

# START

HOOD RIVER

9 13317.0152

November 14, 1994

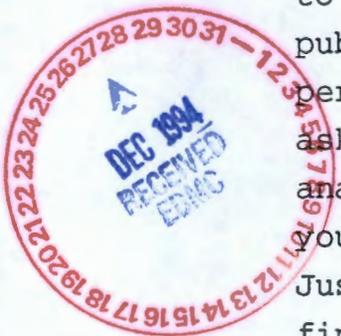
52

0039522

TAPE 1 SIDE A:

Ladies and gentlemen I'm Ralph Patt. I'm a hydro-geologist from the Oregon Water Resource Department. I'm representing the State of Oregon here tonight through the Oregon Department of Energy and the Oregon Hanford Waste Board. I want to welcome all you and I'll turn it over to Linda now to do the presentations.

L: Good evening. I'm going to be service facilitator for tonight's meeting and were our goal is to have as many of you speak as would like to speak and if you have questions or comments as we move along, I hope you all got an agenda for the meeting, and our intention is to hear from the agencies about the environmental restoration and the environment restoration disposal facility. Environmental refocussing. And then to hear from some of the stakeholders or representatives of the interest groups about these two issues and then if there are any of you who can't stay long, but came with the intention of making a comment on the record. We'll give you a chance right then to come forward. This is where we say the first of the public comment periods. Then we would like to spend a period of time just hearing from you informally, having you ask questions of the panelists and giving the various analysts a chance to offer their perspective in answer to your questions. So that's informal, not on the record. Just anything you want to ask about these projects. And finally we'll end up with a formal comment period where what you say is taken down for the record and will shared with everyone who is concerned with looking at the record and responding to what you have to say in your formal comments. Any questions about that? We usually like to stay fairly informal here in Hood River because that's how most of you we've had talked with before like to have the



meetings run, but there is a lot of information to convey. I hope you all checked in the back of the room. There's lots of printed material about these projects and other things going on at Hanford. With that, I would like to start with Roger Stanley and just have each of the panelists introduce him or herself and say what agency you're from and whatever else you want to say beside hello.

RS: Okay thank you Linda. My name's Roger Stanley. I'm with the Washington Department of Ecology. I'm their Hanford Project Manager and over the last few months I've been working with the state on TPA negotiations.

L: Okay, thanks, Doug?

DS: My name's Doug Sherwood. I'm the lead negotiator on environmental restoration activities for the US Environmental Protection Agency and I'm also EPA's Hanford Project Manager.

MT: I'm Mike Thompson. I'm with the Department of Energy. I'm a hydrologist there and I served as a lead negotiator for the environmental refocussing negotiations for the Department of Energy in it's previous lifetime.

PE: I'm Pam Ennis with the EPA. I'm the ERDF project manager.

OR: I'm Owen Robertson with the US Department of Energy and I'm the ERDF project manager for the department.

NH: I'm Norm Heppner. I'm with the State of Washington and I've been working with both Owen and Pam on the central landfill at Hanford to help get along with the clean up.

L: We have a request for those of you who think they might be

asking questions or making comments. We've combined two topics that are very closely related, but they are different topics in terms of creating the records of these meetings and responding to the formal record which is the requirement we have these kinds of meetings. So if you know that you're asking your question about environmental restoration refocussing or about the environmental restoration disposal facility. If you have a specific question about either any one and you know the difference, if you could tell us which one you're asking about that will help when we go to sort out the record. If you don't know and you just have a question. You're saying what are we talking about here, that's okay too. But if you do know it will help us. Okay so I want to start with the agency presentations. Okay, Doug.

DS: Well I would like to welcome you this evening on behalf of all three parties. We're trying something a little different tonight. Instead of having three successive talks, one by each lead negotiator, to cut it down and to make it a little shorter, what we're trying to do tonight is just have one speaker for the agencies so we, for the three parties, so we can get to your comments earlier. As Linda stated, we got two topics for tonight's meeting. One is the refocussing of the environmental restoration program. That's really the program that looks at the superfund clean up and clean up of decontamination and decommissioning of nuclear facilities at the Hanford site. The final clean up and putting them to bed and the other program is really very closely related to this same goal and objective and it's actually a part of the environmental restoration program and that's reviewing the proposed plan and have a public comment period on the proposed plan for the environmental restoration disposal facility. This is really a key facility for the environmental restoration

program to achieve it's mission. If we don't have a disposal facility to place wastes after we clean them up, we are not going to get much clean up accomplished and this is an important decision which supports the environmental restoration program. So I feel fortunate that we're doing both of those tonight and hopefully not having a bunch of extra public meetings on these issues. I would like to speak first about the negotiation process and what we've done, the scope of the milestones that we've negotiated and a little bit of status of clean up at Hanford and then finally discussion of what the primary changes are to milestones that were originally in the agreement and then a couple of what I think is appropriate questions based on the citizen's guide that was produced for the three parties. Basically a review of the environmental restoration program and the renegotiations. And then I would like to present a lead into the environmental restoration facility discussion. So with that I'll go ahead. The negotiation process for refocussing the environmental restoration program really started last year when we were going through the tank waste remediation negotiations. We received a lot of input from stakeholders and tribes that dealt with environmental restoration, not just the tours activities and those activities started numerous pump and treat efforts across the site, really left a change in our priorities in moving towards clean up actions along the Columbia River and really changed the way we look at the environmental restoration program at Hanford. As a result of those negotiations that went on last year, it was clear that our base program, the program that we were proceeding on didn't exactly fit with the initiatives that we had undertaken as the result of last year's negotiations. This was because the original negotiations and the original Tri-Party Agreement were pretty simply regulatory, by the book, priorities. Do X

number of workplans per year. It didn't describe which ones were the most important to do or give us a firm foundation for why we should address certain sites early on. The input we received from the public really helped us identify where we should focus on our efforts in the near term. In addition to the reasons for why we started these negotiations, we also started something in the tours process that I think is extremely valuable and that's we had a more open negotiation process where we met with the public and with stakeholder groups and with the Hanford Advisory Board and the Indian tribes. More or less on a regular basis throughout the negotiation process and these negotiations really started officially in July of this year with the signing of an agreement in principle by the three parties on what issues would be covered during this renegotiation. What I have here is a view graph of essentially the clean up process and the milestones that we use at Hanford to drive the clean up process for the environmental restoration program. Milestone M-13, if you'll look along the far left side is the middle of all RIFS workplans or RFICMS workplans which are really the planning document for how you would investigate a site and what potential, feasible alternatives there would be for cleaning it up. Milestone 15 are the set of milestones that govern how the those RIFS workplans are implemented and the milestones for submitting individual RI and FS documents to complete that process. M-15 is completed really when the proposed plans are submitted which actually identifies the preferred alternative for any clean up action as does the proposed plan for the environmental restoration disposal facility that we'll be talking about later this evening. Then we have a series of public comments which is exactly what we're in tonight for the environmental restoration disposal facility. Followed by a record of decision or in the case of RECLA, a modification

to Hanford site-wide permit. These two documents although it says Milestone 16, the record of decision is really something written by the regulatory agencies and agreed to by three parties as well as the record permit modification.

NV: ???

DS: Some of the information I'm going to be covering here is also going to be in the executive summary in the information package that was distributed for the environmental restoration refocussing effort. I'm not going to get into as much details with the numbers tonight. Not that I don't know them, trust me I'm usually accused of being too specific on a lot of these things. We're going to try and do this in an overview fashion so I don't get people confused with numbers. Then the final part of M-16 which is really the key to milestones is setting an effective schedule for performing the remediation and completing the remedial design. That really gets us through the end of the clean up process. The other two milestones in addition to this past practice clean up process that we dealt with in the ERA refocussing program is the schedule for completion of closure activities for RECLA land disposal units. These are other waste sites that are designated as RECLA treatment storage or disposal units which means they were active after November 19, 1980. The effective date of RECLA and received hazardous waste. We included this milestone in the renegotiation because of the effort to try to streamline the regulatory effort for the clean up process and to coordinate these activities for clean up of those land disposal units with the clean up of past practice operable units. So what we're effectively saying is when we get to the first part, the submittal of the work plan at that phase we will submit a workplan that covers not only the past practice units in that operable

unit, but also any RECLA PSD unit that's located. So we're doing the process concurrently. The last milestone that we have developed for this process covers the N area pilot project. That is a project that attempts to use regulatory streamlining for essentially just what I've described. Describing closure of two RECLA treatment storage and disposal units. The 13011325 N cribs and the 1324NA pond and disposal unit. Those are two RECLA units that are located in N area. In addition to that we also have milestones covering the deactivation activities for the N reactor facility. And those are really the milestones that were addressed during these negotiations. What I'd like to do now is go through some of these changes on an area basis rather than on an operable unit or very site specific basis and try to cover the issues of importance as far as geographic areas of the site. You won't hear much on ERA refocussing about the arid lands ecology. Oh, thank you.

NV: ???

NV: I was about ready to come up and put it on.

DS: Okay.

NV: ???

DS: The portion of the site referred to as the arid lands ecology reserve as you can see is located here in green. That portion of the site has been covered by a record of decision for the 1100 area. Clean up actions in this part of the site are now complete and were completed by the end of October. There's still a final report due on that clean up effort, but we're not really going to cover that as far as ERA refocussing goes. There were really no changes because this part of the site was already in the clean up

process. The area north of the Columbia River, the area in yellow, that is an area called the north slope, or the Waklukee slope, it is also currently completing a clean up process. In fact the clean up process is done. We're still waiting for some documentation on removal of wastes from that area. We're hoping to proceed with a record of decision based on the actions that we've already taken for that area and so there really isn't any big change to our focus for that area. The all other areas portion that's in blue there are not many major changes for that area as well. Investigations will be underway by the end of this year for the remaining operable units in the 300 area and the 1100 area of course as I mentioned is already covered by a record of decision. The other minor areas in here which there are some changes are these isolated units or these ones that are called 100 IU. Those are two units which are pre-Hanford units. They are landfills from the old town of White Bluffs and landfills from the town of Hanford. Those would not have been a high priority in the previous scheme of things in the previous actions, but because of the desire for a future use for these areas, we've significantly elevated their priorities so these are operable units that we're going to get to earlier. The areas where there really has been a significant change are the last three I'd like to talk about. The Columbia River, the reactors along the river, and the central plateau. For the Columbia River we have increased our efforts along the Columbia River both in terms of assessing contamination and looking at early potential for clean up activities. There is or will be very soon a study come out for public comment on removal of river pipes in the Columbia River from reactor outfall structures. There are other efforts going on right now on the Columbia River assessment program. We have just completed some recent sediment sampling behind dams along the Columbia River. There are some increased

priorities there for analyzing the nature of contamination in the river. But the area where we really expect that there's going to be an accelerated clean up program is in the area covered by reactors along the river. That's speed up is really based on a couple of different things. One independent of what we'd all like to think there are not going to be significantly growing budgets at Hanford in the future and some delays into investigations are needed to free up funds for doing the clean up actions that the public really desires and those are the actions that clean up sites along the river. And so there really is a significant acceleration of the clean up actions along the river. That can be shown by looking at the schedule for completing operable unit investigations in the previous agreement which was complete all investigations by December 2005. We have set a new milestone in this effort to complete all investigations in the 100 areas by 12/31/99 or before the year 2000. And the units identified here KR2, KR3, FR2, IU2, and IU6 are the last five operable units to be investigated in the 100 areas. So by initiating and completing these investigations before the year 2000, we will effectively accelerate the clean up schedule for the 100 areas. As the process describes setting milestones in the clean up program by the year 2000 for cleaning up sites along the river and these are the last five expected to be completed. The last area which I'd like to discuss is the central plateau. That's the 200 area. It's also the site of the proposed environmental restoration disposal facility. This area, the site there are a significant number of operable units in this area. There are 37 total operable units that we're concerned with in this environmental restoration program. There are six operable units that have been moved from consideration in the 200 area. Those are the six tank farm operable units that we have dropped from this program. And the reason is if we

are to maintain the 2018 day for completing environmental restoration program at Hanford and completing the clean up portion that we have agreed to, there's not a way to complete clean up of those tank farm operable units. Many of them will still have waste in them at 2018. So we're not in a position to say those six operable units can effectively be remediated before the waste is removed. I just brought one reactor area as an example. I don't know. It's a little bright in here to see this. Can everybody see this okay? The reason I put this reactor area up here is because so I could go about describing really what it means to include decontamination and decommissioning into the clean up agreement. The clean up agreement as it was originally chartered dealt with only clean up of those hazardous waste sites or what's called solid waste management units identified in our agreement within the K area, for example. It did not cover removal or tearing down and cleaning up all of these other ancillary facilities and buildings within this area and those would prohibit us from meeting our future site goals and objectives for unrestricted use for this area. It's clear by just doing the clean up process for the waste sites, we were not going to meet the values that were given to us by our stakeholders and we thought that was a powerful reason for including this in our agreement and so now instead of just dealing with the waste sites which are like these basins located along the river or the liquid waste disposal sites that are also located in this area. We now have a commitment to clean up all of the ancillary facilities with the exception of the reactor buildings which are, this is a 105 K East building and 105 K West building. Those are the two facilities which we now do not have a commitment to clean up. There are also facilities in here which we may want to use for the long term future at Hanford. If there are those types of facilities in an area, we don't want to

clean those up and we want to get your buy in to leave them there. And this is also a fine example of that. These two basins that you see that are darker are actually filled with water. They're used as fish rearing ponds now for salmon and I think the most recent is they still have some catfish in one of them. I mean they're actually being used to restore fish in the Columbia River and in other parts of the State of Washington. So these will likely have a long term use. These are not contaminated basins. They were used for the river water and treating the river water before it went into the reactors. They are being used for the good beneficial use today. There's a likelihood that we will not be tearing those down. They're serving a valuable purpose. And the last area that I wanted to discuss briefly before I move on is the N area. The N reactor area. This is the N reactor area which has a couple of major issues associated with it. We have recently set milestones in the N area. The pilot project to deal with several of them. One of them being a barrier wall at N Springs which this is the N Springs area. We've set schedules for submittal of workplans and development of sampling and analysis plans for the two RECLA units which this is 1301N and this 1325N. We've also set schedules for deactivation activities within the N reactor facility itself and in addition in this process we have added some waste sites in the Hanford generating plant area. Oh god come on. Can everybody bear with my fingers? I'm sorry. But really we're looking at it as an overall program and I think the one thing that's really important is we have tried to balance the priorities of environment and clean up with the priorities of reducing risk to workers within the plant. I think that is an important point. I think I really covered to a certain extent some of the issues that have been brought out by the citizens guide. That is really what's getting accelerated and that's the clean up

along the Columbia River and the decontamination and decommissioning of facilities that previously we had no commitment to clean up. In terms of the 200 areas, what is getting delayed? What is really getting delayed is investigation of some source operable units in the 200 area and some closure activities for RECLA units within the 200 area. I don't think this is just delay for delay's sake. I think there's some good reasons for this work to be delayed and I would like to give you a couple of them. I realize they're technical issues. For many of the wastes in the 200 area, we don't currently have treatment capabilities available. And those treatment capabilities will likely not be available for some number of years. One example would be if we end up requiring vitrification or some kind of a treatment for the wastes in 200 areas. ER just environmental restoration just does not have the funds to go out and build it's own vitrification plant for its' program. There's going to be a vitrification plant at Hanford. It's scheduled for completion in 2005. This program can't afford to build one and do the clean up that people want. We have to wait for that technology to be available. Similarly we have the same problem with transuranic waste. Transuranic waste, there's not currently a treatment facility for, at Hanford and there will not be for a number of years. So there are issues here that we on the environmental restoration program cannot simply solve by ourselves. There has to be one solution. It has to be a Hanford solution. And it has to meet the needs of many programs. I guess in conclusion we think these changes are good changes. We think they reflect stakeholder values and input we've received from the stakeholders and the tribes. I think we've all learned from the negotiation process and think that having open negotiations with input from tribes and stakeholders throughout the process has been a success. It certainly

doesn't lend itself to a lot of surprises at the end, although it makes the negotiation process a little bit tougher. And I think this is something that the people of Hood River should be at least happy with. I think we've taken your considerations into account and I think we are addressing things along the Columbia River which according to comments I've heard here in the past really are your major concerns. Now I would like to just briefly go through a few issues prior to Pam Ennis taking over and discussing the environmental restoration disposal facility. There's really a couple of things I'd like to cover,

NV: ???

DS: faster, there's been a lot of things of why we need the environmental restoration disposal facility and the need is really for disposal primarily for contaminated soils from the 100 area. This is an example of an excavation that's taken place in the 100 F area to essentially dig up contaminated soil. This is principally what's going to go to the environmental restoration disposal facility. Here's another picture which shows the ways in which we might measure the levels of contamination. It's essentially a remote controlled sensing device that can run over the ground surface and measures the concentration of certain key radio nucleids in the environment. Really to have an effective clean up along the Columbia River, we need a place to move the contamination and this is our shot at a place to put the contaminated soils principally from this clean up activity. When we started this process of siting the environmental restoration disposal facility, we really had some pre-meetings that attempted to take into account and consideration the NEPA process. The National Environmental Policy Act. The process which allows you to do early scoping and get early public involvement and input

on the decision making process. We also started down concurrent processes to allow RECLA waste as well as CIRCLA waste to be disposed of in this facility. About half way through the process, we revised our regulatory pathway and essentially focussed on the CIRCLA pathway of issuing a proposed plan and a CIRCLA record of decision for siting and construction of the environmental restoration disposal facility. So if you were familiar with that project from the last time we were here to speak with you, we ??? along a three type of regulatory concurrent pathway. Today it's basically we've decided among the three parties that in order to keep clean up on schedule and to get on with it, we really needed to concentrate on one pathway. So today what you'll be hearing is about the CIRCLA process for the environmental restoration disposal facility. In terms of decisions for waste to go to the environmental restoration disposal facility, in approximately two months, there will be the initial decision documents for cleaning up these radioactively and hazardous chemically contaminated soils along the Columbia River. The first ones that will be up for your review are for the 100 BC1, 100 BR1, and 100 HR1 operable units. Those are really our first decisions that are coming out on cleaning up contamination along the Columbia River. We need a facility in place to accept that waste when those clean up decisions are made. And what we're here to present to you tonight is how we're going to go about getting a facility. Thank you. So I'd like to introduce Pam Ennis.

PE: Good evening everyone. As Doug described, changes are underway that leading to an earlier clean up of the area along the Columbia River. Clean up which will likely require removal of large amounts of soil. We believe a facility is needed for disposal of Hanford clean up waste. Tonight we would like to hear your concerns and comments

about the proposed plant for this facility. This proposal was first CIRCLA landfill that protects human health and the environment, provides for timely clean up, moves waste away from the Columbia River, disposes of only Hanford clean up waste, and is sized for initial clean up activities only. To provide you a frame up for where we are now, I would like to start briefly by going through the process that we have been working with. The information that I cover this evening is in more detail on the handouts on the back table. Again, originally we were working with two regulatory processes. RECLA and CIRCLA. In order to provide more timely clean up, we selected a CIRCLA process for ERDF. We have prepared documents that evaluate the options for disposal from Hanford clean up waste. The RIFS, Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study, provides the evaluation of these options. It also provides additional information about the need for the facility and discusses the proposed site and the waste that may be going to the ERDF. The proposed plan provides a summary of the RIFS and proposes a preferred option. As part of this effort, we have integrated two regulatory processes, CIRCLA and NEPA. The proposal reviews and considers environmental elements normally found in the NEPA EIS. Throughout the development of these documents, we have asked for input from the public, tribes, Hanford Advisory Board, and the Natural Resource Trustees and considered recommendations from the Hanford Future Site Use Working Group. We have tried to respond to these needs by including many of the concerns that we heard within the document that lead to this proposal. We encourage you to read and review the complete package and give us your comments. Siting the landfill was not an easy task. We're proposing that the landfill be located in the central plateau between 200 East and 200 West. As shown in this figure, location is in the area that the Hanford Future Site Use Working Group

recommended for waste management. The outline, right here. We looked at other sites, but we believe that this site is more protective of ground water and the Columbia River and provides for timely clean up. The site we are proposing would be available for clean up waste by 1996. Unfortunately, putting the landfill and support facilities at the proposed site would destroy up to 1.6 square miles of mature sagebrush. This habitat is important to wildlife such as the sage sparrow and loggerhead shrike, and has been designated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as priority habitat. In response to your concerns, we have made a commitment to require mitigated actions for the loss of habitat. We have developed a range of options for the loss of this habitat. Habitat restoration and habitat enhancement, including seeding, planting nursery stock or transplanting mature sagebrush. These options will be evaluated as part of the site-wide mitigation plan. The clean up waste disposal options that we are looking at are the double-line trench. This option proposes a landfill that would be built using a standard RECLA compliant, double-line trench. The liner would collect liquids that maybe generated during operation. The double liner would provide an additional more reliable system to protect ground water. Option 2, the single-line trench. This option purposes a landfill that with a single liner in the trench. The liner would collect liquids generated during operation. Option 3 is unlined trench. This option purposes an unlined landfill. Option 4 says no action option. This option consists of not constructing a landfill at Hanford and examine transporting waste offsite or using existing Hanford facilities. Other than the no action option, each option includes the use of the RECLA compliant protective cap over the completed landfill and requires the waste going to the ERDF meets the specific waste acceptance criteria. Norm Heppner will now discuss

the waste acceptance criteria for this facility.

NH: ??? choice. ??? (too far from mic) What are we trying to protect ourselves from? What are we trying to protect the Columbia River from? What is the waste going to look like is the first question? It's in the soil. Doug presented a very good visual of what it is. It's gravel, ???, sediments along adjacent to the river. Some of it's going to be garbage where at the reactor facilities they basically buried rubbish. Some metal ??? rags. These contaminants threaten the Columbia River, threaten our beneficial use of this land. They include organics, heavy metals and radio nucleids of many varieties. I just listed some examples up there. What we would like to present to you tonight is an understanding of what we would like to see go into ERDF. What we want to hear tonight is how well we've done in our proposal. What we're going to allow is the bulk and the retreatable waste forms. What we're saying is this place is ERDF and let's have the opportunity to see it 20 or 30 years down the road to see if there's a better way to deal with it. Let us have that option. What we're not going to allow is a non-retrievable waste form. Where we have no choices. What we're saying is the State of Washington is going to be responsible for the waste on the State of Washington property. We only want to allow Hanford waste only. We don't want outside wastes. We want only CIRCLA waste. A CIRCLA allows us to prevent outside waste from coming on to the DOE site. ERDF will not accept any other waste except that one Hanford. We don't want no new generated waste. We want DOE to have the incentive to minimize and limit the waste generation today. So those are the wastes that we're going to accept will not contain transuranics. We expect them to go to the waste site place in pilot plant in New Mexico. It will not contain high activity waste. We expect that to go to Yuca Mountain.

We're going to allow hazardous and dangerous waste just like Arlington, Oregon allows. But we're not going to allow the State of Washington to dispose of extremely hazardous wastes which is concentrations that we consider unacceptable. We're going to allow mixed waste which is just hazardous and low level waste combined. And you'll see a lot of that with metals and radio nucleids; and radio nucleids and inorganics. We don't want land disposal restricted wastes. We're not going to allow it if the law doesn't allow it. We will allow treated LDR wastes. We will allow if they treat the waste to below LDR standards or to LDR standards. Sure it can go in. We don't want wastes that harms the liner. The liner is our protection of ground water for the operational period. We don't want wastes that are going harm it and we have been doing many studies and you'll see the liner details in that. We feel very confident. Soil wash is fine. One of the technologies that we're exposing is soil washing at the Hanford site. We want to be able to accept that material when they consolidate that down. We expect it to meet the low level waste criteria. We're actually doing some things on consolidating contaminates. We don't want corrosive, ignitable or reactive wastes and we don't want liquids. We don't want something driving the contaminates to ground water. We have a tough choice but we want to protect the Columbia River and we believe that the proposal tonight be given to you tonight does just that. Pam?

PE: As you can see we have a wide variety of waste that we need to handle in a protective manner. Again, we looked at four options for handling waste disposal at Hanford. The options were evaluated using eight of the nine CIRCLA criteria provided in detail in the back of the room. The final criteria is community acceptance which is the reason we are here tonight. Our proposed alternative for the

Hanford site clean up is a RECLA compliance double-line trench with a leche collection and recovery system. We believe this option protects human health and the environment, follows the law by complying with applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements. And provides long term protection for ground water in the Columbia River. The proposed landfill would only provide capacity for Hanford clean up waste generated over the next six years. We would consider extending the landfill only if it were a justified need and only after we received comments from the public. Again, tonight we would like to hear your concerns and answer questions about the proposal for a Hanford landfill. Copies of the proposed plan are available in the back of the room. At this time I would like to turn it back over to the facilitator.

L: Thanks. At this point we ask the representatives of the interest groups to make any comments they might like to make and the panel is being joined by Greg de Bruller of Columbia River United who is representing the stakeholders here tonight.

GB: Here we go. I thank you for this opportunity to speak. Where to start off at. I'm going to start off at the first what Doug Sherwood talking about. There is an acceleration in this renegotiation, but our concern comes up with the acceleration is it actually clean up. There's acceleration of remedial investigations, but our concern is is there an acceleration in the actual clean up. There's going to be acceleration in feasibility studies, but is that going to get to the acceleration of actual clean up? We don't know yet. Nothing's locked in as far when there will be closure on certain sites or certain operable units. There's no milestones for that. So we're excited that they did change the direction. They said that they're going to clean up

along the Columbia River and that's a priority and we thank everybody for doing that. But the public's concerns are still sitting here saying, will there be actual closure, actual clean up in these operable units and when will it come? One of the concerns maybe you heard tonight, you might not have caught it, there's a lot of stuff that was going through our minds while Doug was talking and while I was thinking I was trying to ask questions while I was thinking about it, he mentioned that tanks would be delayed in clean up. I don't know how many people caught that or what that meant to them. The tanks as we know there is 177 of them, and they were the top priorities. They were and they still are. And the question comes up why are they being delayed? The real truth is they're being delayed because of the prioritization of clean up and the amount of funds that the Department of Energy is requesting for clean up. Our position is the air budget is too small to accomplish the task. More money needs to be funded so they can accelerate the clean up of Hanford and actually have clean up success...(side A ended)

**TAPE 1, SIDE B:**

GB: ...for the single shells and now they're all going to be closed out or ??? cleaned up which means that the liquid will be taken out of tanks to 2024. So that's an extension of six years. Now that's all determines that is all predicated on the fact that if the funding comes through for the vitrification process and if the vitrification process is successful. So there is still some variables there. When they said there was some money that is going to be shortened in the 200 area we hope that it's not in the characterization of the tanks and the safety measures on the tanks because we all remember in the past about the potential of explosion in the tanks and they haven't gone

away. So what we're really asking is acceleration in the funding from DOE, DOE needs to go to the table and ask for more money so we can get to this clean up. One of the concerns that we have in this acceleration for remedial investigations and the feasibility studies which they are doing, going back to the acceleration of clean up which we haven't really seen yet which really means an operable unit is cleaned up and we can say it's clean, it's safe for unrestricted use. The Hanford Advisory Board gave a recommendation or direction to the Tri-Party that they wanted to see unrestricted use in the 100 area. I'll have to admit looking at this site and knowing how contaminated it is, that's a lofty challenge to get it to unrestricted use. But that's the goal and that's the mission we're going on. The question comes up is in this interim actions and in these expedited response actions like they mention about N springs in the N area, is this going to be the first step for clean up or after they do these expedited response actions or these interim actions, is that going to be clean up? We don't know. We do know that money is running short. So for the public concerned, we have to still stay here and keep pushing and keep pushing the regulators, keep pushing US DOE to put the funding on the table so we make sure when we get done with the expedited response action for N springs it's only the start. My question is, what can the regulators do to prove to the American public, the taxpayers out here, that these expedited response actions and interim actions are only the first step and that's what I would like to see them do for us in this renegotiation or refocussing I should say. Give us some meat, give us some facts that we can bite into and we can start looking at it on a chart and saying well 100DR and all these other little things that they call operable units which are basically little sites specific projects that they've got going, we'll know when they're cleaned up.

If we could get a list of these dates then we could track it much easier. Right now the intent's there, but is it going to be locked in. Are the dates finalized, no. So, we're still kind of hanging out here. One concern came up that has been voiced and I'm going to switch over now into the environmental restoration disposal facility or ERDF and what we've been pushing for is we get involved with the waste criteria selection. In other words, what are they going to put in the dump? How big is the dump going to be? When they first came and spoke to us about the dump, they talked to us about a six square mile imprint. That's a pretty big dump. ??? he looked at us and said oops, the public doesn't like six square miles of dump. Because the question came is what are they going to do? Is clean up going to be digging up the whole site, just take a backhoe, dig it up, put it in a truck and dump it in the ground and put a big mound out there who knows how big and how long and how high, and that's clean up. Or is clean up really going to be finding the best available technologies, reducing the actual waste that we're burying and do the best available job with the best minds out there and as I talked about at the Hanford Summit, taking the challenge for clean up, taking the minds the resource that we have at the Hanford site which built the bomb, that has done wonderful things out there. Taking that same challenge and going cleaning up a site that is one of the most environmentally degraded sites in North America. That's the challenge and I think they can do it. I think they can actually clean the site up. I think they can develop technologies but they can only do it if the public's involved and the public keeps saying no we don't want a large footprint. We don't want a mega dump. We want you to clean it up. We want you to make it safe. So in the waste criteria selection we want to make sure that they utilize the best available technologies to limit the amount

of waste they have and also to recycle or reuse anything the can use out there and we have to be involved with that process to make sure that they do it. They mention that the waste criteria selection and the characterization is going to be done on an operable unit basis by basis. I kind of questions with that. I thought about it for a while and I said to myself, if they do it in an operable unit by unit basis and they don't have some standard that all the operable units can use as a guide post and they can look at well we have to recycle this, we really have to reduce our waste or waste compacture or waste reduction and those aren't the values that are incorporated in each one of these operable units. The first go around in the first six years, I understand now we're going to have footprint now of about 1.6 square miles. That's not the actual size of the hole, that's the actual size of all the infrastructure they need to build around it. But what happens after six years. What happens if we're not involved with that process to make sure there is this reduction waste at the best available ways to do it with using the best available technologies. The dump could be the mega dump that beats the size of every dump in the world. I know there's a lot of people out here concerned and I know that the Indian Nations are very concerned about that because the 200 area has some significance to the Indian Nation. Maybe for some white people out here might think well that's the 200 area, we don't really know about it, why worry about it, but we need to watch these. The other question came up that in the selection of the site there were four proposed areas and they picked the one in between 200 West and 200 East. But after doing some investigation, we found that the northwest corner of the 200 area was basically not even in the ballpark, not even being considered. And we wondered why. Why isn't that part of it? We also, we're looking at in the Hanford

Advisory Board which I sit on in the environmental restoration site of the Hanford Advisory Board that I sit on, we learned that from one of the people out there, who's been on site for many years, that his preference was the northern site because the northern site didn't have as much light sand and soft silty stuff that would fly around when you start cleaning it up and you start digging the hole and you start burying it and so that brought up the question about what are we going to do for dust mitigation and we asked Norm. We said, Norm, we've got sites along the 100 area which we're going to be digging up, the winds blow from anywhere 5 mph to 50-60 mph out there, and what are we going to do for mitigation to protect the workers, protect the people off-site? There's a gentleman who representative of the agricultural committee on the Hanford Advisory Board and his concern was dust. The farmers eating the dust that's blowing off-site. And I just got a copy of the dust mitigation strategy and we're going to be investigating that and hopefully we'll have an answer that will solve this problem. But going back to the 200 Northwest corner, we found after digging in, that there's a possible proposed national low level mixed waste disposal facility that's going in there potentially. It's proposed and I don't know if this is something that's outdated. I don't know if this is something that isn't proposed now. This was something in the past. But that brings a concern about the acceptance of waste on site. We understand that ERDF is definitely an on-site facility. In other words, the waste is going to come from there and when they did the presentation to the Hanford Advisory Board, we went a round robin on the fact that no this waste would only come from Hanford site only which everybody kind of sighed that's great. But I play the devil's advocate and I said how could we get around that? Well we could get around it by having a closure of one of the cells. Let's say in ten

years from now, or two cells or four cells, how every many cells they had by then, and then they could go out for permit again, do an EIS or EA on it, and possibly if the public didn't really care, or if the whole way to do business changed, we were back into the doors closed which I don't think will ever happen, they could possibly bring in outside waste. So one thing we want to make sure from the public's concern is, this is a dump for Hanford. It is for cleaning up the site. And there's still a big question about this 200 Northwest corner. I guess I'll save my comments for the rest, but I just want to let you know that we're happy that they are expediting clean up actually, hopefully, they're going to have actually more clean up happening on the 100 area. When actual clean up happens we'll know it, right now the direction is going in the right direction and we think it's good step in the right direction. ??? if you've heard our concerns and we just want to make sure that they listen to the stakeholders and make a small a footprint as possible and do the best available job of clean up. And the only thing I can say for the public is, we have to keep pressure on DOE to keep funding the facility because the ER budget, as Doug said, isn't very big and if we're talking about restoration of the Hanford site, that ER budget should grow and maybe other priorities at the site should start coming down. We shouldn't be shortchanged because of the tanks not being under ER. The tanks should get the funding that they need and we need to keep pushing DOE and Congress to make sure that we get that kind of funding because the tanks are a priority. Thank you.

L: Thanks, Greg. The panel's going to be joined by Dirk Dunning who represents the State of Oregon, Department of Energy. Dirk's not making comments, other than to respond to your questions. So we're moving now, I apologize for

being beyond the times on the agenda, but we are moving into the short period. If any of you came and had something to say and don't feel like waiting until the whole question and answer panel session is over to make those comments. Now would be the time to come forward to the mic. Otherwise, we'll go into the panel and then we'll come back to the public comment period at the end of your questions and answers. Anyone like to make a formal comment right now for the record? Okay do we have people in the audience that would like to ask questions or probe some of the panelists about what's been said and if so would you identify yourself and come to the mic so we can be sure to have you on the record or on the tape. Nobody with a question. Somebody's got to have a question.

NV: Linda?

L: Sure.

NV: I would like to address some of Greg's concerns with dust mitigation.

L: Great.

NV: Also the 200 West corner. I would really like to echo Greg's main concern, if the public doesn't stay involved we do lose our power. So we do need your support. Dust mitigation. We've looked at it. We've studied it. We had experience dealing with it. We have low level waste burial grounds out on site. We have some operational restrictions when winds increase. Right now what we're proposing for the ERDF is operations cease or at least scale back at ten mph winds and if we find that's not protective for the environment, we can always go back. We're going to have continuous air monitoring around the facility. When we see

contamination, we stop. We don't let them continue. We're also experimenting with, Greg said we have great minds out there, we're experimenting with some new surfactants. I mean it's not what a construction builder's going to be using out on his site. It would be way too expensive. But they're also not dealing with radio nucleid contamination. We're dealing with a substance that's very glue like, that gets sprayed on to the soil. Glues not going anywhere. And the discussion of silts, the fine silts in the Northwest corner, they're not as prone to wind. Clean sand from this site can be dispersed. I mean, we don't want it to happen, we have air regulations, but it's clean. What we're concerned about is the contaminated dirt and that's where we're going to try to spray the surfactants. We're going to use clean soil as cover. We're going to use some very good management practices and if it doesn't work, we get better. Not worse. Addressing the 200 Northwest corner for a site. We have a tough choice. It's not an easy one. Going back to site selection now, would delay clean up. Probably one to two years. I don't like saying that, but it's true. We have to make a decision to know on whether we proceed with clean up now or we continue the past practices of studies and more studies and more studies. I would have loved for the public at scoping or during that planning stage to come forward and say the 200 Northwest is looks so great, but what we heard was what about the BC control area. This is a contaminated area adjacent to the commercial low level waste disposal site. They pointed us in that direction so we went back to the drawing boards. We studied that site and we said no, this is more protective. Not most, I mean most is a real definitive word. I honestly believe it is most protective. This site that we're proposing tonight is most protective of ground water. Ground water that eventually reaches the Columbia River. Let's not study it more.

L: Anyone have any comments or questions. Go ahead and if you wouldn't mind coming to the mic, that would be helpful.

AC: I'm Al Conklin, Washington State Department of Health. Just a couple of comments on some of the things that have been said. One of the requirements of CIRCLA is to meet the AWARS and one of the AWARS that DOE has committed to meet are the standards that are contained in the Washington Administrative Codes for Controlling Radio Nucleids which would include best available radio nucleid control technology. I bring that up because I share Greg's concern over dust control. One of the things that we will have to be shown to agree that the AWARS are being met are that there adequate controls being made to control the spread of contaminated dirt. And the issue of continuous air monitors was mentioned. I believe those will not be continuous air monitors or cams, but will instead be air samplers. If they're going to set up cams, cams do have an instantaneous response. I've never seen those out on the general environment. If they're going to do that, fine. If you set up air samplers, though generally those results are not back for, I mean you can get a result back in a week or so, something like that, but it's basically after the fact. So one of the reasons for the control technology standard is to make sure that the releases are controlled before they get to the point where you have to find them in the environment. The only other point I have is that one of the under waste acceptance criteria you mentioned there would be no transuranics that would be disposed of in this area. Having worked in the 200 area for a long time, I really am familiar with 200 area waste, but I assume that there's a lot of similarities in the 100 areas. There is transuranic wastes. I'm sorry. There are transuranics mixed in the waste. The difference in definitions is the difference between transuranics and transuranic waste. I

think what you mean is there will be transuranics that will go in that waste under 100 pica curies per gram. It will not be transuranic waste. So the definition, you just need to be careful of. I think that's it.

NV: I've got a question. I'm going to ask for some help from the audience. Fred, are we using continuous air monitors? It's the samplers. I was mistaken. I thank you for your correction Al. The transuranics. You're correct. There are transuranic elements, but they're below that standard that Al also quoted. And we expect to bring you in real soon on the design. We sort of stalled a little bit from when we changed paths, when we went to the Hanford Advisory Board and we sort of scaled back our efforts until we got some resounding thoughts from the public on whether we should continue this project. Thanks.

L: Other questions? Questions about, there's a lot of initials and jargon in these presentations. We try hard, but we don't seem to be able to help it any. Anybody have any just basic questions. You're thinking oh that's just too dumb to ask because it's probably not.

NV: Linda, if I might?

L: Dirk and sure.

NV: ???

L: Would you mind using the mics so we can. There's right behind you, there is a mic.

CJ: My name is Chief Jackson. I'm one of the Columbia River Chiefs and I'm also a member of the High End National Council and my concern is that when one of the gentlemen

was talking about rearing fish in these ponds up at Hanford. I've asked the tribe about this issue before and have never got no clear response from them or anything on how it's done and how it's handled. I've read in the paper when I've came back from Wisconsin, before I left for New Mexico, and it concerned me very much as well as the river does because we're people that live along the river. We've been here for generations. My people's been here. And there's not very much ever said about the river people. And not really a concern looked at on what river people are dealing with when they deal with the fish. They're always dealing with fish. It's their livelihood. Their way of life and their diet. And in the past few years, I've noticed that many of the people along the Columbia River, as well as on the reservations, have come down with cancer. And now, it was a big concern of mine because a few years back I've caught fish that were practically looked like they were mutilated with hot scalding water, but the fish were alive, didn't have no eyes. And I made a lot of noise about it, everywhere I've gone, and I've never got any answers out of that even from the tribe. The tribe destroyed the fish even before it got to the laboratory and that concerned me very much because my people are always fishing and they have a lot of use for this water for this river. And it concerns me when I can see where and look at where Hanford is because when I travel to the East or to the South, in New Mexico, dealing with the Los Alamos issue and other plants like Savannah River, Nevada and up in the New York area, I talk to a lot of people and I hear a lot of people their views on what nuclear waste and nuclear exposure is and what it does and what happens to people. I've watched and seen a lot of the people down in New Mexico and Arizona, the children. What happened to the children. It's very pitiful. They don't show that publicly, you don't know nothing about it. You only see

tit if you went down there and it would make you think again. What if one of those children were your children because they're isolated. They're locked up and put away where no one will see them. This is a concern I have for my people along this river because they won't go to the reservation or anywhere else, this is their home. This is their livelihood. But yet as one of the Chiefs I'm concerned for everyone along the river, all people. It's part of my way because I've been selected to live that life, as a leader for my people. And I don't just choose my people to feel this way about. I feel this way about all children. It's been a big concern to me about the river and the water quality and the children I see, the young people I see, using it everyday and we have to fish to get that fish. It's part of our diet, and our livelihood. This is what concerns me is why did they pick the cooling ponds of Hanford to rear them fish when there's a lot of other habitat in other areas that they could use instead of using Hanford. I totally disagree with this and I'm totally at odds with the tribe for feeling and saying that it could be all right. To me it doesn't feel right and I wouldn't want to see anybody, not even my worst enemy, eat something that I believe that comes from that contaminated area. In the past few years, when I get involved with these nuclear issues, since I caught the fish that were badly mutilated and I was never given a correct answer for it of what happened to them, I've been concerned ever since and I started traveling and then I got back and I started hearing about all these releases out of Hanford. Where all these releases went, how much of a radius it took and when it come down, what did it effect? And that's just the way I look at Hanford and the water river that runs by it. And whatever's there right at that plant and that whole area there, this is what concerns me is why? You know I'm not a person that feels just for myself. I've traveled this

country and I've traveled to Hawaii, I've traveled to a lot of places where I've seen people suffer. I've seen children and I've seen what happens to people when they're not told what's happening around them or what's taken place and they're kept in the dark from it. This is what concerns me. This is why I'm here tonight. Thank you.

L: Thank you. Comments, Greg?

GB: I would like to respond to what Johnny was talking about. Under the Tri-Party Agreement, they're preparing to do a Columbia River Impact Assessment which is a study of the impact Hanford had on it, on the river, but Johnny the concern that I have is almost two years ago, they started to do a Columbia River Impact Assessment and the assessment was so flawed with I would use the word cover up or whitewash that the Yakima Nation, I believe, put a 16 page document together and the Umatilla's 22 page basically telling them to go back to the drawing boards because it wasn't really looking at the damage and true assessments of how much damage to the eco-system, to the fish and to the humans, the river could have had on people. I'm with you on this and they're now proposing last December they have initiated a start up of the next Columbia River Impact Assessment and they've hired Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories to do the study. We have adamantly opposed the process at the get go because Battelle is on record of being a polluter and we find that there's a conflict of interest. Mike Thompson at the last environmental meeting of the Hanford Advisory Board had suggested that we get together and try to work out the differences because Battelle does have some good resources. They have good people working for them, but they have a problem now because they don't release all the studies that have been done and under declassification, under Hazel O'Leary under

Hanford Summit I, she stated that all documents in reference to anything that has to do with environmental releasings, human health studies, human health experiments, animal studies, anything that had to do with anything except the production of bombs, or trade secrets, should be and will be released. It's now 1994, a year and one half later after the Hanford Summit and we still don't have those documents. And our feeling at Columbia River United and the people who live down here and I'm just letting the regulators know, they've heard this more than once, but the public too is that if we're going to do a study that these documents must be declassified because if they are not declassified Battelle, first of all, can't do a good study and find out the true assessment of damages that occurred to the Columbia River and to the eco-system and the other thing that they have to keep in mind is that there was a law that was passed I believe in 1988, called the Natural Resource Damage Act and they better look at that law and realize that it does have some strong leverages and they do need to do a true assessment and so hopefully with the work of the public being involved and I know Mike is reaching out and saying from the US Department of Energy if they're going to do this study, they want a credible study. We'll be able to get this information and we'll be able to do a good study, but Johnny I can't say they're gonna. I don't know. Time's going to tell and hopefully with a lot of pressure with the public and a lot of openness on the part of the US Department of Energy and its' contractors, all the documents will be released and from that we can possibly do a valid study, but even under the Hanford ??? Construction Project, documents were declassified, but there are many documents that have never been released to the public that were even declassified. So we still have a big problem and will it be a successful study? I have no idea.

L: Mike, did you want to

MT: Yeah, from a Department of Energy perspective. First of all I would very much like to invite the tribes to participate in that Columbia River Assessment Study that we agreed to do in the negotiations in 1993. So far we've put out a bibliography of documents that we feel have or may have the potential for having pertinent data on what the contamination of the Columbia River looks like. Within in that bibliography, there are a number of classified documents and we're furiously going through a process now to declassify those so they are available for anyone who would like to look at them. But I think it's very important that the tribes as well as the people of Hood River work with us on this Columbia River Assessment because we want to be sure that when this is done that we have a product that suits your needs as well as ours. We don't want to have to do this over again. We'll be having a number of public meetings in this process through the next year to find out what's important to the public in this evaluation and to try and get the data across to everyone. I guess the perspective I would like to put on the previous work is that several years ago, we tried to take a different approach to clean up at Hanford and we recognized that the Columbia River is an eco-system and that we should do a comprehensive look in eco-system base look, but we did not want to lose track of the work that we'd done to that date so we tried to accumulate the work that was done in a piecemeal manner into a document. It was a Columbia River Impact Evaluation document and it's true it was wholly inadequate, if you want to look at the Columbia River as a whole, but the object was not to lose track of the work that was done to date. So we did put out a document that when it was reviewed, it had a lot of problems with it, but before it was reviewed, we also

agreed that we would go forward with a comprehensive look at what the Columbia River looks like today based on the existing data at hand. And we're going to be doing that this year and again we'd very much appreciate the help from the people of Hood River and the Indian tribes in ensuring we have a document and a process that suits your needs as well as ours.

L: Dirk.

DD: Hi, I'm Dirk Dunning with the State of Oregon Department of Energy. We haven't chosen to speak tonight mostly not because we don't have opinions on these subjects. That's far from true. Mostly because they're very, very complex and we need to be very careful about what we choose to say so that the impact that have is the one that we want and not something different. In particular, there's a number of things in the environmental restoration disposal facility that gave us a lot of concern. One of them has to do with the point that has already been mentioned a little bit about the Natural Resource Damages Assessment provisions under the Superfund law. There are provisions within that that are going to be problematic in the future because the costs associated with this facility are not just the costs of today. There are also the costs associated with the damage done to the habitat where this facility is going to be placed. As was mentioned in the opening discussion, the area where this facility is going is some of the last of the high shrub habitat in the state and in the West for that matter. And the damage to that habitat, there were comments within the Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study document which is the basic work document for this and, there's a couple of copies of that back on the table, that indicate that this Natural Resources being committed and that therefore it's just

consumed and there will be mitigation, but that mitigation will be included in some sort of a sitewide restoration plan. The way that this entire document came about we definitely feel does not cause it to be equivalent to what's required in the National Environmental Policy Act for the performance of an environmental impact statement. This reveal and investigation feasibility study is not a good substitute and that the process is not equivalent and that the damages caused by it are damages which will have to be mitigated and will have to be compensated for at some time in the future. Part of the problems along that line deal with how this facility is installed and that it is going to smack dab in the middle of the last of this high quality habitat. And in doing so with all the truck traffic in and out, and the road in and out, there's going to be a lot of transport of seeds of foreign species of non-native plants and those have the potential of a rather large impact on this little bit of remaining habitat that's left. Anyway, as I said, we don't want to go too far into the discussions of it because of some of the potential problems there. I very much appreciate Chief Jackson's comments. I think I probably can help a little bit in describing what happened in terms of the fish. The program with the fish was a cooperative program between the Yakima Indian Nation and the US Department of Energy. The place that they've chosen to do it is the place that's up on the slide, at the K basins or the K reactor complex. If you look at the K reactors, what you can see is there's a water building which is up at the top here which brings water in from the Columbia River. This came in and went to the two basins here at the front end of the two reactors. This water was not contaminated at all. This is straight river water. Once the water had been filtered and processed and then chromate added to it so it would inhibit corrosion, it was then fed into the reactors where it was exposed inside

the reactors and contaminated. That water then discharged from the reactors and went into the three large effluent retention basins at the discharge of each reactor. That water was highly radioactive and extremely hot. From there the water discharged from these basins out into the Columbia River. What the Yakima, in concert with the Department of Energy, have been doing is using these influent water basins, these uncontaminated basins as a rearing pond for a variety of different fish to see how successful they could be in trying to increase some of the fish stocks. My understanding, I haven't been involved in this program, but my understanding is that the first stocks they did, they actually took the fish out of these basins and trucked them up to Priest Rapids Dam acclimated them to the water there and released them at Priest Rapids or at the fish hatchery there. What they've apparently been doing of late is to take the fish directly from these ponds and string hoses out to the river and sluice the fish directly into the river from these ponds. I don't know if that really answers any of your concerns but it may be a little bit more information that might help. For more information I would strongly encourage you to talk with the people at the Yakima Nation who have been directly involved in this, as well as the DOE people who have been working on it.

NV: ??? (too far from mic)

L: We'd really like to have you on the tape, so I can hand you the mic or you can stand up.

CJ: What I'm talking about is that fish being reared in this whole area here and I've known from the past that this whole area here has had ??? releases. Where did the releases go? Can you tell me and assure me that none of

that came down into the very same area? That none of that area is contaminated and the soil and those areas there where the fish is being reared has any kind of contamination or the waterway in where the fish is being released. This is what I'm looking at. You know we just buried a guy here this summer who lost all his hair. He was a close relative of mine who lived along this river and ate fish. He's the same age as I am. He lost all his hair and he died and we buried him here this summer. There were others that have come down and died the same way. You know I've lost relatives from cancer. My mother from thyroid cancer, my aunt, my uncle and this latest one, this summer. This is why I'm concerned. This is why I look at why are the Yakimas and the Department of Energy saying that this is a good place to raise fish when there are other places farther on up the river and below. You know I went up to the Yakimas to help me raise fish in these rivers here, Hood River, the big White Salmon, Little White Salmon, Klickitat and these other rivers, but they paid no attention to me because I told them there would be one dam for them fish to go over and they can come back. They wouldn't have to go through all that water going up river. Yet they feel it's a good idea to plant fish or raise fish in a place where they have made parts for the atomic bomb and made bombs and even made plutonium or whatever. And the more I study and travel around this country to other troubled reservations and other troubled parts of this country where people are having the problem with nuclear waste and health problems because there's something that was overlooked and never brought out to the people. The more concerned I get I come back to thinking about what the Yakimas and what's happening here at Hanford and they say it's clean. How clean? You know, we're always told something after a fact. Why can't it be checked and be fairly looked at before it even happens? It seems when I

look at Yakima and some of these here tribal governments, the only thing they ever know is that green stuff, that they can put in their hands and the people they can talk to put more of it in their hands because they're all elected officials. Once they get into that office, they forget who they're representing. They forget the children. They forget the elders and they forget the people along the river, but when the time comes for them to be re-elected, they're here talking to us. After that's over, they forget about us. They forget about what kind of water's coming down the river. I've asked questions about having tests behind every dam. I've asked about the water quality many times and I've never gotten no answer, but yet I see young people in the summertime, you can't keep them from it, I see thousands of kids out here and I just wonder one of these day's when's the time going to come when I might see one of those kids turn out like the fish I caught. I still have pictures of that fish and it's scary. This is what I'm concerned about is where you're raising that fish. It sounds good, you make it sound good, but what's in the flesh of that fish when we have to eat it and we take it and we catch it and we sell it to people to feed to their families. That's what concerns me. That's the same way I would talk to the Yakimas because this is my home here and this river here is my concern and the people that live on both sides and the children. I'm speaking because them children can't speak for themselves, neither can them elders. That's why I travel. I don't get paid for it like a Yakima Tribal Councilman or a Warm Springs Tribal Councilman. I travel because I'm concerned and my way's paid, a lot of times publicly. That's my concern right there is why. Why was that place picked? We have rivers here. I went down to the Coast above Vancouver to schools up there where little third graders are raising thousands of fish in a stream that's going right by their schools and

they're successful and this is what I want to see here. But it falls on deaf ears, but it sure could be made public and brought out what could be done at Hanford and I don't like it.

NV: Thank you. Chief Jackson, I won't say I understand. I'm a little young, but I'll tell you what if that was a cattle farm, surrounded by radio nucleids and they sold beef to me, I wouldn't feed it to my family. It's the perception and I agree your people are eating fish. I think that's what we have to relate to.

L: Other questions or comments before we ask if there's anyone who would actually like to make a formal comment on the record? Other comments from the panelists that you want to make at this point? Roger.

RS: I want to make one just regarding the, Hi my name's Roger Stanley with the Department of Ecology. Just one regarding the package on ER refocussing that's out for public comment. We're in an era now where Hanford clean up budgets are getting tighter and tighter. The focus on DOE contractor performance is getting tighter and tighter so that there's a lot of pressure on them to produce more for any given clean up dollar on the site and that's probably the way it's going to be at least the foreseeable future at Hanford, but you know Greg a couple of comments noting that we're not going to know to what extent the clean up is going to be actually accelerated along the river front for a while, that's true. What we've done with this packet is set the scenario where that will get us through the investigative process and to the records of decision so we can actually get work schedules that are actually going to be approved and in place to get the clean up going along the river. As I've been working with Bechtel, just over

the last six months or so, I see some real promise there. I think we are going to see some real accelerated clean up along the river, but you're right until we get those records of decision in hand we ... (tape ended)

## TAPE 2 - SIDE A:

...has been kind of like reserved for the 200 Northwest corner. Does anybody know anything about that and can shed some more light on it?

BH: My name is Bob Holt and I'm with the Office of Environmental Assurance and I'm an acting Tri-Party Agreement project manager for the Department of Energy. The proposed low level mixed waste disposal site is a number one of many sites that have been proposed throughout the nation through a process that was developed by Congress when they passed an act called Federal Facility Compliance Act. Federal Facility Compliance Act specifically directed the Department of Energy to assess all of the waste that they had at their various sites throughout the nation, throughout the entire ??? complex. All of that information was then combined together as an inventory of the types of wastes that we had both high level radioactive waste and low level radioactive waste as well as mixed waste. In addition the Department was also asked to propose various locations, geographically, where this waste might be disposed of that would be most efficient to the Department of Energy. This is all draft information. This is still being compiled at DOE headquarters and there have been interim reports that have been required to be submitted to Congress and to the Environmental Protection Agency. The states have been participants through the National Governor's Association in reviewing these documents and also in taking part in the national committee. I have been on that steering committee from a policy perspective when they got into the technical issues dealing with inventory numbers, things like that, I haven't been as active in participation. When there is reference made to a low level mixed waste repository, it is from a national perspective.

It is in response to a law that was mandated by Congress two years ago and the department is still evaluating all the options that Congress asked them to look at through this particular direction that was given to them. There have been no conclusions made. The State of Washington has been a participant through the National Governor's Association in the process, the State of Idaho. So I can't tell you what the volumes or anything like that. That data is still being compiled but that is what's being referenced when reference is made to that proposed siting of a low level waste repository. Bob?

BH: Am I correct in my understanding though that there has yet to be any proposed siting by the Department of Energy that these are plans in draft and Hanford might be one of the options or what?

NV: That's correct. Yeah, this is all very preliminary information. We're working with Environmental Protection Agency as I said through the National Governor's Associations. One of the things that Congress asked was how is there an equitable system for disposing of all the mixed waste that the department has and low level waste, but as Roger mentioned there have been no decisions made regarding the outcome of the information that is being compiled at this time.

BH: As far as I know I mean there has been no proposal to the State of Washington.

NV: I would just add that there's been no proposal to the EPA either as far as this goes.

NV: The one interesting side comment that we were privy to was there was a meeting of the Defense Nuclear Facilities

Safety Board with the Department of Energy on the Hanford site here about a month and one half ago. One of the comments by one of the board members was that as a matter of course there were only two sites under active consideration. The Nevada test site and Hanford.

BH: So it appears that somebody's considering it, but we all haven't heard about it yet. So the State of Washington you should keep your ears open. Something's coming down the track.

NV: I'm sure Jeff's following it.

L: Are there other comments, or from the panelists? Things that you wanted to add as the discussion has gone along? Responses to any of Greg's questions.

MT: I guess there's just one thing for clarification on some comments that Mr. de Bruller made. One was he had some concerns about deferments of the tanks. These negotiations that we performed this year for environmental restoration refocussing, what we've done relative to the tanks was that in 1993, if you recall, we were here a number of times in those negotiations, we set milestones for the clean up of the waste that's within the tanks at Hanford. At that period of time, the environmental restoration group of the Department of Energy was responsible for the clean up of the soils around the tanks. Those tanks that had leaked. And the milestones reflected that. In this particular change package that we have this year, we've done an administrative change in that we've put the responsibility of the soil clean up around the tanks that have leaked into the tank waste remediation system. We thought that would be appropriate because then you have a coordinated system of clean up of what's within the tanks and what is also

leaked outside of those tanks. And also you really can't address what has leaked outside of the tanks until you've addressed what's within the tanks. So what we thought was a rational decision to administratively put the clean up of the contaminated soils around the tanks that have leaked into the milestones and into the program of the tank wastes and out of environmental restoration. That's the only change that we made this year in the negotiations concerning leaks around tanks.

NV: Mike, didn't they just find what \$2.7 million or something like that for Vados zone characterization around the tanks at the tank farm? Do you know?

MT: I don't know. It's outside of my preview.

NV: Okay. I think there was just some funding that happened for the Vados zone which is characterization of the tanks, the soils around the tanks which is a major step going forward for up there. We got that information from Casey Rude so there's some progress going on up there.

NV: Okay, Vados zone is you're not familiar with that term is the dry soil above the water table.

L: Dirk?

DD: Again, I'm Dirk Dunning with the State of Oregon Department of Energy. Another comment which I saw in writing here recently is one I would appreciate hearing any of the panelists what their thoughts are. Mr. Thomas Grumbly who's the Manager of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management. He's about a third level back at US Department of Energy headquarters. In Nature magazine here, not this past issue, but the one prior I believe, was quoted with

November 14, 1994

comments basically to the effect that he didn't believe that the Hanford or any of the US Department of Energy clean ups could occur within the timeframes that they have planned. That the technology development didn't exist and that that was required before those clean ups could occur and that he was basically encouraging a delay in those clean ups until such time as that technology did exist. Basically, what my question is, is comments on that in particular and how it relates to the agreement that we have now, but also what might be done in terms of responding in the other direction of focussing the dollars on identifying the technologies that are needed and the test programs that are necessary in order to allow some of these clean ups to go forward. In particular, one of the comments that we had over the last year was along the lines on technology development of doing some things in some of the particularly highly radioactive areas such as the 1301 or 1325 trenches at the N reactor complex to find out what kind of equipment is necessary and how it might be done expecting that that equipment in it's first couple of prototypes will probably fail in the high radiation fields. That obviously this is a program that's never been attempted before. It's a clean up of a complexity that no one has ever tried to do.

NV: In response, there is a separate program within the Department of Energy other than environmental restoration for technology development. They receive a considerable amount of funding and it's a nationwide directed program that looks at emerging technologies and technology development. Environmental restoration at Hanford does however have a responsibility to try and implement some innovative technologies in the field and we hope to do that but I guess we have choice before us. We can either focus our money and out attention on emerging technologies and

try to develop technologies or we can get on with it. When we had the 15 public meetings in the 1993 negotiations we heard a resounding voice from everyone we talked to, let's get on with it and show some progress of clean up. We're also hearing from members of Congress that if we don't show visible clean up along the Department of Energy sites, they're going to lose interest and the funding is not going to happen. We need to get on with clean up at Hanford. We need to use the technologies that are available to us today and we need to get going with it or else Congress is going to lose interest and we won't receive any funding. We'll also lose what little credibility we have from the public, the Indian Tribes and the governments that look over our shoulders to determine what we're doing. So we made a conscious effort in these negotiations that we were going to try and get through this next year. The decision process in three out of four of the National Priority Sites, in other words 75%, administratively at the Hanford site tried to get a decision of what clean up is. Once we get that decision, the record of decision, using the terminology of superfund, we'll go through a remedial design, remedial action process. In other words, we're going to do the engineering necessary to implement that decision and at that point in time, we'll set some milestones for clean up. That's why you don't see milestones for clean up in there now other than the end date. Because we don't know what the decision is yet. Once we decide what the decision is, then we'll do the engineering and we'll set some milestones to do it. But it's the belief of our agency and I believe I can speak for the regulatory agencies also since we've been butting heads together for the last few months, that we want to get on with clean up at Hanford and we've listened to the stakeholders. The stakeholders have told us to get on with it and that's what we hope to do here.

NV: Thank you Mike. Actually I agree with you completely as far as the Hanford funding goes. Where my concern comes from is that the technology development funds out of headquarters need to be tasked more directly towards supporting clean up at all of the sites with specific activities that will help in the near term to try and identify things that can be done to allow that clean up to go forward as quickly as possible.

L: Questions or comments from the audience? Is there anyone in the audience that would like to make a formal comment about this process and either of the issues that we are discussing tonight? Any final comments? Are you wanting to make a formal comment?

NV: I'll put my citizen hat back on again.

L: Okay. Great.

GB: My name is Greg de Bruller and I represent an organization called Columbia River United and I will put my comments on the record tonight for Columbia River United and then I'll supply additional written comments. Under the environmental restoration refocussing, environmental refocussing the process the Tri-Parties involved in clean up have gone through get efforts to make the clean up better, quicker and more cost efficiently, we hope. But our one concern or many concerns and this is the first one, there has not been sufficient funding requested by the Department of Energy in their budget to meet all of the milestones in the Tri-Party Agreement. And as we heard tonight, there could be some changes coming up with things that won't be cleaned up and won't be funded. Environmental restoration portion of the USDA funding is proportionally too small in the overall Hanford budget for

real clean up. That's the first point. Second point, the refocussing does not accelerate the clean up along the 100 and 300 areas by the river. When we say accelerate, we mean actual clean up. We don't feel that Congress is going to be impressed with another feasibility study or a potential interim action that kind of gets around to touching the soil and kind of looking at it. What they need to see is actual clean up. Perhaps the expedited response action on the N springs would be a success and we can make Congress believe that we're making clean up. We need a specific agreement and milestones to be assured that this stay a priority. The clean up is actually happened and that clean up is actually occurring and that there are dates that are locked in that Congress can look at and say oh the 100 area DR will be cleaned up by this date. They know it. It's coming. It's going to be done. We think that's something that we need to have. The Columbia River Assessment that will determine the impacts from Hanford on the river is being done by Battelle a site polluter and the company in charge of all past environmental monitoring. There is a direct conflict of interest here. And the CRU Board believes that an independent contractor should be hired to do this very important study. The question is who is this person, who is this independent contractor and really is there one out there to do it. My comment is that the technical consultant to CRU is if we cannot find a contractor to do it, then we best make that when Battelle does this study that we have a technical review panel and technical experts that are there watching the process all along and there is full declassification of all documents and full access to all documents and we will be supplying a request through the ER committee of the Hanford Advisory Board, a list of documents that to date have not been released and that should be released for open disclosure of the public and this will hopefully aid in the Columbia

River Impact Assessment. That's Columbia River United's comments for environmental restoration and refocussing. For the environmental restoration disposal facility, as I stated earlier, the public must be involved in the waste criteria selection set for this site. We hope this will limit the size and materials buried in this landfill and assuring waste reduction and we want to make sure all possible available technologies assured the lowest amount of waste and that recycling of any items out there that we can use for something else be looked at and actually be done. Dust mitigation as we mentioned before is another concern. Norm mentioned that dust mitigation will be there and ten mph, the winds will be, you know people will say hey okay we can't do enough work now the wind's blowing. We hope that happens. We hope that the workers aren't out there working in high wind conditions breathing in the dust that's contaminated. A lot of times, you'll notice that people out on site don't wear masks, aren't protected. We don't know if dust is running around and contaminating their lungs. We have no idea. So we want to make sure that they use the best available technologies for remediation and burial and dust mitigation. The question tonight was about continuous air monitors. I'm glad Norm you asked that question. We heard from Al Conklin and I'm glad you brought this up Al because now we know that they're actually proposing not to use continuous air monitors. And we're going to request that they do use continuous air monitors at the burial site. Maybe not so much at air ??? itself, but on the waste sites they're digging up, where the workers are exposing a whole host of who knows what's in there because the site hasn't been characterized. Well we need to have this continuous air monitors and they know immediately if there's a risk and there's a danger level that is well beyond the safety standards and taking grab samples and analyzing them three

or four days or a week later is like a little bit behind the fact. We've got the technology to do it. Let's don't get caught short in characterization, air monitorings like we have on the tank farms. If we're going to clean it up, let's make sure the workers have adequate protection. Let's make sure the public across the river with blowing winds and stuff aren't being exposed to unnecessary airborne contaminants. And that's our comments so far and we just want to make sure that the US Department of Energy hears that they really need to start looking at funding more money for Hanford in the future because as they have said at headquarters they see this train wreck coming. Well if they see a train wreck, they best slow the train down, they best get some more money in the process so they don't have this train wreck. And my last comment is perhaps we should lobby and this is for the record too. Perhaps we should lobby Secretary of Energy O'Leary, US Department of Energy, all its' contractors, all the American public, to put pressure on the President and the Department of Defense and we should start looking at funding from the Department of Defense. These facilities were virtually the backbone for the Department of Defense. Their budget is \$330 billion dollars, perhaps we the American public should say because of your past practices we want to take 10% of your budget or \$33 billion dollars, only 10% this next year, and give it to the Department of Energy so they can adequately go out and remediate clean up create new technologies to help the problems we face in America. But I think we all need to start lobbying upstairs and making sure the DOD starts paying some money for this and I understand that DOD is one of the other problems for declassification. The Department of Defense is basically the one that's been saying no, don't release those documents. I've heard this numerous times. I've heard this from Westinghouse people. I've heard it from

Battelle people. I've heard it from DOE people. And I think that maybe the Department of Energy when they have a problem getting something released or the State of Washington or the EPA or the little contractors, they should come to the public and tell the public why they can't get these documents declassified. The only way that we're going to get this openness to continue is when the public keeps getting involved and keeps putting pressure on the system to make a change. We've got doors open, but I just got back from Oakridge, Tennessee and I'll tell you what. What we've got here is progress. What they've got back there is they're still living in the 60's and they don't want to talk about clean up, and they don't want to talk about environmental health problems, and environmental problems. So we've got something good here, but we need to keep pushing so the rest of the nation can get up to speed with us. Thanks.

L: Thank you. Are there other members of the public who would like to make a comment? Is there any last minute thoughts from the panelists? If not, I'm going to close the meeting so if anyone's wanting to make a comment, this is it. Your last chance. Thank you very much for coming and we'll see you next time.