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Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

May 21, 2004

Keith Klein, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Klein:

The Yakama Nation is a trustee of natural resources, as defined under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, affected by the release of hazardous substances from the Hanford Site.

The Yakama Nation concurs with the content of the attached letter dated May 18, 2004 addressed to you. In brief, the letter states, that proceeding directly to an injury assessment without conducting a pre-assessment screen (PAS) would save both time and money; injury of natural resources is evident; if U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducts a PAS, the non-PRP trustees [including the Yakama Nation] want to participate in that effort, or conduct one of their own funded by DOE, and; would like to meet on June 3, 2004 to reach a tentative agreement defining process, scope, schedule and funding of both joint and separate pre-assessment screens.

We look forward to meaningful and productive discussions that lead to a formalized agreement. All non-PRP trustees are available on June 3rd to meet. However, if that date does not work, please contact our Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council representative, Jay McConnaughey, at (509) 945-4797 to reschedule a date that would accommodate all the non-PRP trustees.

Sincerely,

Andrea Spencer, Acting Director
Department of Natural Resources

encl.

cc:
Hanford Natural Resource Trustees
Russell Jim, YN ERWM Program Manager
Ray Givens, YN Attorney

Post Office Box 151, Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948 (509) 865-5121

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MAY 26 2004

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