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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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MAY 1 1998



Mr. Russel Jim
Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation
2808 Main Street
Union Gap, Washington 98903

Dear Mr. Jim:

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRCIA)
REQUIREMENTS AND THE GROUNDWATER/VADOSE ZONE INTEGRATION
PROJECT**

The CRCIA requirements document is of great importance to the design and success of the Groundwater/Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project. As we move forward, I would like to review what has been done under the GW/VZ Integration Project to address CRCIA requirements and to reiterate the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office's (RL) commitment to you on what RL believes is our understanding from our meeting with Mr. Woods on Monday, April 27, 1998.

Mr. Woods, of your staff, and I have met on three occasions to discuss how RL can incorporate the CRCIA requirements into the GW/VZ Integration Project. During these meetings, we discovered many areas of potential agreement. I asked the contractor integration team to sort the CRCIA requirements into the modules that the integration team has identified for developing future GW/VZ workscope. This activity has been completed. Two facilitated meetings have been held with the CRCIA team to discuss how RL can use the CRCIA document and work with the CRCIA team. As a result of these meetings, RL has committed to use the CRCIA requirements as a starting point for developing the RL requirements for the integrated GW/VZ workscope. It was agreed upon by all parties to put aside the CRCIA team proposal that a CRCIA Board assume management of RL's Hanford GW/VZ workscope.

At our most recent meeting on April 27, 1998, Mr. Woods provided a draft agenda for RL, regulators, stakeholders, and Tribal Nations to address reconciling the CRCIA requirements to GW/VZ Integration Project requirements. I agree with the proposed agenda, although I believe we need more than one meeting in order to cover all agenda topics. As we discussed, the outcome of the meetings would be a better understanding of each other's approach, similarities, and differences. To expedite this process, I will initiate a discussion of a meeting date at the next public meeting of the GW/VZ Integration Project on May 4, 1998. We will not finalize a meeting date without Mr. Woods' direct participation.

Mr. Russell Jim

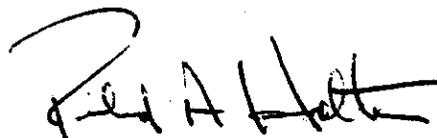
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I look forward to these future meetings with your staff and other stakeholders. I believe that when we roll up our sleeves and work together that we will find a common ground to build a consensus and productively move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Holten". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard A. Holten, Director
Remediation Projects

RP:RAH