



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

0052159

December 8, 1999



Patrick Sobotta
Environmental Restoration and
Waste Management
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

Re: EPA National Remedy Review Board for Hanford 100 and 300 Areas
Invitation to Speak About Issues Important to the Nez Perce Tribe

Dear Mr. Sobotta:

The EPA's National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) is reviewing Hanford's 100-Area Burial Grounds and 300 Area 300-FF-2 Operable Unit remedial plans. The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) is invited to speak about issues important to the tribe. This letter provides some background on the NRRB and the opportunity for tribal input.

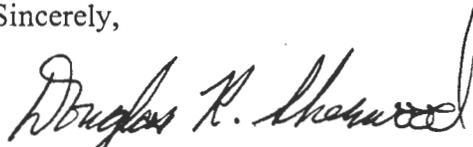
In October 1995, EPA's Administrator announced a collection of initiatives designed to help control remedy costs and to promote consistent and cost-effective CERCLA cleanup decisions. One of these initiatives is the NRRB, which reviews proposed high cost cleanup decisions to assure that they are consistent with current law, regulations, and guidance. The NRRB is a peer-review group that understands both the regional and EPA Headquarters perspectives in the CERCLA remedy selection process.

The NPT's representative is invited to speak about issues important to the NPT for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. The representatives are invited to attend the information gathering phase and participate, as appropriate, in technical or clarifying discussions. The NRRB meeting date is tentatively scheduled for January 12, 2000, at the Renaissance Madison Hotel in Seattle.

In addition to this invitation to the NPT, the State of Washington Department of Ecology, the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Nation have the same opportunity to provide approximately 10 to 15 minutes to speak to issues important to them. The tribes and state are also invited to attend the information gathering phase and participate, as appropriate, in technical or clarifying discussions. The Department of Energy has the opportunity to summarize in writing (less than ten pages) any technical issues they believe are pertinent to the cleanup decision. If you prefer, you may provide input to the board through written information addressed to Bruce Means at: U.S. EPA Headquarters, 401 M Street, S.W./5202G, Washington, D.C. 30460.

If you have any questions regarding this process or this letter of invitation, please contact me at (509) 376-9529 or Dennis Faulk at (509) 376-8631 for the 100 Area or Mike Goldstein at (509) 376-4919 for the 300 Area.

Sincerely,



Douglas R. Sherwood,
Hanford Project Manager

9/18/50

cc: Administrative Record; 100 Area General File, 300-FF-2