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June 06, 1999

Thomas W. Ferns, NEPA Document Manager for HRA-EIS
U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MISN H0-12
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RECEIVED

**JUN 07 1999
DOE-RL/DIS**

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Subject: DOE/EIS-0222D, Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and CLUP

After attending the 5/20/99 public hearing in Richland and reviewing the Executive Summary of the subject document, I support the DOE Preferred Alternative with the following exceptions:

- Grazing or any other form of agriculture should be prohibited throughout the Central Core and Columbia River Corridor, e.g., this land should be put into Preservation except as noted below.
- Mining should be minimized on the entire Hanford Reservation (except on Industrial-Exclusive Use and Industrial Areas) except for that necessary for the cleanup mission, obtaining basalt and fine soils for waste site caps, and highway maintenance. This necessary mining should be confined as much as possible to areas close to the Central Plateau, and should not include the ALE Reserve.
- The B-Reactor area should be developed as a museum in a Low-Intensity Recreation Area.
- No commercial development should be allowed in any Low-Intensity Recreation Area.
- The May Junction area should be put into Preservation, with mining limited as in the second bullet above. Industrial Development should be kept closer to Richland where utilities are available and much of the land has already been disturbed.
- The Industrial area should be reduced in size to approximately that shown in Alternative 4 except with the Energy Northwest corridor to the Columbia and 300 Area kept as Industrial, but otherwise with significant distances from the Columbia and Yakima Rivers kept in Preservation.
- The Research & Development area should be expanded to include all of LIGO plus the addition of the Research & Development area shown in Alternative 4.
- The Big Bend Alberta Mining Co. mineral rights claim should either be bought out by the government, or an exchange should be made with equivalent value government property outside the Hanford Reservation.

I believe that the DOE Preferred Alternative, with the above exceptions, will protect the Hanford Reach and White Bluffs under primarily Federal control, the Wahluke Slope, the ALE Reserve, Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, Riverlands, and the McGee Ranch. Grazing of these areas would destroy or disrupt the native vegetation and the natural ecosystems as they now exist. The ALE Reserve, Wahluke Slope, Columbia River islands, Riverlands, and McGee Ranch should be designated a national wildlife refuge. The Columbia River and an area 1/4 mile from either shore should be designated a Recreational Wild and Scenic River.

I believe it would be best to separate the Hanford Reach and its Record of Decision (and probably all the areas mentioned in the previous paragraph and their ROD or RODs) from the remainder of the Hanford lands, since the latter will take longer to finalize.

Sincerely,

Les Davenport

Les Davenport,
Retired Hanford Safety Engineer