

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCES TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Correspondence Dated June 30, 2009

From Paul Shaffer, Chairman, Oregon Department of Energy

To David Brockman, RL Manager

REQUEST FOR CONTAMINANT RIVER MAPPING AS PART OF THE COLUMBIA
RIVER COMPONENT REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

And

RL Response, Same Subject

Correspondence Dated August 3, 2009, 09-AMRC-0165

From David Brockman, RL Manager

To Paul Shaffer, Chairman, Oregon Department of Energy

Consisting of 4 pages,
including this coversheet

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Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



**OREGON DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY**

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June 30, 2009

Mr. David Brockman, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

**RE: Request for Contaminant River Mapping as part of the Columbia River
Component Remedial Investigation**

Dear Mr. Brockman:

At the November, 2008 Hanford Natural Resource Trustee meeting, your Assistant Manager for the River Corridor, Joe Franco, agreed to coordinate the Columbia River component remedial investigation (RI) work with the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee's natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) work that are occurring concurrently.

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (HNRTC) still sees an opportunity to influence the Columbia River component RI, which remains of extreme interest to all the parties around the table. As a result, we have identified mapping of contaminants in the river as a necessary piece of the investigative work for both processes of CERCLA, i.e. the RI and NRDA.

An important objective of these two processes of CERCLA should be to provide data and mapping information that is readily sharable among the response agencies and the Trustee governments, modifiable in order to add new data as it becomes available, and to plan future work for both investigations.

As a foundation for planning investigations, cleanup, and restoration of the Columbia River, mapping of the environmental conditions related to the sediment is needed. Our recommendations include:

- Utilize USDOE's mapping and planning efforts initiated with the University of Washington in 2004.
- Use current information contained in the Columbia River Component Database, September 2008, to form the initial data set for the mapping project.
- Conduct mapping for the geographic area that includes the Priest Rapids Pool, downstream to Bonneville Dam.

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One possible approach forward could include:

- Transfer of existing chemical, data quality, location, depth, and other information related to sediment and beach soils into an accessible database as a basis for mapping the area of interest.
- Develop GIS coverage for the area of interest that can be populated with the environmental data to produce graphical displays of the information for key contaminants of concern.
- Produce maps in hard copy and in Arc-View ready electronic files that display ranges of concentrations by color-coding the chemical results for each data point.

Mapping can add necessary transparency, reduce duplication between the two processes of CERCLA, result in significant cost savings, and result in resource recovery and protection. We believe this is of highest value to the cleanup and NRDA and request your support for beginning this task as part of the next step in the remedial investigation of the Columbia River.

Finally, the HNRTC requests that the environmental and mapping data be provided in a format that is accessible to the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee governments and allows the end user to conduct data exploration. We also encourage your staff to organize a meeting with trustees to discuss how mapping might be accomplished during the Columbia River Component RI and coordinated with the NRDA effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Shaffer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Shaffer, Chairman
Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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Mr. Paul Shaffer, Chairman
Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council
State of Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-3737

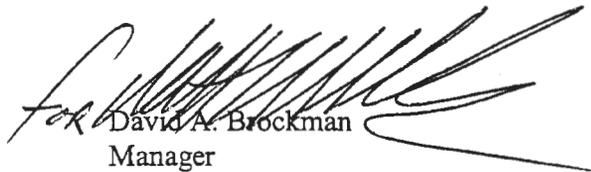
Dear Mr. Shaffer:

**REQUEST FOR CONTAMINATED RIVER MAPPING AS PART OF THE COLUMBIA
RIVER COMPONENT REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION**

This letter responds to your letter to me, same subject, dated June 30, 2009, requesting the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) provide Columbia River contaminant data and mapping information in a format that is readily sharable with the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council as well as other Governmental Agencies. RL agrees with the need to provide this information and has been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to determine which of the publicly available data bases, such as Query Manager, would best serve our purposes. My staff will keep you informed of the progress towards meeting your request.

If you have questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Joe R. Franco, Assistant Manager for the River Corridor, on (509) 376-6628.

Sincerely,


David A. Brockman
Manager

AMRC:JPS

cc: L. C. Buelow, EPA
M. Soccia, EPA