

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

**Hanford
Oak Ridge**

**Idaho
Paducah**

**Nevada
Portsmouth**

**Northern New Mexico
Savannah River**

September 2, 2010

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy, EM-1
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Triay:

The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) Chairs are very pleased with the boost in clean-up that each of our respective sites received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) budget allocations. It has accelerated cleanup, in the near-term, of sites, removing waste that would have been more problematic if left for future remediation.

The ARRA budget has also reduced the need for surveillance and maintenance of our sites with the decommissioning and removal of old facilities and infrastructure. This has also provided access to contaminated soils underneath these facilities in need of excavation. Along with reducing site footprints, our communities will have land returned to them for reuse.

ARRA money has also helped to build a stronger, more highly skilled work force which is greatly needed to address the technical complexities of radioactive waste handling. At some of our sites we have seen them move seamlessly from waste site to waste site, accomplishing removal, treatment and disposal of thousands of cubic yards of soil and debris. The program has had great rewards for DOE and its stakeholders across the country.

As we move beyond 2011—when ARRA money for additional scopes of cleanup will essentially cease—we have concerns. The EM SSAB Chairs believe that DOE/EM should ensure that the momentum of cleanup at our sites through activities funded by ARRA dollars does not cease.

We urge DOE/EM to request base program budgets for 2012 and beyond that are compliant with meeting negotiated cleanup levels and timelines and takes advantage of the skilled workforce now in place at each of our respective sites. In light of any anticipated budget constraints, the EM SSAB Chairs encourage DOE/EM to apply the lessons learned under the ARRA program to implement productivity improvements to

ensure that no momentum is lost with planned projects. This will assure the continued momentum of cleanup and provide a stable workforce in our local communities.

We do not want to see any of the 2012 and beyond base program funds for remediation reduced or diverted away from DOE/EM. We, the EM SSAB Chairs, encourage DOE/EM to request, at a minimum, continued base program funding for all planned projects. In maintaining base program funding, DOE/EM will continue to reduce risks to human health and the environment – a benefit to all citizens.

We applaud all of the DOE/EM cleanup successes of the past couple of years and look forward to a continued, determined effort focused on maximizing cleanup efforts across the EM complex. The EM SSAB Chairs invite DOE/EM to discuss this issue at the fall 2010 Chairs' meeting.



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Hanford Advisory Board



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Val Francis, Co-Chair
Portsmouth SSAB



Richard Snyder, Co-Chair
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Manuel Bettencourt, Chair
Savannah River Site
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-42
Catherine Brennan, EM-42