

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SITE-SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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March 4, 2014

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

Dear Senior Advisor Huizenga:

Title:

Funding for cleanup U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites should be maintained as a top priority.

Background:

Sites across the complex are chartered with cleaning up the waste generated by legacy, Cold War and national defense efforts. Each site has served a specific purpose in developing the nuclear age which the world now lives in. Because of these efforts, contaminated waste resides in each site, which brings considerable health and safety risk to humans and the environment.

Protecting human health and the environment from hazardous waste produced by these sites should be the top priority for all involved. To date, clean-up efforts, as it relates to legacy and Cold War efforts in and around each site, have been jeopardized because of federal funding.

Observations and Comments:

Over the past several years, the federal government has made several budget cuts to programs around the country. In addition, the government also continues to operate under a “continuing resolution” and other “sequestrations” conditions. This has slowed the progress of clean-up efforts around the country, and has put sites at jeopardy of not meeting regulated deadlines. With sites unable to meet statutory deadlines, it opens up the possibility of regulatory agencies having the right to assess excessive fines, which takes away funding from clean-up efforts. Operating under these situations and sequestration conditions does not reduce the risk to human health and safety and to the environment as a whole. It also condones the possibility of using clean-up funds to pay fines. Clean-up funding should have special dispensation from federal budget cuts, sequestrations and continuing resolutions that lower funding levels. EM funding should be held harmless when these conditions are present.

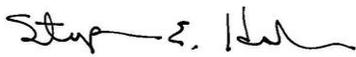
Recommendation:

The Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM-SSAB) recommends that DOE make every effort possible, including addressing Congress with this

recommendation, to ensure that EM funding for all sites across the DOE Complex should be maintained as a top priority as it relates to across the board cut-backs in federal funding, operating under continuing resolutions and any other sequestrations. Federal budget cuts should not include funding for remediation or clean-up efforts.

Intent:

It is the intent of the EM-SSAB to make every possible effort to protect the environment and reduce the risk to human health and safety by securing the best possible funding scenario of EM budgets and to ensure clean-up efforts are not slowed or put in jeopardy.



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cc: Candice Trummell, EM-3.2
Dave Borak, EM-3.2