



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Portland, OR

APR 22 2005

Mr. Keith Klein  
US Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

**RECEIVED**  
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**EDMC**

Dear Mr. Klein:

As directed by you and the other senior executives of the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (Council), the Council staff met to: 1) develop a scope of work for a \$200,000 increase in funding for technical assistance in FY 2005; and 2) develop a recommendation and justification for an "above target" funding request for the FY 2007 Department of Energy (DOE) budget. The Council staff met on April 7, 2005 and we offer you the following consensus suggestions.

Based on discussions and consideration of numerous alternatives, the Council recommends that the \$200,000 increase for FY 2005 be spent on completing a portion of the studies matrix, or "data gap analysis". A subgroup of the Council, lead by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Fisheries staff, will work with contractors to develop a final revised work plan. Because the scope of this effort is larger than the available funding, there will be a phased approach undertaken based on priorities being developed by a technical subgroup. If any unspent funds are identified in the DOE Richland Operations or Office of River Protection FY 2005 budgets, we request that the data gap analysis budget be augmented by those funds.

The Council staff had extensive discussions regarding a recommendation for the FY 2007 budget request. We reviewed each aspect of earlier funding recommendations in detail and have agreed on the following suggestion to provide for Trustee participation on Hanford cleanup issues for FY 2007. The costs are based on DOE estimates from the FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007 budgets. We also understand that the numbers may be modified based on new information. The following table provides: 1) the current funding planned to be requested for environmental-related cleanup efforts under several categories; and 2) an above the current funding target request for FY 2007, for your consideration.

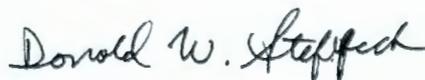
**Table 1 – Funding Suggestion for the FY2007 DOE Budget**

<b>Funding Categories</b>	<b>Within Target</b>	<b>Above Target</b>	<b>Total</b>
Trustee Council Functions	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Matrix Development	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$500,000
Support for DOE contractors in matrix coordination	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Technical assistance to DOE	\$200,000	\$800,000	\$1,000,000
Risk Assessment Integration	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Administrative Support/Record	\$0	\$ 50,000	\$50,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 850,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,650,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
DOE Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA)	\$5-7 M	\$0	\$5-7 M
Contingency for additional studies for ERA	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.85-\$7.85M</b>	<b>\$3.65 M</b>	<b>\$9.5-\$11.5M</b>

The funding suggestions for FY 2007 are based on a goal of focusing Council activities on the most important trust resource concerns, working together to consolidate efforts, and committing to a continuous pursuit of efficiency. The justification for many of these functions can be found in previous Council products especially the Cost Account Plan from earlier this year. The entire Council is available to assist your staff in preparing any additional justifications for your budget process.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your staff in identifying and developing technical assistance and budget issues supporting cleanup at the Hanford Site. Please contact me or any of the individual natural resources trustees, if you have any questions or requests.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Steffek  
Chair, Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council