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OFFICE OF ENERGY

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Upper Columbia River Basin Field Office
11103 E. Montgomery Drive
Spokane, WA 99206

September 1, 2000

Ms. Susan Coburn Hughs, Chair
Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council
State of Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97310

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Subject: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Concerns Regarding Communication with the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council

Dear Ms. Hughs:

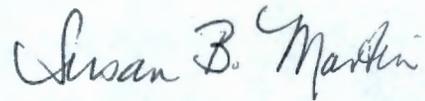
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia River Basin Field Office in Spokane (Service) has concerns about our communication with the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (HNRTC). These concerns include (1) Service comments and input are not being correctly incorporated into the final minutes, and (2) the Service is not being consistently informed of important information concerning HNRTC activities.

The Service was given the opportunity to comment on the meeting minutes for the HNRTC meeting held February 10, 2000, and submitted comments on March 28, 2000. None of the Service's comments were incorporated into the revised meeting minutes. In addition, we did not receive a revised copy of the meeting minutes to review prior to approval at the next meeting. Because of this example, and several previous instances where our comments and concerns were not accurately reflected in the minutes, the Service does not recognize these meeting minutes as an official Administrative Record of the proceedings at HNRTC meetings. As you know, a complete and accurate Administrative Record is important to correctly reflect the views and comments expressed by all participants involved with HNRTC activities.

The Service has an Interagency Agreement (IAG# DE-AI06-97RL13570) in place for our work on this project. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the HNRTC in a technical assistance role and participate in the meetings. In general, our working relationship with the HNRTC has been very good, but we feel the need to have improved communication to better serve the HNRTC. We have had to contact the HNRTC frequently to receive specific information (e.g., meeting minutes, agendas, important dates, etc.). This has made it difficult for the Service to conduct business in an efficient manner, and to provide technical support to the HNRTC. We appreciate any efforts you can make to address these concerns. If you have any questions,

please call Dan Audet or Brad Frazier at 509-891-0450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan B. Martin".

Supervisor

cc: Carroll Palmer, Yakama Nation
Bill Burke, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Dan Landeen, Nez Perce Tribe
Larry Goldstein, State of Washington Dept. Of Ecology
Helen Hillman, NOAA
Jamie Zeisloft, U.S. Dept. of Energy
Tom O'Brien, U.S. Department of the Interior
Larry Gadbois, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency