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# Oregon

DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES

HEALTH DIVISION



July 14, 1997

Robert Stewart  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550- (HO-12)  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Stewart:

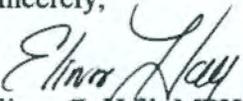
On behalf of the Oregon Health Division, I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) information meeting held on May 21, 1997 at the State Office Building in Portland.

The Phase I (screening assessment) report showed some areas of Columbia River involvement. As the public health agency for the State of Oregon, we must emphasize activities that prevent further Columbia River contamination. We strongly urge the CRCIA to maximize its efforts to characterize the risks from the Hanford reservation and plan remedial actions to preclude additional contamination of the vados zone. Elimination of contaminants to the river will be the most effective strategy to protect the river and protect public health and safety in this vital area of the Columbia River.

Also, it appears that further detailed study of future potential human health effects may be more appropriate after characterization of contamination risks and immediate preventive clean up are completed on the Hanford site. The additional data from the site characterization may well add significantly to the usefulness of further study. Data from the Division's Columbia River Environmental Radiological Program may also be useful during this latter phase.

We look forward to working more closely with the CRCIA Team in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Elinor C. Hall, MPH  
Administrator

ECH:sd

**RECEIVED**  
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John A. Kitzhaber  
Governor



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