



**U.S. Department of Energy
Hanford Site**

0080762

APR 13 2009

09-ESQ-116

RECEIVED
APR 14 2009
EDMC

Addressees – See Attached

FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S (DOE) INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE COMBINED COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE CLEANUP ON THE FITZNER/EBERHARDT ARID LANDS ECOLOGY RESERVE (ALE)

The purpose of this letter is to provide formal notification of the DOE's intent to complete an EA to analyze the environmental consequences of: 1) the consolidation of existing public and private communication facilities into a single new consolidated community communication facility on the summit of the ALE; and 2) the dismantling and removal of existing DOE buildings, structures, and debris on the ALE that are no longer needed. In 2008, lease holders were notified of DOE's desire that communication facilities atop ALE be removed. Efforts to identify a suitable relocation for emergency communications proved unsuccessful, ultimately leading to the suggestion from Energy Northwest, one of the leaseholders, to consolidate essential communication activities and operate a combined community communication facility at the existing Energy Northwest Site on the summit of ALE. Other public and private communication facilities have been offered the opportunity to co-locate or consolidate into the proposed "Consolidated Community Communication Facility." In addition, the DOE has an unprecedented opportunity through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate the reduction of DOE's presence (or "footprint") on the ALE by dismantling and removing existing, unnecessary, DOE buildings, structures, and debris.

The proposed actions analyzed in the EA are within the scope of the forthcoming Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management (TC & WM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and are referred to as "interim actions." The DOE will prepare this interim action EA before completing the TC & WM EIS process to take advantage of opportunities to accelerate remediation actions and reduce the physical footprint on the ALE, thus improving the landscape and minimizing impacts to existing cultural and biological resources. We anticipate distributing a draft EA for a 15-day public comment period in the May-June timeframe. It is anticipated the EA will be finalized in the June-July 2009 timeframe.

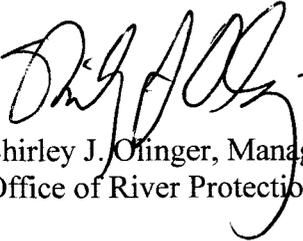
We look forward to your participation in the forthcoming EA process.

Addressees
09-ESQ-116

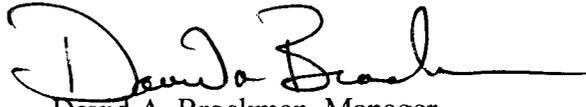
-2-

APR 13 2009

If you have any questions, please contact either of us, or your staff may contact Woody Russell, NEPA Compliance Officer, (509) 373-5227, or Boyd Hathaway, Real Property Officer, (509) 376-7340.



Shirley J. Olinger, Manager
Office of River Protection



David A. Brockman, Manager
Richland Operations Office

ESQ:RWR

cc: C. C. French, RL
H. B. Hathaway, RL
D. S. Shoop, RL
D. J. Wilcox, RL
Administrative Record
Environmental Portal, LMSI

Addressees
09-ESQ-116

-3-

Addressees:

Mr. Terry Marden, Planning Director
Benton County
P.O. Box 910
Prosser, Washington 99350

Ms. Cindy Johnson, City Manager
City of Richland
P.O. Box 190
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Jerod MacPherson, Planning Director
Franklin County
1016 N. 4th Avenue
Pasco, Washington 99301

Ms. Susan L. Leckband, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
713 Jadwin, Suite 4
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Ken Niles, Assistant Director
Nuclear Safety Division
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street Northeast, Suite 1
Salem, Oregon 97301

Mr. Richard Campbell, Acting Program Manager
Office of Environmental Cleanup
Hanford Project Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
309 Bradley Blvd., Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Greg Hughes, Project Lead
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
64 Maple St.
Burbank, Washington 99323

Addressees
09-ESQ-116

-4-

Ms. Jane A. Hedges, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
Washington State
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton
Richland, Washington 99354

Tribal

Mr. Russell Jim, Manager
Environmental Restoration/
Waste Management Program
Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, Washington 98948

Mr. Stuart Harris, Director
Department of Science and Engineering
Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 638
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Mr. Gabriel Bohnee, Director
Environmental Restoration/
Waste Management Program
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Ms. Lela Buck
Wanapum
Grant County P.U.D.
P.O. Box 878
Ephrata, Washington 98823