

0075816



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

**COPY**  
Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

December 11, 2006

Honorable James Rispoli  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20585

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 24 2008

**EDMC**

Re: Notice Letter – Hanford Pre-Assessment Screen

Dear Mr. Assistant Secretary:

By this letter, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) gives notice to the Department of Energy (DOE) that 1) the Yakama Nation has conducted and formally adopted a Pre-Assessment Screen regarding the injury and damage to natural resources potentially caused by hazardous substances released from the Hanford Site (Hanford), and 2) based on the findings in the Pre-Assessment Screen, the Yakama Nation has formally determined that it is appropriate to proceed with the assessment of injuries to natural resources caused by hazardous substances released from Hanford.

This notice is given to DOE in its multiple roles as 1) the lead federal natural resource trustee regarding injuries caused by Hanford releases, 2) the lead agency conducting the Hanford response cleanup activities, and 3) the party financially responsible for the natural resource damage caused by the releases, including the cost of injury assessment.

In DOE's capacity as lead federal natural resource trustee, the Yakama Nation invites DOE's participation in the planning and conducting of this injury assessment of natural resources under the shared trusteeship of the federal government and the Yakama Nation.

In DOE's capacity as lead agency conducting the Hanford response cleanup activities, the Yakama Nation looks forward to DOE's full cooperation in providing all data related to our assessment of natural resources and providing access to all locations at Hanford for further data collection related to the injury of natural resources.

In DOE's capacity as the party financially responsible for the natural resource damage at Hanford, including the cost of natural resource injury assessment, the Yakama Nation expects DOE to pay the Yakama Nation's natural resource injury assessment costs on an ongoing basis. I realize that DOE has previously taken a contrary position, but now that

**RECEIVED**

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

DEC 15 2006

**DOE-RL/PLCC**

the Pre-Assessment Screen has been adopted and the Injury Assessment is moving forward, I urge you to reconsider.

Our goal remains to work cooperatively with all natural resource trustees who choose to move forward in planning and conducting this assessment. Hopefully, this will include DOE. A copy of the Pre-Assessment Screen is being provided to your staff. If you wish an electronic version, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Philip Rigdon, Deputy Director  
Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources

cc: Keith Kline  
Ray Schepens  
Dana Ward