

ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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December 4, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. J. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and
National Historic Landmarks Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR THE B REACTOR AT THE HANFORD SITE

Dear Mr. Loether:

The Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) is writing you in support of designating Hanford's B Reactor as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The B Reactor is worthy of such a designation due to its important place in American and world history. The masterly-designed facility was home to the world's first large-scale nuclear reactor that helped bring an end to World War II, and its design proved to be a model for similar projects during the era.

ECA is the organization of local communities that are adjacent to or impacted by Department of Energy (DOE) activities. Our board is comprised of elected and appointed officials from local communities impacted by DOE, including representatives from the City of Richland and the Hanford Communities. ECA's mission is to bring together local communities in DOE-impacted communities to share information, establish policy positions, and advocate community interests in order to effectively address an increasingly complex set of constituent, environmental, economic development, and historic preservation needs.

ECA strongly urges the National Park Systems Advisory Board to recommend to the Secretary of Interior NHL designation for Hanford's B Reactor. It is important that this designation happen quickly, as the DOE is now considering whether to tear down parts of the facility.

Should you have any questions regarding ECA's support for designating Hanford's B Reactor as a National Historic Landmark, please contact me at 202.828.2494.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nithin Akuthota', with a large, sweeping initial 'N'.

Nithin Akuthota
Deputy Director

Cc: Pam Larsen, Executive Director, Hanford Communities
Lorraine Anderson, Chair, ECA
Skip Gosling, Chief Historian, US DOE
Cindy Kelly, President, Atomic Heritage Foundation
ECA Board