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Letter opposing
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until request met
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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Upper Columbia River Basin Field Office
11103 East Montgomery Drive
Spokane, Washington 99206
(509) 921-0160 FAX: (509) 891-6748

April 5, 1996

Ron Izatt
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Steven Alexander
Washington Department of Ecology
1315 West Fourth Street
Kennewick, WA 99336

Doug Sherwood
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Blvd.
Richland, WA 99352

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EDMC

Dear Sirs:

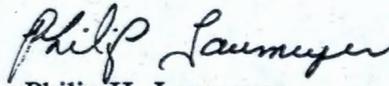
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) understands that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing to delete several Hanford sites from the National Priority List (NPL). The North Slope is one of the several sites included in this deletion package. We have a specific interest in ensuring that adequate cleanup occurs on the North Slope before it is deleted from the NPL. The Service currently manages part of the North Slope under a lease agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and is the likely future land manager under the preferred alternative of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River EIS or under other land excessing options.

The Service completed a detailed review of the cleanup documentation on the North Slope. Following this review, the Service concluded that significant contaminants may still remain in the North Slope landfills. These concerns are detailed in our February 21, 1995 letter to Ms. Julie Erickson (attached). In this letter, we requested that additional contaminant investigation work be conducted at one site, and that several revisions be made to the draft North Slope cleanup document (DOE/RL-94-139, draft A). We have received no response to our letter, and we understand that the document has not been revised.

Concerns described by the Service need to be addressed prior to considering deletion of the North Slope from the NPL. We request that DOE respond within two weeks of receipt of this letter to inform the Service of their intentions regarding our concerns and requests. We anticipate that a meeting between DOE, EPA, Washington Department of Ecology, and the Service may be appropriate following DOE's response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Philip H. Laumeyer
Field Supervisor

Attachment

cc:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Portland (Bill Shake)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Portland (Don Steffek)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Portland (Rick Coleman)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Othello (Dave Goeke)
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland (Jamie Zeisloft)
U.S. Department of Interior, Portland (Preston Sleeper)
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Spokane (Jake Jakobosky)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Richland (Larry Gadbois)
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Kennewick (Jay McConnaughey)
Washington Department of Ecology, Olympia (Geoff Tallent)
Oregon Department of Energy, Salem (Susan Hughs)
Yakama Indian Nation, Toppenish (Deborah Borrero)
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Nation, Pendleton (Chris Burford)
Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai (Dan Landeen)