

September 14, 2000

Mr. Richard Orville Burgess
Box 3577269 S.R.C.I.
777 Stanton Blvd.
Ontario, OR 97914

Dear Mr. Burgess:

I have been requested to respond to your letter to the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated August 11, 2000. You asserted in your letter, among other things, that the Oregon Hanford Waste Board is part of, or is under the direct control of, the NRC.

The Oregon Hanford Waste Board, which recommends policy and gives advice to the Governor of Oregon on Hanford issues, is part of the Hanford Advisory Board (Board). The Board is an independent, non-partisan body consisting of a mix of interests that are affected by Hanford cleanup issues. As set forth in its charter, the primary mission of the Board is to provide recommendations and advice to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on selected policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford site. The Board is involved with execution of the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), which was signed by DOE, EPA and Ecology to bring Hanford into compliance with environmental laws, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Washington State hazardous waste regulations.

Neither the Oregon Hanford Waste Board nor the Board is part of the NRC. Moreover, the NRC is not involved with the Board's activities.

I trust that this response addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

/S/

Stuart A. Treby
Assistant General Counsel for
Rulemaking and Fuel Cycle

cc: Governor John Kitzhaber
Chief Justice Wallace P. Carson
Ms. Patty Yraguen, Oregon Hanford
Waste Board

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