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State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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May 21, 2004

Keith Klein
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA. 99352

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Dear Mr. Klein:

The non-PRP natural resource trustees are encouraged by DOE-Richland's interest in natural resource issues at the May 12 Natural Resource Trustee meeting. We appreciate DOE-RL's offer to fund a natural resource damage pre-assessment screen for Hanford.

The Non-PRP natural resource trustees feel both time and money could be saved by proceeding directly to the assessment of injury without a pre-assessment screen. A screen is not needed to understand that groundwater, surface water, land and biota have been injured by releases of hazardous substances at Hanford.

Nevertheless, if DOE is going to conduct a pre-assessment screen, the non-PRP trustees want to fully participate in that screen, or to conduct one of their own funded by DOE. We have a meeting proposed for June 3, 2004 beginning at 1 PM at the Washington Ecology offices in Richland to address issues of process, scope, schedule and funding of both joint and separate pre-assessment screens.

Our objective is to reach tentative agreement on these issues at that meeting which can be formalized in a Memorandum of Agreement or other appropriate document among the various entities.

We look forward to meeting with you on June 3.

Sincerely,

Lauri Vigue, Chair
Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

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