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State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N • Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia, WA

January 29, 2004

Mr. Keith Klein
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
Post Office Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Klein:

SUBJECT: HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT
MANAGEMENT PLAN

The U.S. Department of Energy (US DOE) has the delegated authority to respond to releases of hazardous substances at the Hanford site. As the remedial project manager responsible for responses to releases, it is our understanding that you are required to complete remedial investigations/feasibility studies (RI/FS) in accordance with the National Contingency Plan, 40 CFR 300, and you are required to coordinate necessary assessments with natural resource trustees - 40 CFR 300.430(2)(b)(7).

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) participates in the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (HNRTC). The HNRTC formed a Project Management Plan (PMP) working group in accordance with the Council by-laws. The PMP working group produced a draft Project Management Plan. Our agency has been an active participant in this working group. We believe that the draft PMP is an acceptable "planning level estimate" of the level of effort for natural resource trustee participation in necessary assessments. We are requesting that you seek to coordinate with the natural resource trustees by including the PMP in the baseline cost estimate and budgeting process for FY05 and out years.

It is essential to include the PMP in the normal budgeting process and it will be the most cost-effective means to coordinate the necessary assessments. The alternative would be for WDFW and the other trustees to complete independent assessments at a redundant cost to US DOE.

Sincerely,

Greg Hueckel, Assistant Director
Habitat Program

cc: Lauri Vigue

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DOE-RL/RLCC