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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

February 20, 2008

Dear Cleanup Caucus Site Presenters:

For 13 years, the annual Cleanup Caucus briefings have helped educate Members of Congress and their staff on the challenges facing the nation's cleanup sites and the progress that is being made each year.

These briefings have a reputation for allowing direct access to the local DOE manager and site contractors to hear first-hand, on an annual basis, what is transpiring at each cleanup site. To maximize this opportunity to listen and converse with those of you on the frontlines of cleanup, there are several enhancements to this year's briefings that I would ask each presenter to join in making.

First, it would be very informative for each site to present a comparison of the state of cleanup in the year 2000 and the state of cleanup in 2008. This will help provide a picture of what has been achieved and what challenges remain for the future.

Also, please include a chart in your presentation that provides a ten-year comparison of the President's budget request and actual appropriations (from FY2000 to FY2009). I will also ask the EM office to provide a similar chart for the entire cleanup program.

Second, please include in your presentation information about any milestones or obligations within environmental agreements with regulators that would, or might, be missed under the funding levels included in the Administration's FY2009 budget request. An assessment of the potential employment impacts these funding levels would have on the site is also requested.

Third, it's requested that each site manager and contractor be prepared to answer several questions at the end of their briefings. These questions are:

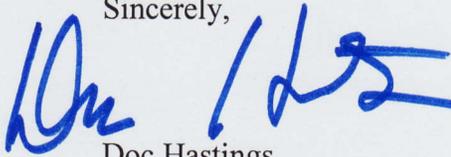
- If your site were to receive an increase over the FY2009 budget request, what should be the priority/priorities to receive the funding?
- Name the three (or more) biggest hurdles to achieving on-time cleanup at your site.
- Do you have any recommendations on how funds could be spent more efficiently at your site to maximize cleanup results?
- What is the most significant challenge facing the Environmental Management program at this time?

The purpose of these questions is to elicit the views and frank assessments of those who are working on a daily basis at sites across the country to meet our nation's cleanup commitments. It's the professional insights and opinions of those on the ground and frontlines of cleanup that are sought. Therefore, it is not necessary to include this information in the slide presentation.

Lastly, to make the most of the presentations that each site prepares for the briefings, it is requested that an electronic copy be provided to my office so that it can be made available to those who were not able to attend in person, which may include the posting of all briefings on the Internet.

Thank you for the work you do to make communities safer and for working to achieve the federal government's cleanup obligations. Your participation in the annual Cleanup Caucus briefings is very valuable to the Congress and it's my hope that these enhancements will make this year's series even more beneficial and constructive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doc Hastings', is written over the typed name.

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress