



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

## Department of Consumer and Business Services

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*Envelope postmarked Nov 4 '98*

October 22, 1998

Mr. Larry Gadbois  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5  
Richland WA. 99352

Re: Oregon Office of Energy's comments on Proposed Tri-Party Agreement Modifications and Reference Documents for the K-Basin Spent Nuclear Fuel Project.

Dear Mr. *Gadbois*

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes to the K-Basin Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. Oregon has long considered the K-Basins one of the most urgent threats to public health and safety that exists at Hanford.

Our greatest concern deals with the public comment package itself. There is insufficient information in this package to make public comment meaningful. The package does not contain the baseline and the assumptions used in developing this baseline. Without these, it is not possible to verify the milestones proposed represent the safest, most realistic, most expeditious set of goals. We recommend the public comment period be extended, or a second public comment period be opened once the detailed basis information is available for review.

It is unclear if Assumption 3 under the "History and Basis of Agreement Negotiations" section of change number M-34-98-01A includes remediation of the groundwater and vadose zone surrounding the K-basins. This should be clarified.

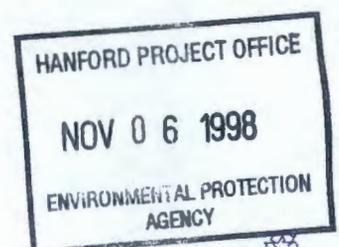
Several of the bullets in the Framework for Spent Nuclear Fuel Project Improvement contain vague and unmeasurable actions. For example, who defines what a "maximum effort" is? Or, how is achievement measured for an objective whose success criterion is "as soon as possible?" We recommend that these criteria be replaced with concrete, measurable indicators of success.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Huston of my staff at (503)378-4456

Sincerely,

*Mary Lou Blazek*

Mary Lou Blazek  
Administrator  
Nuclear Safety Division  
Oregon Office of Energy



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