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Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

APR 07 1995

Mr. Russell Jim
Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Indian Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, Washington 98948

Dear Mr. Jim:

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER
COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRCIA)

As discussed in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) letter from Linda K. McClain, "Nominees for Technical Review of the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA)," dated March 8, 1995, nominees to perform technical review of the CRCIA are sought from interested Tribal Governments, organizations, individuals, and agencies. In order to ensure that Tribal Government interests are adequately addressed through the peer review process, an agreement was made with the Environmental Restoration Committee of the Hanford Advisory Board that the Tribes could appoint one individual to represent their interests as a peer reviewer. Please find attached a copy of the referenced letter which includes the peer reviewer requirements.

Since names, resumes, and telephone numbers of the nominees must be submitted by April 14, 1995, DOE is taking this opportunity to inform the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation now of the approaching deadline. To nominate a technical reviewer, or to receive further information about the CRCIA, please contact Mr. Randy Brich, DOE, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, MSIN H4-83, Richland, Washington, 99352, or at (509) 376-9031.

Sincerely,

Julie K. Erickson, Director
River Sites Restoration Division

RSD:RFB

Attachment

cc w/attach:
S. Alexander, Ecology
F. Cook, YIN
L. Gadbois, EPA
D. Holland, Ecology
R. Patt, Oregon DOE
D. Sherwood, EPA
J. Yokel, Ecology

cc w/o attach:
D. Powaukee, NPT
J. Wilkinson, CTUIR





9513358.1380

Department of EnergyRichland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352011535
0040965**MAR 0 8 1995**

Those on Attached list:

NOMINEES FOR TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CRCIA)

Nominees to perform technical review of the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment are sought from interested Tribal Governments, organizations, individuals, and agencies. The following provides:

- the description, scope, purpose and current status of the assessment;
- the need for independent, objective technical review;
- the fields of technical expertise for technical reviewers;
- the procedure for identifying nominees; and
- the selection process.

The last remaining unimpounded, non-tidal stretch of the Columbia River in the U.S. flows through the Hanford Site in south-central Washington State. This stretch of the Columbia River, known as the Hanford Reach, has received contaminants from Hanford's plutonium production facilities. Although the contaminants currently entering the Hanford Reach are far less than released during the production years, the prevailing impact of these contaminants on the local and regional biosphere has not been adequately quantified.

In response to significant public comment on the Columbia River Impact Evaluation Plan, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now conducting a comprehensive assessment of Hanford-related contaminants in the Columbia River. The Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment is required under a 1993 amendment to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement).

As directed in the Tri-Party Agreement, the assessment will quantitatively estimate the current impact (caused by the contaminants) on humans and plant and animal species, including fish. The assessment will support final Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Records of Decision for remediation of Hanford facilities and Hanford groundwater.

DOE appreciates and welcomes the interest and participation of Tribal Governments, State and Federal agencies, and the public throughout the assessment process. We seek this exchange of information so ideas and concerns can be addressed early in the assessment process. One area of concern presently being addressed is to ensure the technical quality of the assessment. To accomplish that, three or more technical reviewers will be selected by the Director of the State of Washington, Water Research Center, at Washington State University and the Director of the State of Oregon, Water Resources Research Institute, at Oregon State University, to evaluate the technical merits of assessment plans, approaches, and results.

Addressees

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MAR 0 8 1995

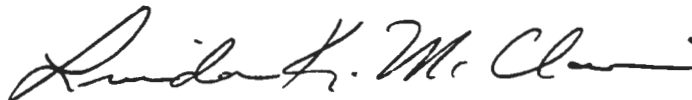
Because these reviewers will ensure the technical quality of the work, they need to be highly qualified in specific areas of technical expertise. Non-technical input will be obtained via other channels, such as the Hanford Advisory Board. Details on the qualifications required for the technical reviewers are attached.

During FY 1995, the technical reviewers would be asked to review and comment on the following key draft documents:

- Identification of Contaminants of Concern
- Identification of Plant and Animal Indicator Species of Concern
- Conceptual Plan for the CRCIA

You are invited to submit names, resumes, and telephone numbers of potential technical reviewers. This information must be submitted by April 14, 1995, for the nominees to be considered in the Directors' reviewer selection process. To nominate a technical reviewer, or to receive further information about the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment, please contact Mr. R. Brich, DOE, Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, MSIN H4-83, Richland, Washington, 99352, or at (509) 376-9031.

Sincerely,



Linda K. McClain, Assistant Manager
for Environmental Restoration

RSD:RFB

Attachment

cc w/attach:
S. Alexander, Ecology
L. Gadbois, EPA
D. Holland, Ecology
D. Sherwood, EPA
J. Yokel, Ecology

Addressees - Letter dated MAR 08 1995

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Addressees - Letter dated **MAR 0 8 1955**

Page 2 of 2

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**TECHNICAL REVIEWER QUALIFICATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS
COLUMBIA RIVER COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Purpose

The purpose of performing a technical review is to ensure a sound technical basis for the assessment conclusions. Three or more reviewers will independently examine study plans, data, analysis approaches, and results. The reviewers will have consistent core membership, consisting of at least one representative appointed by the Tribes.

Technical Scope

The assessment will evaluate the current human health risk and ecological risk from radionuclides and hazardous chemicals. Conduct of the study incorporates information based on activities in the following disciplines: human chemical and radiological environmental toxicology; ecological chemical and radiological environmental toxicology; river ecology/limnology; river hydrology; environmental sampling; and exposure and risk methods.

Categories/Disciplines Required of Reviewers

The technical reviewers will collectively have expertise as follows:

- Environmental Monitoring
- Human Chemical and Radiological Environmental Toxicology
- Ecological Chemical and Radiological Environmental Toxicology
- River Ecology/Limnology
- Exposure and Risk Methods/State of the Art Risk Assessment, Perception, Analysis, and Communication Skills
- Uncertainty/Sensitivity Analysis
- River Hydrology/Sedimentology
- Tribal and Cultural Resource Use

Required (Minimum) Qualifications for Reviewers

An individual should possess the following minimum criteria to be considered for selection as a reviewer:

- Earned graduate degree in technical field
- Several years of applied, related experience in the technical field
- Independent without conflict of interest
- Acceptable to Tri-Parties

Desirable Qualifications

The following qualifications are also desirable:

- Doctorate of Medicine, Doctorate of Philosophy (or Science) degree in a technical discipline
- Have a broad range of interdisciplinary, related experience
- Possess good communication skills
- Have knowledge of applicable environmental laws and regulations
- Published in a peer-reviewed journal within the last ten years

Selection Process

Selection of the reviewers will be performed by the Director of the State of Washington, Water Research Center, at Washington State University and the Director of the State of Oregon, Water Resources Research Institute, at Oregon State University, as follows:

- 1) Collect resumes of review candidates;
- 2) Determine if each candidate meets the basic selection criteria;
- 3) Categorize the remaining candidates by area of expertise;
- 4) Rank the candidates within each category;
- 5) Select the set of reviewers from among the top ranked candidates after considering the balance across categories required to cover the project technical scope; and,
- 6) Determine if the selectee is willing and available for the required time period.

Acceptance Process

After the Directors have selected the reviewers, the directors will provide a list of the reviewers to the Tri-Parties for acceptance.