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Thomas Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

6/3/99

RECEIVED

JUN 04 1999

DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns,

This letter constitutes my written comments on the HRA EIS.
I support the DOE preferred alternative amended as follows:

- * Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach (including all islands), the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge (176,000 total acres). It is important to maintain a continuous wildlife corridor. All areas would be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- * Allow no grazing by domestic farm animals on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Were you aware that certain radioactive elements including plutonium are detected at some Hanford air monitoring stations at about 100 times the background stations? This appears to be due to wind blown particulates from the accumulation of past releases at Hanford. I am opposed to any use at Hanford that could allow the bioaccumulation of radioactive materials in the food chain!
- * Delete all "Industrial Use" areas in the preferred alternative and redistribute Industrial Use areas to reflect the combined recommendations from alternatives one and two.
- * Restrict designated recreational areas to one high intensity use area (museum at B-Reactor) and one low intensity area (boat launch at the Vernita Rest Stop on the south side of the Columbia River).
- * Designate all other areas Conservation/Mining (without grazing) and limit mining to those areas necessary for mineral materials in support of Hanford cleanups.
- * Issue a separate "ROD" for all the areas mentioned above. These areas are prime fish and wildlife habitat and should not have to wait for protection until complex decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

Please consider future tourist opportunities for some parts of Hanford. Hanford is unique mix of history, wild/scenic areas and infrastructure. A rail system already connects the site to Richland and beyond. I recommend working with local authorities to develop tourism for parts of the site. I believe a combination of vintage railroad (there is allot of vintage rail equipment just sitting on the tracks in the east Pasco rail yard and at the RR historical museum) and Hanford tour would be very successful.

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Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the future use of Hanford.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard V. Heggen".

Richard V. Heggen

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