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Hanford Public Meeting
State Office Building
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon

May 18, 1999

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**BEOVICH
MAY
WALTER
&
FRIEND**

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1 May 18, 1999
2 Hanford Public Meeting
3 State Office Building
4 800 NE Oregon Street
5 Portland, Oregon 97801-0223

6 STEVE SAUTER: We'd like to get started, if we
7 could. Give a minute for the folks who are in the
8 lobby to come in.

9 My name is Steve Sauter. I'm a Hanford project
10 specialist for the Oregon Office of Energy, and on
11 behalf of Governor Kitzhaber, our office, and the
12 Oregon Hanford Waste Board, I'd like to extend a
13 welcome to you at this meeting we are having here
14 tonight.

15 A lot of the people ask us Oregonians why we
16 are involved with things such as Hanford, which is
17 north of the Columbia River away from our state;
18 and we are always quick to respond that that river,
19 which is the lifeline of the Pacific Northwest,
20 runs through the Hanford site, and then is the
21 northern border for our state for nearly 300 miles.

22 We are deeply interested in maintaining the
23 river and maintaining the life style, the
24 environment, and the health of Oregonians and their
25 economy; and thereby, we are extremely interested
in what goes on at the Hanford site.

Tonight they will be talking about the revised

1 draft, Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact
2 Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is
3 another piece of the puzzle of putting Hanford back
4 to nearly the way it was 50 years ago, not quite --
5 It never will be that way -- but getting it to a
6 point where we can use it for the things that we
7 want to here in the Pacific Northwest.

8 So again, we welcome you here and hope you have
9 an opportunity to provide good input to the U.S.
10 Department of Energy; and, as I always do, I would
11 ask that our presenters really limit the use of
12 acronyms tonight. A lot of us are not familiar
13 with what they stand for, so we would encourage you
14 not to use those. So with that, I'll turn it over
15 to Tom.

16 TOM FERNS: My name is Tom Ferns. I'm with
17 the Department of Energy, and I am the National
18 Environmental Policy Act document manager for this
19 Environmental Impact Statement. We have revised
20 this draft in response to public comment on the
21 original draft that came out in 1996.

22 The revised draft that we are going to look at
23 tonight and the one we'd really like to get public
24 comment on contains new alternatives for the land
25 use of the Hanford site. It drops most of the

1 Environmental Restoration Program that was a part
2 of the original AIS, and it contains a whole bunch
3 of new players that we picked up in corporate
4 agencies.

5 Corporate agencies that we did pick up were:
6 The Department of the Interior, represented by the
7 US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of
8 Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, the
9 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
10 Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribal Nation, and the
11 City of Richland.

12 Grant County, Franklin County, Benton County,
13 and Adams County is also represented in part of
14 that. I think that's all, but what we did was we
15 got together for about a year and a half after the
16 original draft and heard from the public who said,
17 "No, this isn't good enough." We came up with
18 these alternatives that you see here tonight, and
19 we'd really like to have your comment on them.

20 What we will end up doing is we will take
21 either one of these alternatives over here
22 (indicating), either the DOE's Preferred
23 Alternative or we will have Alternative No. 1,
24 which is a Natural Resource Trustee type of an
25 alternative that is also really a DOE and US Fish

1 and Wildlife Service. There's a big wildlife
2 refuge on that that only the Fish and Wildlife
3 service can actually implement.

4 Alternative No. 2, which is the Nez Perce;
5 Alternative No. 3, which is local government, which
6 was County.

7 Phil Niece is here, and I really apologize Phil
8 for making your map so small tonight. We'll fix
9 that.

10 And then, Alternative No. 4 is the Confederated
11 Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The
12 No-Act Alternative is required by National
13 Environmental Policy Act for any Environmental
14 Impact Statement that we want to do. That's also
15 DOE's.

16 Barbara Williamson is here from the Department
17 and she will be the moderator, and she will
18 essentially say what the time is.

19 Any remarks, Barbara?

20 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Yes. As the moderator, we
21 have a list of folks who want to say some comments,
22 and we're going to ask that you keep your comments
23 to about ten minutes. If you do that, we ought to
24 be able to get through everybody.

25 Earlier this evening we had a question/answer

1 period around the maps around the Alternatives, and
2 we hope that you have had your questions
3 answered -- You've formulated some thoughts, and
4 you'd like to give them to us. If you don't want
5 to do an oral comment, it is possible to do a
6 written comment on a form that's back at the
7 registration desk. You can write it and mail it
8 in. It just folds over with a piece of tape or you
9 can leave it here. If you want to write and leave
10 it right in your lap or something, leave it until
11 the end of the meeting and hand it in. Other than
12 that, you know the registration table is Liz
13 Williams working; she can help you out.

14 We have Dave Geck here from Fish and Wildlife
15 here; we have Phil Niece -- I remembered the Niece
16 part of it -- Phil is here to have some comments,
17 as well. I've noticed that quite a few other
18 folks -- the Sierra Club, Audubon Society -- We
19 have the Physicians for Social Responsibility, the
20 Planning League; and with that I think we'll get
21 started. I will try, if you look like you are
22 running on, to give you a high sign to say, "Let's
23 stop it" and move on. Let's start with Bruce
24 Frazier.

25 BRUCE FRAZIER: Thank you. My name is Bruce

1 Frazier and I'm a resident of Portland. I want to
2 express my appreciation to the State of Oregon
3 Office of Energy and the Federal Department of
4 Energy for having this meeting here in Portland and
5 allowing us Oregonians a chance to comment on these
6 land use proposals.

7 I must also say it's -- I feel like I've been
8 here before, because one the first meetings I
9 attended, coming to Portland about three years ago,
10 was held at the Red Lion Inn; and it was a
11 discussion of land use planning, and I think that
12 may have led to some of these Alternatives here.

13 I personally feel that the Alternative One, as
14 proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is
15 the best proposal that I have seen. I believe that
16 there's a tremendous amount of evidence that the
17 natural resource values of the Hanford Reservation
18 are really paramount, and I think that's been
19 expressed by everybody from Mr. Richardson, the
20 Secretary of the Department, on down.

21 In the face of the listings of the number of
22 species that use the Hanford Reach, the Columbia
23 River, I feel that the natural resource values
24 there are especially important, and I feel that
25 Hanford does need time to remediate the effects of

1 the 'cold war' use, and the disturbance of that
2 area would need generations to restore it to
3 anything resembling the pre-World War II landscape.

4 I also feel that there are problems when we are
5 talking about locating industrial and economic uses
6 within the reservation, because I feel that is in
7 conflict with the cleanup. I think many of us who
8 have been concerned with cleanup issues at Hanford
9 would like to see that accomplished first; and we
10 want to be sure that all of the technical problems,
11 all the political problems, and all the economic
12 problems associated with clean-up have been solved
13 before we begin making decisions on future land
14 uses; and locating economic and industrial uses in
15 the heart of the Hanford Reservation really puts
16 that at risk.

17 I noticed that in some of the Alternatives,
18 commercial and other uses were cited along or near
19 the river and I think it's well-known and
20 documented that there are ground water and basaltic
21 (phonetic) problems in those areas. Again, that
22 impacts the cleanup, and I think that the whole
23 area presents an opportunity -- a unique
24 opportunity to preserve open space, to preserve
25 water quality, and to maximize on the investment

1 that the United States Government and the People of
2 the United States are making at the present time in
3 cleaning this area up.

4 I don't think we'll have another area that
5 presents quite the same natural resource values,
6 same open space values, or the same heritage values
7 as this area does; and it's already in Federal
8 ownership. So I'm very, very much in favor of
9 Alternative No. 1, the Natural Resource Trustee,
10 but I would also like to add that I feel -- I know
11 it's necessary that consultation be had with the
12 Tribes with regard to the use of this area; and I
13 would hope that the Department of Energy can
14 accommodate them in spirit, as well as, in letter.

15 These lands were primordially associated with
16 the native peoples of this country, and they were
17 shunted aside by direct actions of our Federal
18 Government, and I think reconciliation has to take
19 place there, and I think that, to the greatest
20 extent possible, the Tribal hunting, gathering,
21 ceremonial, and heritage uses of these areas have
22 to be expanded and they have to be maintained. I
23 believe that's only justice, and if that's what
24 most of us who are citizens of the United States
25 feel that this country is about, then I think that

1 that has to be recognized in the planning process
2 here.

3 I also feel that the people of the United
4 States have made a huge investment -- an enormous
5 investment in this area and are, at present, making
6 a huge and enormous investment; and I think that
7 national values, national concerns, and regional
8 concerns are paramount here, not local concerns.

9 I, as a taxpayer and citizen of the United
10 States, would be very concerned if the billions and
11 billions and billions of dollars that have been and
12 will be spent in cleaning up Hanford adhere only to
13 the benefit or to even a significant benefit to a
14 small group of local and county-wide agencies and
15 groups.

16 I think this is and national site. I think it
17 has national value. I think it has a national
18 aspect, and, as Mr. Sauter pointed out, it really
19 is of importance to the entire region; and I think
20 that it can be best preserved by keeping it as a
21 national/regional site for the pleasure and use of
22 all of it's citizens, including the special rights
23 of the Native Americans; and for that reason again,
24 I reiterate that I support Alternative One. Thank
25 you.

1 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Next we'll
2 have Dick Belsey, Physicians for Social
3 Responsibility.

4 DICK BELSEY: I'm Dick Belsey, member of
5 Physicians for Social Responsibility and have been
6 on -- working on Hanford issues from an activist
7 point of view for about 15 years when they were
8 still going over the fences and doing civil
9 disobedience there.

10 A lot of things have changed along the way; a
11 lot of things remain the same. Ted, Tom, your work
12 is cut out ahead of you. You've got six mutually
13 exclusive things that go in different directions,
14 and trying to get that to work with the principals
15 to come to agreement on that, you should live
16 another millennium, and it might give you the
17 chance to do that.

18 I want to also thank of the Department of Energy
19 for coming and presenting this opportunity for
20 Oregonians to participate in the decision making
21 process. The landmark work that this developed
22 from was looking at the site, now nearly a decade
23 ago, and saying, "This is a valuable resource,
24 too," and we have to, not only dirty it up in order
25 to make heavy industrial products, like plutonium,

1 but we also have to look to the future; and the
2 future of the Northwest will depend on the river
3 and the cleanliness of that river, and the pristine
4 quality that people expect in things going into the
5 food chain and into the food line and in the
6 environment.

7 So I don't know how you're going to come to
8 that -- that kind of juncture. First, I think that
9 you should be open to taking, as the draft says,
10 take bits and pieces to barter back and forth in
11 order to allow the real people to reach an
12 agreement; and our surrogates are here tonight, and
13 Bruce does a really well thought out statement that
14 I wish that I could conjure something so eloquent
15 from myself.

16 But the thing that the people of the northwest
17 and Oregon are looking for is something that will
18 be a positive value for the health, but at the same
19 time, taking care of the health and safety issues;
20 that from my perspective, the greener it gets, the
21 better it gets, and the one in the middle on the
22 bottom row looks more like anything that I would
23 prefer. I think the Tribes have done a good thing
24 for the process by bringing the other Alternatives
25 in and making very clear that they have a long hold.

1 attachment to the land and that they intend to try
2 to access it -- to access land.

3 The Hanford Advisory Board has said, "protect the
4 river, protect the river banks." I don't see
5 anything here which distinguishes between the
6 banks, the mile and a quarter in from the river,
7 and, as such, there are in the Preferred
8 Alternative.

9 In fact, there are intrusions on the river bank
10 as it comes into the current Hanford site. Those
11 should be mitigated and that -- Perhaps the vision
12 of having a full protected area all the way from
13 just north of Richland back to Bernita Bridge
14 should be protected if at all possible. So I hope
15 you have a long, healthy life, and that we come to
16 closure on some of these issues. I expect that
17 you'll be back again sometime in the future.
18 Thanks.

19 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Dick.

20 Paige Knight.

21 PAIGE KNIGHT: Okay. I'm Paige Knight. I'm
22 the president of Hanford Watch, here in town, and
23 actually the comments I'm making tonight are on
24 behalf of myself, and also on behalf of Robin Kline
25 of Hanford Action of Oregon. She and I spent quite

1 a bit of time in 1996 forging some comments
2 together that we took to the Hanford Advisory Board
3 that were very much appreciated, and I remember at
4 that time going to some of the hearings on this
5 land use planning, the previous document, the
6 precursor to the one we are seeing here tonight and
7 left there with a great deal of fear in my heart;
8 because it looked like all out land wars to me the
9 way people were feeling.

10 There is not that kind of fervor right now. I
11 think that cleanup has consumed the minds of the
12 people in a lot of ways, and we have another issue
13 that I think is a little more hot than the land use
14 planning right now, but it's certainly going to
15 come back to this and that's the FFTF issue, and
16 I'm going to address those things in my brief
17 comments tonight.

18 I also want to compliment you, Tom, for this
19 much better document than the one we saw last time
20 and the maps are awful pretty.

21 The things that are the framework for our
22 comments tonight have to do, really, with cleanup.
23 We're in a process right now in the history of
24 Hanford of fighting and struggling for clean-up
25 dollars to clean up a site that if not cleaned up

1 will poison the Columbia River beyond belief.

2 We all know here that the Columbia River is the
3 lifeblood of our region. If we lose the river, we
4 lose everything. We lose our economy. We lose our
5 health. We lose our children, and we leave one
6 terrible, terrible mess for our future generations;
7 and that is first and foremost in our minds at
8 Hanford Watch.

9 Clean-up at the site, including the stopping of
10 migration of all contaminants, must be prevented to
11 the fullest extent possible. That is one of our
12 over-arching boundaries or frameworks for advice.
13 Sufficient funding must be designated for clean-up
14 and for development of advanced waste retrieval,
15 storage, and treatment technologies.

16 Hanford has been hurting for technologies. We
17 are the only site in the country that has waste in
18 tanks and has absolutely no way of retrieving those
19 wastes, no way of treating them; and we have 177
20 tanks with 54 million gallons of probably the worst
21 radioactive waste in the world, and we don't know
22 what to do with them.

23 Right now there is a -- We're in the process of
24 getting the British Nuclear Fuel Company to set up
25 a putrefaction process, and that's going to be a

1 long time out, and the Congress is not funding this
2 to the level needed. One of the things I hope some
3 of you take back with you tonight is, get on
4 Congress. Every phone call to your Congress or
5 congressional representatives makes a huge
6 difference.

7 A pristine site must be strived for as the
8 ultimate goal in order to protect future
9 generations. Now, I differ with the Tribes here a
10 little bit, or at least how I interpret the Tribes,
11 sometimes. Sometimes, I think that they feel this
12 site can go back to pristine; that it will not be a
13 sacrifice zone, and I have my days of doubts, and I
14 have my days of hope; but we have to strive for
15 pristine.

16 We are never going to go back to real pristine,
17 because we have so much fall-out around the world
18 from the whole nuclear debacle. The land use
19 planning must not be used as a justification for
20 lowering cleanup standards and risk standards. The
21 end use of the land must not drive cleanup.

22 In, I think it's this Alternative No. 3, let's
23 see; they don't have the titles up there. Anyhow,
24 in some of them, Hanford is being looked at for a
25 lot of industrial development; and that is

1 something that the counties really want. They are
2 struggling themselves. The counties and all of the
3 local governments are struggling to continue to
4 have the livelihood that they've always had;
5 hopefully without being on the government role
6 someday. I know that that's what they have been
7 wanting for years from the different comments that
8 they have made on the Hanford Advisory Board.

9 But just because we might use some of Hanford for
10 industrial cleanup or industrial sites, we can't
11 say, "Oh, I'm done. The risk is a little lower."
12 You know, we cannot afford to do that, because
13 anytime we lower the risk up at Hanford my feeling
14 is we just have that much more going to the river;
15 that many more contaminants going to the river over
16 time, and that's the heritage you will leave your
17 grandchildren and your future generations.

18 In the Preferred Alternative No. 1, multiple uses
19 of Hanford should not include future missions that
20 create more waste streams that add to the impact of
21 contaminants already seeping into the ground water
22 in the Columbia River; and that divert cleanup
23 dollars from cleanup missions. That is an
24 over-arching value that we hold down here in
25 Portland: That you must not let any lesser cleanup

1 in any of these alternatives say that we don't have
2 to clean up all the way. We don't have to give the
3 dollars to cleanup. We can't let Congress continue
4 to defer the costs that they owe us from their days
5 of plutonium making.

6 All land use plans must support and preserve
7 natural and cultural resources, as well as,
8 traditional and sacred Tribal uses of the land, and
9 that's Alternative -- referring to Alternatives
10 Nos. 2 and 4. Respecting the Tribes rights, as
11 Bruce eloquently put it earlier, that they were the
12 original people here and they have those rights.

13 I heard it said once at a Hanford Advisory
14 Board meeting, and I'll never forget this comment,
15 it really went to the quick for me, and it was said
16 in front of everybody, including the Tribes. As my
17 kids at school would say, "Boy, that was a major
18 dis", a real disrespect, and that was that the
19 Indians and the cowboys fought and the cowboys won.

20 That doesn't mean anything in this day and age,
21 and it cannot mean anything if we are going to
22 leave this region in a good place for our future
23 generations, and it can't mean anything if we are
24 going to create a peaceful world, and all this has
25 to do with peace in a world community.

1 Greater emphasis should be placed on cleanup
2 rather than on barriers, that's caps and covers,
3 and that's one of the myriad of plans to clean up
4 some of the multitude of sites at Hanford; to put
5 caps and covers on; and we should be emphasizing
6 cleanup, not capping and covering and walking
7 around. In some instances, people are looking at
8 fencing the place and walking off. We can't do
9 that. We cannot let that happen here in the
10 Pacific Northwest.

11 Institutional controls for the most contaminated
12 areas, and that really is the central plateau,
13 which is this gray area where the tanks reside,
14 where the plutonium finishing plant is -- Where
15 some of the most contaminated sites are.
16 Institutional controls for most contaminated areas
17 must be planned for thousands of years. What
18 thousands of years -- and most of these plans are
19 looking ahead to 50 and a hundred.

20 Now, that's pretty long-term for politicians
21 these days. Most politicians, in my book, look
22 ahead to a year, maybe five years, max. We have to
23 look ahead to at least a 1,000, and that doesn't
24 even begin to cover the half-lives of some of the
25 contaminants of this site, which will multiply

1 beyond belief as they break down into their
2 products and whatnot.

3 In the 1992 Future Site Uses Report, the result
4 of broad citizen support and consensus building, it
5 does not support a scenario that would limit
6 cleanup level suitable for industrial and
7 recreational use, and I think there that's high, or
8 what do they call it in the document? Intense
9 recreational use?

10 You know Hanford is beautiful. Every time I go
11 up on a tour there I am just overwhelmed more and
12 more by the beauty of that land, and, also, by the
13 starkness of the big buildings that made such
14 lethal materials. We have to -- We have to clean
15 that up, and we cannot afford to have high impact
16 until it's cleaned up, and even possibly after it's
17 cleaned up; with heavy-duty recreational use.

18 Both Dick and Bruce have pointed out that too
19 many incredible species, both of plants and
20 animals, reside up there, oddly enough, due to the
21 50 years of plutonium making. The public is
22 demanding cleanup of Hanford. Goals and priorities
23 must be those that safeguard the health and safety
24 of the environment, the citizens, and the economy
25 of the Pacific Northwest.

1 So this Land Use Plan must protect us, and that's
2 every aspect of our lives from now until eternity
3 in my book. Thank you.

4 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Katherine Ransel, American
5 Rivers.

6 KATHERINE RANSEL: I want to thank the
7 Department of Energy for having this series of
8 hearings to discuss this very important issue and
9 State of Oregon for letting us use their facilities
10 tonight.

11 American Rivers is a National Conservation
12 Organization, and we have a Northwest Office in
13 Seattle, and in 1998, pursuant to an announcement
14 that we make every year, we named the Hanford Reach
15 the most endangered river in the United States;
16 that was due to the fact that certain folks, a
17 minority albeit, are interested in turning much of
18 the north slope lines into irrigated agriculture.
19 Anybody that's ever been out there knows what a
20 folly that is; and even the Bureau of Reclamation
21 has said in no uncertain terms that most of these
22 lands should never be farmed.

23 It's for that reason that we are here tonight,
24 to make sure that that doesn't happen, if we have
25 anything to say about it. I'm very moved by the

1 statements that proceeded mine, by the knowledge
2 and the passion of these folks, and I don't pretend
3 to have that sort of in-depth knowledge; but
4 American Rivers and it's thousands of members
5 across the country recognize this place as one of
6 national significance.

7 We've been in the fight for many years now to
8 reverse the decline of salmon in the Northwest, and
9 anybody that knows anything about this area knows
10 that it is the absolute core of recovery for salmon
11 in this region; and that to allow these fragile
12 lands on the north slope to be developed in any
13 way, again, would be purest folly.
14 So we would support the greatest amount of
15 protection possible.

16 In looking at your alternatives, that looks
17 like the Nez Perce Alternative, without the high
18 intensity recreation, that we see there right near
19 the river; but at the very, very, very least, our
20 membership across the nation supports the Preferred
21 Alternative put forth by the Department, with
22 certain additions and amendments.

23 First of all, we would urge you to designate
24 all the public land from Waluke slope, the Hanford
25 Reach, its islands, the Mcgee ranch, and the Arid

1 Lands Ecology Reserve as part of a National
2 Wildlife Refuge. That sum: 176,000 total acres.

3 We would also encourage you to amend your
4 Preferred Alternatives to eliminate any grazing on
5 the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and we would also
6 ask you to amend your alternative to restrict all
7 mining operations to those essential to completing
8 cleanup and remediation on the Hanford Reservation,
9 and probably the most important thing for us in
10 terms of process amendment to the current proposal
11 put forth by the Department is that you issue a
12 separate Record of Decision for all the areas that
13 I mentioned above, because these areas are prime
14 fish and wildlife habitat, and they are admittedly
15 uncontaminated by any Hanford operations, and they
16 should not have to wait for protection, which is so
17 critical now until the complex decisions involving
18 cleanup in the central Hanford area are made.
19 Thank you for this opportunity.

20 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: We have Jeff Fryer, Sierra
21 Club.

22 JEFF FRYER: Thank you for the opportunity to
23 testify here. I kind of wear several hats here.
24 I'm the Chair of the local group of the Sierra
25 Club. I've also worked for the Columbia River

1 Inner-Tribal Fish Commission, and of the four
2 Tribes I represent, two of them have plans here;
3 but I think I want to speak as a fishery biologist
4 who has the honor and the privilege, I guess it is,
5 of spending two weeks on the Hanford Reach every
6 year as part of one of our Research Projects, and
7 in an area that I most enjoy going to.

8 I guess I come and look at these plans as if I
9 wanted to save the Hanford Reach and protect the
10 area. The first thing I'd do is make sure the
11 Waluke slope was protected -- the White Bluffs.
12 There's been tremendous damage downstream from
13 irrigation. They seem to be pretty well protected
14 by Alternatives One, Two, and Four, and protect the
15 right, as well as, the Preferred Alternative; also
16 protect the clearing area.

17 I have some questions about some of the
18 proposals. The high intensity recreation worries
19 me. I don't necessarily mind seeing perhaps a
20 campground somewhere on this site, but golf
21 courses? Resorts? Do we really need another golf
22 course out in the desert? Where's the water going
23 to come from? We are trying to save the Columbia
24 River salmon and we keep pulling more and more
25 water out of the river.

1 Also, I think there is too much industrial land
2 in the Preferred Plan. I would prefer to see less;
3 more along the lines of One, Two, and Four. And
4 the grazing, I don't see the need for that. One of
5 the things I love about the Hanford Reach is the
6 amount of wildlife you see, especially around dark;
7 and I'd much rather see the wildlife than the cows
8 in the area, not to mention some of the problems of
9 contamination. I think you'd rule out cows to
10 begin with, and limit mining to what is necessary
11 for clean up.

12 I'd like to see more land protected in
13 protected areas, particularly the wildlife refuge
14 as proposed in Alternative One. Anyway, just
15 looking at the area, I would like to see something
16 that would protect it. Last week I drove from
17 Portland up to Wenatchee, and the whole area except
18 for the drive through the Hanford Reach -- I was
19 actually out in the Hanford Reach last year -- The
20 whole area was all dammed.

21 We left 50 miles of river, less than 50 miles
22 for fish, and the orchards and farms follow
23 straight from practically the time you leave
24 Bernita Bridge, now, all the way up to the
25 Okunawkin. If you can, I think we can afford to

1 leave 45 or 50 miles for the fish and for the
2 salmon.

3 I find Hanford a fascinating place, but I also
4 would like to see some of the historical aspects of
5 it leave, to some extent anyway. We spoke earlier
6 about the starkness. Just driving along Hanford or
7 running out on the river and seeing all those --
8 each of those old nuclear reactors and trying to
9 imagine what the place must once have been. You
10 see four-lane highways and not a car around it. I
11 would like to see a little bit of that preserved,
12 as well, but I think the main thing would be to
13 preserve the area for fish and wildlife.

14 So thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Next we have Lupito Flores
16 from Save The Reach/Lower Columbia Audubon.

17 LUPITO FLORES: Hi. My name is Lupito Flores.
18 I work with the Save The Reach, which is a campaign
19 of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. We
20 have about 1,800 members nationwide, and some of
21 our members have been working to protect the Reach
22 since the 60s, and we'd like to thank the
23 Department of Energy for this opportunity and
24 commend you for your efforts to protect the Hanford
25 Reach ecosystem.

1 We support the Preferred Alternative but would
2 like to see additional protections for Hanford's
3 undisturbed and remarkable lands. We urge you to
4 include the following areas in your proposal for
5 National Wildlife Refuge. All the public lands in
6 the Waluke slope, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve,
7 the Mcgee ranch, the Riverlands Area, and the
8 entire Hanford Reach environs.

9 But does that in protection provide the much
10 needed continuous crescent of undisturbed natural
11 habitat surrounding central Hanford? This would
12 protect an unbroken migration corridor for fish and
13 wildlife and connect essential habitat on Hanford
14 with adjacent areas, such as the Yakima Firing
15 Range; and going along with that, we request that
16 the DOE issue a separate and immediate Record of
17 Decision for these lands. They are uncontaminated
18 and unrelated to the complex issues of cleanup on
19 central Hanford and should be protected now; and
20 like other testimony, we strongly oppose farming of
21 the north slope.

22 One thing that wasn't mentioned is, if
23 irrigated farming was to take place on the north
24 slope, this would be the first time in history that
25 a wildlife refuge would be sacrificed for

1 agriculture. We also urge the Department to
2 prohibit grazing and commercial mining throughout
3 the Hanford Reach ecosystem; and we urge DOE to
4 limit all recreation on the Reach to low intensity
5 improvements.

6 And, once again, I would just like to say,
7 "Thank you for all your work and the opportunity to
8 testify." Thanks.

9 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Michael Dean.

10 MICHAEL DEAN: Hi. My name's Michael Dean.
11 I'm a resident of Portland. I'm also a Sierra Club
12 member and member of the High Desert Committee of
13 the Sierra Club but I'm here speaking for myself.
14 I visited the reservation just this last weekend.
15 It was really the first time I have had a chance to
16 really go through it -- was given a tour of the ALE
17 area south of the highway, the southern end of the
18 Reserve and really came to appreciate it even more
19 so than I had before.

20 So, what I am here to do tonight is to urge the
21 Department of Energy -- Federal Government to help
22 us treasure and protect our treasures. I strongly
23 oppose any privatization that would be represented,
24 particularly by plan Three, the County's plan;
25 destructive uses in general. Privatization of the

1 Reserve by use or by privatization, and any
2 significant de-evolution of the exceptional values
3 represented by this, essentially from ridge line to
4 far ridge -- line that represents this entire large
5 basin.

6 The qualities of treasures I speak of are
7 really that it is a complete ecosystem. The
8 cryptogamic soil is unlike any like I have seen in
9 my extensive travels throughout the great basin.
10 It is thick, which if you go to places where cattle
11 have been removed, you'll start to see it
12 recovering, but it's nowhere near an inch thick and
13 very solid soils you see there. It just doesn't
14 exist elsewhere in the region, in the entire great
15 basin. The native vegetation that exists in this
16 place really doesn't exist -- certainly not in the
17 expanse -- the vast expanse that this reservation
18 has allowed.

19 The quality of solitude, again, is something
20 that is unique, while there are industrial plants
21 in the area, they're sort of this oddity. They're
22 quiet, first of all, they're not operating, so
23 unlike a mine, say, in Nevada where there's this
24 oppressive noise that you can't drown out, these
25 things are just silent testaments to our -- the

1 folly of our past.

2 It's not basically spoiled because of the
3 presence, either, because of the distance that you
4 are up in the highlands of the mountains or the
5 woodsy slope on the far side, these things are a
6 great distance, and they are a relatively small
7 portion of the horizon.

8 I prefer, myself, Alternative Two. The
9 preservation of all areas and in all means. They
10 are not now consumed by nukes or the clean up of
11 our nukes. Basically, in a word, preservation of
12 the entire basin.

13 The Preferred Alternative and contrast, and
14 even more so the Alternative Three and others,
15 really they allow -- to the extent they allow any
16 activity within the basin, tends to be highly
17 destructive to the lands: That is mining, there is
18 no real reason for or extreme economic basis for
19 it; grazing, which would be extremely destructive
20 to this land; and the high density proposals; you
21 know, a golf course? Come on.

22 In addition to the extent any of these
23 activities would be allowed, then management of
24 this area would be biased towards protection of
25 those uses, not of the basic area itself. If we

1 run cattle, are we going to have fire suppression?
2 Yes. We have a golf course. We may not have
3 immediate fire suppression but to the facilities
4 that go along with it, we will have exactly that.

5 Further, any such use -- Grazing, mining, or
6 certainly high density recreation, as it is called,
7 this is going to fragment the reservation. Any
8 sort of activity like that is going to have that
9 effect, not only visually but, more importantly, on
10 wildlife and the animal wildlife that is out there.

11 There is a herd -- and I believe they're elk --
12 There's 700 of them out there. I saw about half a
13 dozen this weekend. What's going to happen if you
14 run cattle out there? There are fences, what's
15 that going to do to them? We have extensive
16 experience with what managing for cattle grazing --
17 both on BLM land, Forest Service land, and even on
18 the National Fish and Wildlife -- wildlife refuge,
19 what it does, it isn't good.

20 Further, the Preferred Alternative, as it's
21 called, fails to protect the entire Reach Area,
22 including the islands, which I think are really
23 key, as the speakers have said, to salmon and the
24 integrity of the Reach itself.

25 Some key facts in my observation, just

1 knowledge of lands such as this, very arid lands,
2 low density visits are crucial. Managing this so
3 that people can visit, but visit in such way that
4 their use -- their trail -- my -- Where I walk
5 isn't the same place that the person ahead of me is
6 walking, being the same place the person behind me
7 has walked. That will destroy slowly,
8 progressively, areas around any place that we
9 concentrate use, and, therefore, I'd urge that we
10 not, rather than concentrate use, but diffuse use
11 to multiple areas.

12 In some fashion, you will need to have camping,
13 not resorts, but camping, just primitive camping
14 areas, somewhere within the area. Not necessarily
15 within the Reserve, but the facilities that are in
16 the area right now will be swamped to the extent
17 that this gets more active public use, and to the
18 extent that it's even thought of, "no all-RV's"
19 anywhere on the reservation. That would be
20 extremely destructive. Thank you.

21 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Paul Ketcham, from Audubon
22 Society of Portland.

23 PAUL KETCHAM: Thank you. My name is Paul
24 Ketcham, and I'm the Conservation Director for the
25 Audubon Society of Portland. We have approximately

1 7,000 members in the Portland metropolitan area and
2 in Oregon and in States around the country; and we
3 want to make it very clear tonight that we support
4 a maximum protection of the Hanford Reach area.

5 I would like to thank the Department of Energy
6 for holding this public hearing in Portland. It's
7 very important to have a hearing outside of the
8 State of Washington, and we compliment the
9 Department for doing that, and also for going back
10 and redoing the Environmental Impact Statement from
11 the prior version. We think that a lot of progress
12 has been made; and that there are some alternatives
13 before the public now that we think, with some
14 modifications, we could support.

15 First of all, the Hanford Reach is, in our
16 view, and I am speaking for our Society, a national
17 treasure. That there is, in our view, no
18 justification whatsoever for not extending maximum
19 protection to the Hanford Reach. Any kind of
20 resource use within the boundaries of these public
21 lands should be prohibited; and that would include
22 grazing, and any kind of extracted mining, other
23 than that which is needed, perhaps, for remediation
24 but under strict standards and guidelines.

25 One look at the lands surrounding the Hanford

1 Reach, the aerial photograph here in the room, is
2 an incredibly telling story of the extent of
3 manipulation of the landscape that white settlers
4 have brought to the State of Washington and to the
5 Northwest in the last 150 years, 200 years.

6 The Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing
7 section of the Columbia River in the continental
8 United States, and if that doesn't say something in
9 and of itself, then the person probably who thinks
10 that's not an important statement really needs to
11 think it through.

12 We have more endangered listing salmon than we
13 have ever had in the history of this country. Just
14 recently, the Steelhead and the Chinook were added
15 to the long and growing list of troubled species of
16 salmon in the Columbia River basin. Every high
17 quality habitat area needs to have maximum
18 protection and that would be the Columbia. The
19 Hanford Reach would be the best example of that.

20 Let's look at the variety of wildlife that
21 inhabits this area. We have 44 species of fish, 40
22 species of mammals, 238 species of birds, 15
23 species of reptiles and amphibians, 600 species of
24 insects, not to mention that approximately 16 of
25 these birds are listed or candidate species of the

1 Endangered Species Act, either the State or the
2 Federal Act, the western state trout, which
3 inhabits this area was just petitioned for coverage
4 under the Federal Endangered Species Act a couple
5 of days ago.

6 To make -- Just to cut short, this is an oasis.
7 This Hanford Reach is an oasis of habitat for all
8 of these species, many of which are struggling for
9 their survival, and there is really no
10 justification in light of the evidence today,
11 scientific evidence, why the Hanford Reach should
12 not be given maximum protection.

13 In that context, with regard to the Preferred
14 Alternative, we believe that the Preferred
15 Alternative has some redeeming features. It
16 certainly has come a long way from the 1996 version
17 of the EIS, however, we think that the Preferred
18 Alternative should go further than what it does.

19 We have looked at the Alternative No., I believe
20 it's the Alternative No. 2, which is the tribal --
21 the Nez Perce Tribe -- Yes, and we would support
22 that alternative without the high intensity
23 recreation orange blob along the river; not knowing
24 exactly what would go in there, but the definition
25 of high intensity recreation allows uses which we

1 think are incompatible with the natural values of
2 that, of the Hanford site.

3 With regard to the Preferred Alternative, I
4 believe we would be very supportive of the
5 additional protections that are being recommended
6 to you by the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
7 in their testimony to you tonight. I won't go over
8 those things again, but, just to reiterate, north
9 slope needs maximum protection, should not -- No
10 agricultural use should be allowed on the north
11 slope.

12 The islands should be protected for obvious
13 reasons and all the wet ones. There should be no
14 grazing on Hanford site, and I think that's where
15 we depart from the Preferred Alternative, but there
16 should be greater restrictions on mining while on
17 the Hanford site, and I don't believe that's in the
18 Preferred Alternative; and I agree with prior
19 speakers that we should go ahead and bifurcate the
20 Record Decision process on this EIS. Issue a rod
21 for the areas that do not suffer from
22 contamination; and that can be protected right now,
23 implement that protection right now, and then
24 remaining rod would be reserved for those areas
25 where there needs to be additional study and/or a

1 time taken to look at dealing with the
2 contamination cleanup.

3 In closing, I would just say that we want to go
4 on record opposing Alternative Three. We think
5 that is a counter-productive alternative in light
6 of the realities of modern time. We do not need
7 agricultural use in this area. That will only
8 serve to slide salmon further to extinction, and we
9 think that, for obvious reasons, should not be
10 done.

11 Anyway, thank you very much for the opportunity
12 to speak.

13 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Next, we have Lynn Sims.

14 LYNN SIMS: First, I'd like to read a statement
15 that was given to me by the Women's International
16 League for Peace and Freedom by Barbara Degrow and
17 Mary Rose from here in Portland.

18 "The members of the Portland branch of WILPF
19 look forward to the time when the majority of the
20 land of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation can be
21 returned to a productive and clean state. We are
22 concerned that so much is being invested in
23 speculating on future uses, while cleanup continues
24 to be under-funded and deadlines are being extended
25 well into the next century. We wonder if we will

1 be still alive by the time the proposed plans are
2 possible.

3 WILPF insists that thorough comprehensive
4 cleanup of all contamination be pursued promptly
5 and with the funding necessary to return the land
6 to its natural use as soon as possible. Our
7 priorities for the too distant future of Hanford
8 land would include returning it to its natural
9 state, restoring the flora, fauna, and geology, and
10 water to its former state and preserving the area
11 to best serve the culture and traditions of the
12 Native Americans who first inhabited the area.

13 Monitoring the contaminated areas 50 years into
14 the future will most likely be well past our
15 lifetime. Plans must be made to protect the health
16 and safety of those generations which follow. For
17 thousands of years the remaining waste continues to
18 threaten life. We demand that the promise of
19 cleanup be fulfilled promptly." From Mary Rose and
20 Barbara Degrow, the WILPF co-chairs.

21 Then I'd like to make a little comment. My name
22 is Lynn Sims. This is just my own personal comment
23 on this. First of all, I want to thank the
24 Department of Energy for coming to Portland and
25 having a meeting and for letting us talk with you

1 about this profound and very important issue. Gee,
2 I hardly know where to begin.

3 I think, first of all, we're happy that the
4 public can be involved in this. Sort of like some
5 days late and it's always many dollars short; and I
6 want to thank everybody that worked so hard to try
7 to remediate all the horrible mistakes that we made
8 knowingly: Dumping all of this stuff right onto
9 the land and putting it into tanks that we knew
10 wouldn't last and putting cleanup off and letting
11 it get worse. It's just terrible. Thank you very
12 much.

13 It's kind of nice to see a map like this. It's
14 all nice and green and it's great. Hanford is the
15 largest and a very severely radioactive and
16 chemical waste site; the largest in the western
17 hemisphere. We don't see on there any of the
18 corroding fuel rods and the plumes that are going
19 out into the river and the tanks that are leaking
20 and the oozy stuff that's coming out. It's real
21 nice that we can try to envision something and
22 decide that this is what we are going to do, and
23 we're going to pick which plan that we want to
24 have.

25 I'm hoping that if we pick a nice clear plan,

1 whichever one it turns out to be, that we can
2 fulfill the wishes, I think that Mr. Watkins put
3 forward; that he hoped that Hanford would be the
4 flagship for the world's clean up of radioactive
5 waste, because we have so much of it there, and we
6 have such an opportunity to clean it up.

7 When I see a plan like this, I'm a little bit
8 confused at the public point of view, whether -- Is
9 it our land use that's going to guide our cleanup,
10 or is it funding that's going to guide our cleanup
11 or is our moral attitude and the best science that
12 we possibly can gather going to govern our cleanup?
13 For not only now, for the next 50 years, but
14 already for this stuff that we've dumped on there
15 that we know is lethal for like 20,000 years and
16 beyond, into some infinity, what's our obligation
17 to clean this up?

18 Certainly this is a better plan than some
19 Senators have than just putting a barbed-wire fence
20 around it and just letting it sit there for the
21 next 100 years until whatever happens next; we
22 won't have to worry about it. What I'm worried
23 about in all of this is this little gray part right
24 in there (indicating).

25 While we're planning and building whatever we

1 are going to build, and if you have a golf course,
2 and if you have a research center where you have a
3 farm, if we don't clean up the ground water beta
4 zone (phonetic), if we don't take a look at what's
5 under there and do it, you know, face the music, no
6 matter what we do, eventually, it's all going to
7 leak out there; and it's going to contaminate our
8 very well-laid plans.

9 And this is where I wonder, how come we aren't
10 looking at the heart of the thing? At what's
11 seeping out of there in the ground water beta zone?
12 And how come did the Columbia River Comprehensive
13 Impact Statement, where we were going to tie in
14 everything from all over this site, how one part
15 impacted another part? It makes me feel like we
16 are going a little backwards, because here this
17 says that this Impact Statement used to be the
18 future land use plan. Future land use is now this
19 focus because we narrowed the scope, and we put all
20 the remedial action into the tri-party agreement.
21 Like we are still separating piecemeal, one group
22 is working on this, and we're still not addressing
23 the whole and the holistic effort that we need to
24 take to address these serious problems.

25 In closing, I hope that we'll be able to, in

1 whichever way that we use the land this time; that
2 we will respect the land, all of the land, no
3 matter what it's used for -- Clean it up as well as
4 we can for the sake of all the people who will live
5 beyond us and respect the land, and the people of
6 the future generations better than we have until
7 now.

8 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: We have Gretchen Starke,
9 Vancouver Audubon.

10 GRETCHEN STARKE: My name is Gretchen Starke.
11 I'm Conservation Chair of Vancouver Audubon
12 Society. I live in Washington State. I appreciate
13 the opportunity to come here and be able to
14 testify. The Tri-Cities' area is a bit far for me
15 to go to. We think the best use of much of the
16 Hanford site is as a wildlife refuge, because the
17 Hanford Reach area had been protected for 50 years.
18 It has been spared the development that has
19 occurred all over the west. As a result, the
20 Hanford Reach area is one of the very few examples
21 of scrub step habitat left. In fact, because of
22 it's size, of this particular habitat, this area is
23 truly unique.

24 Many native species make their home here; and
25 many of the animals here find it difficult to

1 co-exist with heavy human activity, which is why so
2 many of them are becoming scarce, and as Paul
3 Ketcham pointed out, there are some listed
4 endangered species here, as well.

5 The plant community is particularly special. I
6 understand that at least two new plants have been
7 discovered here at the Hanford Reach -- new to
8 science.

9 I must say a special word about the fall
10 Chinook salmon. I've worked with fisheries also
11 but for quite a different agency. Nothing must be
12 done to disturb this last free-flowing Reach of the
13 Hanford area, last mainstay spawning on the
14 Columbia for the fall Chinook. The Hanford Reach
15 population of fall Chinook is healthy now, and we
16 need to keep it that way.

17 It must be protected to the fullest. Any
18 intensive human -- Any intensive human activity is
19 incompatible with the natural values that exist
20 now. I'm excluding the central area that has been
21 the focus of the 50 years activity, of course.
22 Whichever alternative is chosen there should be no
23 mining, absolutely no mining. No grazing. No high
24 density recreation. Under no circumstances should
25 there be any of the land, this land which belongs

1 to the people of the United States of America, be
2 turned over to a small group of farmers for their
3 own profit or gain.

4 As for the local control of Federal Property,
5 why? That is really absurd. Stop and think about
6 it. Arizona shouldn't run the Grand Canyon
7 National Park. New York City shouldn't be in
8 charge of the Statue of Liberty, and the local
9 counties here should not run the Hanford Reach. It
10 is Federal land and should remain so. There should
11 be room, of course, for the activities of the
12 Tribes and for their usual accustomed ceremonial
13 activities and traditional activities.

14 Here could also be passive recreation. I
15 personally feel that most of it should be confined
16 to the river, and at a time of year when the salmon
17 are not spawning. It should be disturbed as little
18 as possible. Possibly the Agencies could conduct
19 guided hikes at select times. I'd love to see the
20 place myself.

21 We totally oppose Alternative Three as a
22 Federal give-away that would just spoil any of the
23 last of this natural ecosystem of scrub step
24 habitat, but for all these reasons, we tend to
25 support Alternative One, the Fish and Wildlife

1 Conservation Alternative with the necessary
2 modifications to accommodate the needs of the
3 Tribes.

4 Either Two or Four would be acceptable, but
5 there's too much of this development in this
6 Preferred Alternative for me to be comfortable.
7 Should these things be modified and greater
8 protection be given, as some of the previous
9 speakers have indicated we could accept this at
10 all; but under no circumstances should Alternative
11 Three even be considered. Thank you very much.

12 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Our last speaker on the
13 list tonight is Jim Baker from Sierra Club.

14 JIM BAKER: Surely, you have been experiencing
15 a very long day. I know I'm closing out my 13th
16 hour on the job today, so I will try to be
17 mercifully brief. I thank you for this opportunity
18 to testify on behalf of the 550,000 members of the
19 Sierra Club, coast to coast, and the 30,000 members
20 we have here in the Pacific Northwest.

21 For the record, my name is Jim Baker. I serve
22 as Northwest Salmon Campaign Coordinator for the
23 Club. I live and work in Pullman, Washington.

24 The Hanford Reach salmon are the last healthy,
25 sufficiently abundant wild run of fish left in the

1 Columbia basin. They are sufficiently abundant
2 that they can be harvested annually. Therefore,
3 these fish are our last line of defense against
4 violation of numerous Federal Laws and Treaties,
5 both International and with the American Indian
6 Tribes of the basin.

7 Therefore we are gratified that the Department
8 of Energy is doing it's part to protect the Hanford
9 Reach, protect the Columbia River from silt and
10 polluted run-off, by this proposal from the
11 Department and the Preferred Alternative. We
12 enthusiastically support the Preferred Alternative.
13 We would respectfully urge you to consider some
14 changes in that Preferred Alternative.

15 First, we would urge you to add all of the
16 Federal Lands on the Wahluke Slope for protection,
17 the entirety of the Hanford Reach and it's islands,
18 the Mcgee ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology
19 Reserve. There should be no grazing in the Hanford
20 Reservation.

21 One of the main reasons why the reservation
22 offers outstanding natural values, particularly
23 outstanding as world class examples of the arid
24 step ecology there, is that there has been no
25 grazing of livestock on the reservation during this

1 critical second half of the Twentieth Century.

2 Similarly, we would urge you to restrict mining
3 to the absolute minimum, prohibit development for
4 any intensive recreation, and, finally, we would
5 urge you to act immediately to protect these
6 outstanding natural lands and the river.

7 If it requires a Separate Record of Decision,
8 we would urge you to consider doing that at the
9 earliest possible date. Thank you again.

10 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Good. We have someone
11 else. Okay. Greg DeBruler.

12 GREG DEBRULER: Tonight -- My name is Greg
13 DeBruler. Usually, it's always that, but I usually
14 speak on behalf of Columbia River United as a
15 technical assistant or consultant. Tonight I'm
16 just going to speak as myself, as a citizen living
17 in the Columbia River Gorge, and someone who has
18 worked on Hanford cleanup ten with very little
19 results.

20 When I look at the Preferred Alternative, I say
21 to myself, "How can you have a Preferred
22 Alternative that actually allows lands to be used
23 for, at various uses, when you don't understand the
24 magnitude of contamination and how the
25 contamination's going to be dealt with in the

1 future and cleaned up?" So, real simple, how are
2 you going to protect future users of it from undo
3 exposure?

4 One the past speakers talked about the
5 Comprehensive Columbia River Impact Assessment.
6 The Comprehensive Columbia River Impact Assessment,
7 which I happen to be the chair of the team now, has
8 always insisted that we need to first look at the
9 big picture holistically, at the magnitude of
10 impacts or contaminants at the Hanford site and map
11 those and understand the magnitude of impacts
12 before we proceed down the road of making something
13 useful for something else.

14 When I think of Alternative Three, I personally
15 get kind of nauseated. If you think of Alternative
16 Three and you think of the Waluke slope and you
17 think of the sluffing that's going on and you think
18 of the white bluffs, just add a bunch of irrigation
19 up there and watch the white bluffs sluff off into
20 the Columbia River and back up the Columbia River
21 and potentially dam the Columbia River, so that the
22 hundred areas are flooded with the Columbia River.

23 Can you imagine backing the River up to where
24 it's flooded? To where the water rushes inland,
25 and then floods the hundred areas, releasing even

1 more contaminants? It's a disaster waiting to
2 happen. I think Alternative Three is totally
3 unnecessary.

4 I have to say that Alternative Two makes the
5 most sense. Why does it make the most sense?
6 Well, one, it's what the Tribes would like. I
7 would say that the Nez Perce, I understand -- Is
8 that correct? That's their Preferred Alternative?
9 I understand that the Yakimas would like some
10 inland fishing sites. I would suggest that that be
11 added to the Tribes Alternative if they feel that
12 that is necessary.

13 But if you look at the land in the holistic
14 aspect and think of treaties and the responsibility
15 that we have, the land should be preserved, should
16 be kept intact, and the Tribes should have the
17 right to practice their usual custom practices on
18 that land.

19 When we talked about the -- Somebody mentioned
20 the cryptogamic soils that should be protected. I
21 would say I should agree with that, also.

22 Going back to the organizational structure in
23 figure -- In the chapter 6, something was pointed
24 out to me today that kind of alarmed me, and I
25 guess it's a good way to get around the politics

1 of, if you once have chosen a Preferred
2 Alternative, let's say Alternative One, then how do
3 you kind of suddenly twist the control back into
4 the local control? Well, if you look at the
5 organizational structure for the CLEP, the Site
6 Planning Advisory Board, which is on page 6-9, --
7 has affected tribal governments: US Bureau of Land
8 Management, US Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and
9 Wildlife. Then you have: Benton County, Franklin
10 County, Grant County, Adams County, and the City of
11 Richland. Well, immediately, if you add up the
12 weight of that, you see exactly what's going to
13 happen.

14 You can see clearly that the Counties -- along
15 with the City, along with BLM, maybe, and maybe
16 Reclamation -- will decide what they think is best.
17 The Tribes won't have an equal vote and they'll
18 just get pushed over. So if the Site Planning
19 Board goes forward, I would suggest that the
20 County, Counties, plural, have one seat caucus
21 amongst themselves, which they always do. I would
22 suggest that the cities have one seat caucus
23 amongst themselves, which they always do; and that
24 the tribes have equal seats for each tribe, because
25 they're each separate, sovereign nations; and I

1 think that's one inherent problem with the current
2 proposal that's there.

3 I strongly recommend preservation, and I hope
4 that the Department of Energy will hear what we are
5 talking about when we want the land preserved
6 intact; but, hopefully, the Department of Energy
7 will understand that when they finally do perform
8 the Comprehensive Columbia River Impact Assessment,
9 it will help them make better decisions in the
10 future, and it will help them determine what -- If
11 there is any land out there that could be used for
12 what. Right now, we don't understand the magnitude
13 of impact. We really need to have a comprehensive
14 Columbia River Impact Assessment done of the whole
15 site to understand what the future will hold in
16 store. I thank you for this time to comment.

17 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Is there anybody else?
18 Good. Dirk Dunning.

19 DIRK DUNNING: Thank you. I'm Dirk Dunning.
20 D-i-r-k D-u-n-n-i-n-g, and I have a tendency to
21 talk way too fast. You give me the high sign if I
22 do.

23 I'm speaking solely on behalf of myself
24 tonight -- not in any way in relation to my day
25 job. However, because of some of the sensitivities

1 there, I'm going to stay away from most of the land
2 use planning and related things, but there's some
3 specific things that I did want to say.

4 In the past six years I've had a chance to see
5 a lot things on the Hanford site, and there is
6 incredibly valuable stuff there. I was
7 tremendously impressed with the presentation
8 talking about the cryptogamic soils and all of the
9 other plant species and animal species present.
10 Until you actually get out and really onto the
11 Hanford site, it's really hard to appreciate what's
12 there. Like you, I see the same thing. The soil
13 is unlike anything I've seen anywhere else. It
14 just is unique and it needs preservation.

15 Exactly what that means, I don't know. I don't
16 pretend to know. Also, in the center of the site
17 there are some other things and given the things
18 that I have done during the day, it's one that
19 concerned me. In the center of the site there's
20 some tremendously valuable high shrub-steppe
21 habitat that is in danger right now of being
22 destroyed faster than it can be replaced.

23 As the cleanup goes forward, there are a lot of
24 areas that are currently being utilized, things
25 like the Environmental Restoration Disposal

1 Facility that have gone right into the best
2 habitat. Where that can create a real problem is,
3 I'm afraid that we may be faced in the next 15
4 years with the potential between fires in the
5 various activities of man there on the site doing
6 clean up.

7 With decisions about whether or not to do
8 cleanup and the choice being one of, if we do
9 cleanup, we have to choose to have species go
10 extinct; That the habitat that they depend on
11 would have to be destroyed. That's not necessary.
12 If we plan today, we can avoid that.

13 In the early years and continuing to today, the
14 Natural Resource Trustee Council on the Hanford
15 site has tried to work to develop a system whereby
16 the Department of Energy and other agencies try to
17 repair habitat and improve habitat in several areas
18 on the site in order to, in advance, make up for
19 some of this damage so that these species are not
20 put in jeopardy. I think it's critically important
21 that kind of thing happen.

22 I think, also, one of the things that I see on
23 the drawings that does concern me is, going back to
24 the days of the future site uses working group,
25 people looked at the 200 areas as being one common

1 thing across the central plateau, and on all of the
2 maps it shows that way, as one solid gray block.
3 The reality is, it's two 200 areas. The area in
4 between is, for the most part, undamaged, and a lot
5 of that should be treated separately. It should be
6 treated as unique, and particularly because of the
7 shrub-steppe habitat that is there.

8 I think, for the most part, those are the
9 biggest areas that concern me, but along with those
10 go the companion issues of, if land uses are
11 allowed bordering the site which cause movement of
12 water, these can have huge impacts on transport of
13 the hazardous and dangerous materials and the
14 radioactive materials onto the site; and so, it's
15 critically important that those not be allowed at
16 any time in the future to cause those kinds of
17 impacts. Thank you.

18 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Anybody else? Well, last
19 call. Well, I guess we'll do some concluding
20 comments. Tom?

21 TOM SAUTER: I'd like to thank everybody for
22 coming out here tonight and showing up and giving
23 us your comments. The comment period will run
24 until the 7th of June, and we have some forms in
25 the back. If you want to, you can get them back

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Diana L. Sweeney, a Court Reporter and Notary Public for Oregon, do hereby certify that, at the time and place mentioned in the deposition herein; that the Hanford public hearing, was taken down by me in stenotype and thereafter reduced to typewriting; and, that the foregoing transcript, Pages 1 to 54, both inclusive, constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said hearing, and of the whole thereof, to the best of my ability.

Witness my hand at Portland, Oregon, this 29th day of May, 1999.

Diana L. Sweeney -----



Diana L. Sweeney
Shorthand Reporter for Oregon
Notary Public-Oregon
Commission No. 060789
Expires Jan. 9, 2001

**WORD
INDEX**

Look-See Concordance Report

UNIQUE WORDS: 1,525
TOTAL OCCURRENCES: 4,012
NOISE WORDS: 385
TOTAL WORDS IN FILE: 10,854

- SINGLE FILE CONCORDANCE
CASE INSENSITIVE
INCLUDES ALL TEXT OCCURRENCES
DATES OFF
IGNORES PURE NUMBERS
POSSESSIVE FORMS OFF

Table with 2 columns: Word, Occurrences. Rows include 13th [1], 20th [1], 29th [1], 2nd [1], 3rd [1], 6-9 [1], 60s [1], 7th [2], 8:30 [1], 97801-0223 [1], and A.

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