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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

July 15, 1997

Mr. Robert Stewart
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550 (HO-12)
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. David Holland
Department of Ecology
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Mr. Laurence Gadbois
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Blvd, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352

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Dear Messrs. Stewart, Holland, and Gadbois:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the *Screening Assessment and Requirements for a Comprehensive Assessment* (DOE/RL-96-16). The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council wishes to convey the enclosed finding from our review of the document.

In brief, the NRTC applauds the good work which has been done on the Phase I screening assessment. We also support continued comprehensive impact assessment at Hanford. Finally, the NRTC looks forward to working with the CRCIA Team to the mutual benefit of both endeavors.

Please refer to the attachment for the full consensus findings of the NRTC.

Sincerely



Geoff Tallent
CRCIA Review Work Group

Enclosure

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

FINDING 97-01

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (NRTC) has reviewed the *Screening Assessment and Requirements for a Comprehensive Assessment*. The NRTC applauds the good work which has been done on the Phase I screening assessment. The NRTC also supports a continued comprehensive impact assessment. We believe such an effort would improve understanding and decision making at Hanford, and in the course of the impact assessment, establish a body of information of benefit to the NRTC.

The Phase I Screening Assessment will help direct the trustees to natural resources which may have been, or continue to be, injured by releases from the Hanford Site. The screening assessment will also aid the NRTC in conducting injury assessments by identifying potential contaminant pathways, species of concern, data gaps, and voids in scientific understanding.

The trustees agree with the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) team that there is a need for a comprehensive estimate of river-related human health and ecological risks, and an evaluation of the sustainability of the river ecosystem. That information will serve both Hanford Site decision makers and the people and communities affected by cleanup decisions. We support continued study of Hanford contaminants and their impact on the Columbia River. Data and information gathered through such studies, particularly when directed at filling gaps identified in the screening assessment, can support both future impact assessment and the NRTC. Similarly, injury studies being conducted by the NRTC may benefit the CRCIA in impact assessment.

Although the NRTC and the CRCIA have different origins and purposes, we study much the same subject matter. As our projects mature we must work together to ensure that each of our efforts at data collection and studies will be mutually beneficial. While the NRTC does not believe that the structure envisioned in appendix II-D of the CRCIA will accomplish that purpose, we look forward to meeting with the CRCIA team in the future to better define our respective roles.

CERTIFICATION

Finding 97-01 was adopted by consensus of the Hanford Natural Resource Council on July 14, 1997, with no abstentions and no separate opinions.