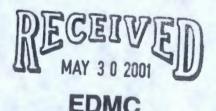


Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office P.O. Box 550 Richland, Washington 99352 MAY 4 2001

01-ERD-036

Mr. Patrick Sobotta, Director Environmental Restoration/ Waste Management Program Nez Perce Tribe P.O. Box 365 Lapwai, Idaho 83540



Dear Mr. Sobotta:

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND DISPOSAL FACILITY (ERDF) MITIGATION CONCERNS

Thank you for your January 8, 2001, letter regarding mitigation for cells 1 and 2 of the ERDF Project. Your letter and attachments helped me better understand the long-standing concerns raised by the Nez Perce Tribe and other members of the Natural Resource Trustee Council.

I would like an opportunity to meet with you and the other trustees to discuss in more detail both of your concerns regarding the impacts of ERDF construction and the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operation Office's (RL) position on the efforts taken to mitigate those impacts. We also need to discuss the budgetary constraints RL is currently facing and the impacts those constraints have on any unplanned work. To facilitate these discussions, I'm planning to attend your next meeting on May 31, 2001, in Richland, Washington, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

If you should have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Jamie Zeisloft at (509) 372-0188.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Klein Manager

ERD:OCR

cc w/attach:

J. H. Richards, CTUIR

L. Goldstein, Ecology

R. Johnson, FDH

S. Hughes, ODOE

T. O'Brien, USFWS

J. McConnaughey, WDFW

R. Jim. YN

T. Zielman, YN
Admin Record (ERDF)