Advisory Board



Margaret Owen, Chair  
Oak Ridge SSAB



Ralph Young, Chair  
Paducah Citizens  
Advisory Board



William Henderson,  
Chair  
Portsmouth SSAB



Donald Bridges, Chair  
Savannah River Site  
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2  
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2