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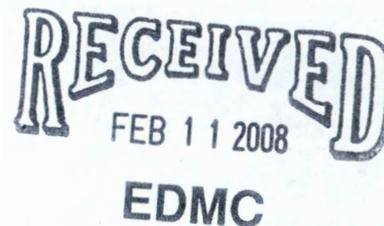
United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR

NOV - 8 2004



Ms. Shirley Olinger
Acting Assistant Manager, River Corridor
US Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550 MS-A6-37
Richland, WA 99352

H-0-6

Dear Ms. Olinger:

As a follow up to our meeting of September 28, 2004, we want to thank you for providing strong staff support for our coordination efforts from both Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE contractors. Efforts to improve and expand coordination are progressing and we look forward to continuing these endeavors.

In order to continue our coordination efforts and ensure we are in agreement on our combined strategy to move forward, we are providing this short summary of the Trustee meeting held in Portland on September 28, 2004.

1. Discussion of Agreements from the Hanford Natural Resources Trustee Council (Council) meeting in Lowell:

We discussed the following three point agreement from Lowell; 1) Trustees agree to focus on ecological risk assessments; 2) Trustees agree to focus on incorporating potential injury assessment data into the ecological risk assessments in order to support remedial action decisions or as the collection of injury assessment data otherwise makes sense. 3) Injury assessment data that exclusively supports damage assessment will be addressed later. We agreed that clarification of #2 is still needed and we may want to clarify what "a later date" means for #3.

We discussed a desire to develop a working agreement which would include a dispute resolution process, confidentiality agreement, revised council decision making process, etc, and a companion funding agreement for technical assistance to DOE, by early December. These issues and proposals will be discussed by our senior managers at a December joint meeting (note: this joint meeting is scheduled for December 7 in Richland).

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or similar agreement will be developed to ensure there is a common understanding of future working arrangements. After some discussion, we agreed that the trustee attorneys, including a representative from Department of Justice, would draft an MOA or similar document which will address confidentiality and dispute resolution. The Council and agency managers will then work with the attorneys to finalize an agreement for the



December meeting of senior management. (note: the attorney's group met on October 7, 2004 in Portland). A corresponding funding agreement will be prepared by the Council and trustee agency staffs for the December meeting.

2. Scope and Schedules of Ecological Risk Assessments (ERA):

John Sands, John Morse, and Roy Bauer provided the latest schedules for the 100/300 river corridor, 100 N, 100 B/C pilot, and 200 Area ERA efforts, including Data Quality Objectives (DQO) meetings with the trustees, as well as ERA integration. Many ERA efforts are being initiated in the summer and fall of 2004 and these efforts will continue in phases for about three years. As these efforts proceed, we'll have a better idea of what studies will be conducted. It was agreed that DOE will develop a single master list of ERA schedules to facilitate trustee participation, starting with schedules for the 100/300, 200, and 100 N Areas.

The Trustees will work together to develop a funding proposal for 2005 technical assistance. The proposal will be a joint effort by DOE and the other trustees. DOE is interested in technical assistance from the trustees for increased participation in the DQO processes, review of Sampling and Analysis plans, help with collecting samples as appropriate, participation at various coordination meetings, review of draft documents, and other activities associated with the ERAs.

3. Review Draft Matrix of Potential Studies:

The trustees provided the latest draft of the matrix to DOE and subsequently sent an electric version. The matrix provides a list of the species associated with the Hanford Site. It identifies a draft comprehensive list of the types of information needed to evaluate risk and potential injury to natural resources. A preliminary list of contaminants of potential concern for the Hanford site was also developed.

Uses for the matrix include:

- providing an initial list of species and concerns for consideration in the various risk assessment DQO processes;
- serving as a guideline to ensure injury assessment needs are considered;
- an organizational tool to evaluate the usefulness of existing data and
- facilitating identification of potential data gaps.

We discussed how to make the matrix as useful as possible including clarifying how the matrix can be used and how do we get to an endpoint. DOE plans to review the matrix, explore adding existing and planned studies into the matrix, and begin evaluating information needs for risk and injury assessment in coordination with the trustees. We also discussed issue resolution and avoiding revisiting issues multiple times. A list of anticipated technical expertise that may be needed was also provided to DOE.

4. Lessons learned:

We had an open, facilitated discussion on the chromium studies issue and identified how to avoid potential future problems.

5. Next steps:

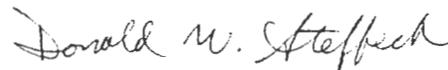
We intend to identify what studies would be done as part of the ERA process, develop injury assessment studies needs, and identify overlapping requirements. Because multiple ERAs are being conducted at different times and over an extended time period, identification of studies will need to be an ongoing effort.

Hence, our path forward will include the following:

- A) Develop an agreement describing how the trustees will provide technical assistance to DOE on cleanup related issues, including ecological risk assessment, and how injury assessment will be completed in a coordinated manner. The federal, state, and tribal attorneys will prepare a draft agreement and coordinate with the Council on a final product to be signed by the senior trustee managers. This agreement is discussed more fully in Paragraph #5 above.
- B) The Council will take the lead and cooperatively develop a funding agreement associated with the aforementioned working agreement, which will also be signed by senior trustee managers.
- C) DOE (Dana Ward) will provide a combined schedule for the 100/300, 200,100 B/C pilot, and 100N area ecological risk assessments.
- D) DOE, with input and participation by the other trustees, will begin filling out the matrix with existing information. As the planning process continues, studies planned for the ecological risk assessment will be incorporated into the matrix and clearly identified. An evaluation of information needs will be completed cooperatively and provided to DOE in an ongoing manner through the ERA process as more information is collected and analyzed.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. The Trustee Council looks forward to continued cooperative efforts to fulfill CERCLA responsibilities, contribute to DOE's 1997 policy to integrate risk and injury assessment, and conserve natural resources at Hanford.

Sincerely,



Chair, Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council