

# The Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation

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August 27, 1998

RECEIVED

Richard Holten  
DOE Project Director  
Groundwater, Vadose Zone, Columbia River Integration  
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, H0-12  
Richland, Washington 99352

AUG 31 1998

DOE-RL/DIS



Dear Richard Holten:

CRESP appreciates your invitation, through our Technical Liaison, Tim Ewers, to participate in the Risk Technical Team of the Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project. Our Management Board currently is considering your request and would like to assist the effort in a meaningful manner. However, we seek clarification on the nature and relationship of the multiple advisory panels that seem to be associated with the Integration Project.

In reading the announcement of the formation of the Project's overall Expert Panel, we were pleased to note the expertise in ecological health with the appointment of Dr. James Karr, Professor of Fisheries and Zoology, University of Washington, who also is a member of the CRESP research effort. However, the Expert Panel retains a heavy concentration in areas related to hydrology and geology, a circumstance that impedes the Panel's ability to provide recommendations and advice with regard to "environmental health, public health, and cultural consequences." (DOE-RL Press Release, August 13, 1998) If that is part of the Panel's charge, we urge that DOE broaden the Panel with members who possess relevant expertise and public recognition.

We understand that the Expert Panel may establish subpanels on specific topics. In that regard, we seek a clearer understanding of the relationship between the Technical Teams on specific subjects, and the Expert Panel's subpanels; are these entities designed to overlap, or will they be independent of each other? What specific products are expected from the Technical Teams, and who will receive these products?

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It also appears that the Risk Technical Team is being formed after other disciplinary Teams. If this is the case, we recommend that the work of the Risk Team proceed in parallel with the other Teams, and that Teams have the opportunity to interact across disciplines. Presuming that risk considerations occur only after other efforts have taken form compromises the value that risk consideration can bring to the planning process.

We would also appreciate an estimate of what time commitments would be required of Technical Team members, and how long the Teams are expected to remain active. Lastly, we note that the expertise of individual CRESP faculty or staff might also be relevant to Technical Teams other than Risk.

We appreciate your invitation, but desire clarification of the matters described above in order to determine how best to respond. If you have questions about the material in this letter, or desire further discussions, please feel free to contact me, or Tim Ewers (208-882-4674), or John Abbotts (206-616-3439), whose duties include science coordination at CRESP-UW.

Sincerely,

*Elaine Faustman* <sup>SUS</sup>

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