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RE COMMITMENT CONTROL
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April 22, 1993

Honorable Hazel O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585



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EAP

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

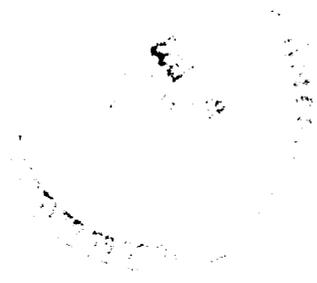
We have been informed that the United States Department of Energy intends to restart the Plutonium Finishing Plant at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation within the next six months. Your agency has continually taken the position that restart of the facility is necessary. Officials within your agency have also repeatedly stated that environmental impacts associated with the resulting effluent discharges are insignificant.

The Citizens of Washington and Oregon strongly support speedy and fiscally responsible cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. However, considerable concern has been continually expressed by the public over the necessity for, environmental impacts of, and safety issues surrounding, restart of the Plutonium Finishing Plant. In an attempt to satisfy the concerns of the public, USDOE has repeatedly been requested to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. Nevertheless, NEPA requirements have been totally ignored.

Additionally, USDOE has continually failed and refused to comply with all formal and informal requests that the signatory public interest organizations and tribe be provided with the documents and/or information needed to independently verify the necessity for restart of PFP and to dispel concerns regarding the safety of that plant. Absent release of documents and information upon which USDOE based its restart decision, the public cannot be assured that the restart decision is technically sound. Furthermore, the continued refusal of USDOE to allow access to these documents does nothing more than increase existing public distrust of the USDOE.

Much has been said of late about the changing "culture" at the USDOE, including a new desire for active participation by an informed public. As evidence of this change in "culture", we would hope that you will agree to provide to the signatory organizations and tribes, as representatives of the concerned citizens of Washington and Oregon, information supporting USDOE's decision to restart the Plutonium Finishing Plant at Hanford. Specifically, we request that within thirty days (30) you provide us with the following information:

- i) all current mission documents and materials management plans for PFP and any documents relating to, referring to or discussing the justifications for restart of PFP;
- ii) the current inventory and detailed description of all materials within the PFP which are slated for processing during the "stabilization runs", including the location and amounts of the material, existing information on the chemical forms and present condition of the plutonium material, and detailed information regarding potential difficulties posed by the deterioration of this material;
- iii) the expected quantities of each category of materials recovered/separated during the



made to the plutonium oxide produced;

iv) all studies which the USDOE and/or its contractors have completed and/or requested concerning alternatives to restart of the plant, including alternatives for stabilizing, treating or storing each category of materials identified in response to paragraph iii above;

v) information concerning the increasing worker exposure to Americium-241 (Am-241) and other materials present within PFP;

vi) information regarding the criticality hazards in tank 102-SY which is to receive additional transuranic waste during the clean-out run and the methods employed by USDOE to determine whether addition of these materials will pose a criticality safety problem;

vii) any and all studies completed by USDOE and/or its contractors concerning available methods for reducing the amount of carbon tetrachloride, presently estimated by Hanford officials at 80 pounds per day, that will be released to the environment during the clean-out run;

viii) any and all studies, reports or assessments relating to, referring or discussing any and all environmental impacts associated with the restart and/or "stabilization runs" of PFP;

xi) all historical documents discussing, detailing or otherwise referring to any contamination incidents, unusual occurrences or explosions within PFP which occurred during previous operation of the plant and which would assist in an assessment of current safety problems and/or risks posed by operation of the plant.

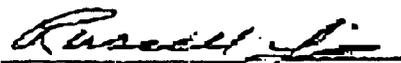
x) information regarding any public involvement process which USDOE intends to implement prior to the restart of PFP and/or other course of action to be employed by USDOE to involve the public prior to restart;

xi) copies of any and all work plans and/or schedules applicable to the clean-out run or any portion thereof.

The citizens of the States of Washington and Oregon must be assured that cleanup decisions are technically sound. Only through an open exchange of pertinent information can this be done. Please provide the requested documents to the Indian nations and organizations below at the given addresses.

Sincerely,

The Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakima Indian Nation
Route 1 Box 78A
White Swan, WA 98952


Russell Jim

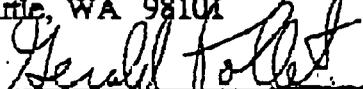
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Richland Operations Office



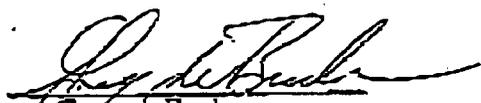
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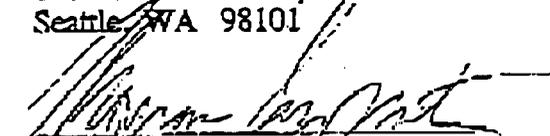
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Thomas E. Carpenter

- cc. Honorable Mike Lowry
- Honorable Barbara Roberts
- Honorable Patty Murray
- Honorable Mark Hatfield
- Honorable Maria Cantwell
- Honorable Jay Inslee
- Honorable Jim McDermott
- Honorable Ron Wyden
- Honorable Al Swift
- Honorable Tom Foley
- Honorable Mike Kreidler
- Honorable Jolene Unsoeld
- Honorable Norm Dicks
- Honorable Elizabeth Furse

