



United States Department of the Interior

911 N.E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232-2036

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
AES/DNRC

NOV 22 2006

Mr. Philip Rigdon, Deputy Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
P.O. Box 151  
Toppenish, Washington 98948

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 24 2008

**EDMC**

Dear Mr. Rigdon,

The Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the "Public Review Draft, Preliminary Assessment Screen (PAS) for the Hanford Facility." At this time, the Department supports going forward with the natural resource damage assessment process which includes issuance of a PAS. This effort is consistent with planning efforts by the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (Council), for 2006-2007 where a PAS was identified as a top priority at the October, 2006 Council meeting.

Submission of a PAS to the Council at this time is consistent with the Department's natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) regulations. Coordination of the NRDA actions and remedial processes leads to a more effective and efficient remedial action and restoration outcome.

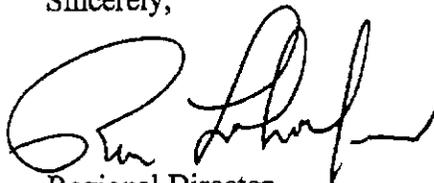
The Department encourages collaboration and consultation in this effort with all our co-trustees. We recommend a discussion of the draft PAS occur with the Council members at the December 12-14, 2006, Council meeting before completing a final PAS. We will provide more specific comments at that meeting. This discussion will hopefully lead to consolidated participation and support of a final PAS by the Council or individual trustees.



If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Terry Rabot, Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services or Don Steffeck at (503) 231-6151 or Shelly Hall in our Solicitors Office at (202) 208-3621. We look forward to working cooperatively with you and our other co-trustees on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ren Lohoefer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ren Lohoefer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Regional Director,  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Portland, Oregon and Authorized Official for  
the Department of the Interior for the Hanford  
Site