



WASHINGTON PUBLIC POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM

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June 2, 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
HRA-EIS Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

RECEIVED

JUN 04 1999

DOE-RL/DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL
ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

The Washington Public Power Supply System has reviewed the HRA EIS. We have two areas of concern related to future land use on the Hanford Reservation.

The Washington Public Power Supply System leases approximately 2000 acres on the Hanford Reservation, for three large projects. The first of these is WNP-2, an operating 1200 MW commercial nuclear power plant. A recent publication of the Nuclear Energy Institute entitled Meeting Our Clean Air Needs with Emission-Free Generation notes that for 1997, this plant helped to meet the energy needs of the Northwest while avoiding the production of 62,000 short tons of sulfur dioxide, 1.7 million metric tons of carbon, and 28,000 short tons of nitrogen oxide. While your document did spend time generally addressing the environmental impacts of various activities on the reservation, including the operation of WNP-2, the record in your EIS would benefit from the addition of the environmental *benefits* of this activity as well.

To ensure that the public's health and safety has been addressed and protected, this plant was duly licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Washington, through the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. These same agencies continue to protect the public's health and safety, through their continuing oversight and regulation of our operations.

Finally, the Bonneville Power Administration relies on the output of this facility to meet its commitments to utilities and other customers throughout the Pacific Northwest.

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**COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL
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Request Number 1.

The land use decisions and priorities for the Hanford Reservation should continue to allow for the operation of WNP-2 for power generation. Stating this in the converse, do not allow policies, priorities or decisions carried out in the name of land use management to become a de facto mechanism to restrict the activities necessary to, or in support of, electrical generation at WNP-2.

The other two projects on our leased land in the southeast part of the reservation were WNP 1/4. These twin projects were also to be commercial nuclear power plants. Each of them has been terminated. Each of these facilities has a substantial investment in infrastructure, including office buildings, high bay buildings, heavy duty roads and rail access, and water delivery systems. These buildings can be reused to house industrial concerns, which in turn can provide wage-earner jobs in non-nuclear businesses. When successful, these businesses can augment the employment base needed in the Tri-Cities when it transitions away from cleanup jobs.

Request Number 2.

As you craft your final decision for future land uses, draw from options that provide for industrial development in and around WNP 1/4, and from there south to the 300 Area.

Thank you for your treatment of our projects and facilities in the draft document, and for your positive consideration of our needs in your final decision. If you have any questions, please call me, at (509) 377-4279.

Respectfully,



Rod L. Webring
Vice President, Operations Support/ PIO

CVH

Attachment