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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL ACTION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

May 20, 1999

7:00 p.m.

Shilo Inn

Richland, Washington



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1 MR. PIPER: Hello. Good evening.
2 I'm Lloyd Piper, the deputy manager for the
3 Richland Operations Office here, and I'm real
4 pleased to see this good turnout tonight. The
5 second time around in about 18 months on our land
6 use plan EIS.

7 We're looking forward to hearing what
8 you have to say tonight about the various
9 alternatives and actions that we may be taking as
10 we consider the input from our public hearings and
11 look at our overall plan and responses to that.

12 As you've seen in the early information
13 session, we have a number of alternatives that have
14 been inserted in the Draft EIS.

15 We have the Department's Preferred
16 Alternative and other alternatives provided by some
17 of the cooperating agencies and the tribal nations
18 associated with the planning effort that they have
19 joined us with over the last few months.

20 I want to encourage you, as you look at
21 this, if you have a Preferred Alternative, please
22 let us know. If you have alternatives that are
23 parts and pieces of one or the other, please let us
24 know. And I would also like to encourage you in
25 your comments and in your written responses, if you

1 have your preferred one, whatever variation that
2 may be, that's important. I think it will also be
3 helpful for us if you would tell us if any of the
4 other alternatives are at least acceptable to you,
5 because I think that will help us as we evaluate
6 the comments for tonight's proceedings.

7 Again, thanks. We are looking forward
8 to hearing what you have to say.

9 Tom Ferns, who is the document manager
10 for the DOE on this EIS, is going to give us a few
11 more comments.

12 MR. FERNS: I would just like to
13 thank Lloyd for allowing us to do the revised draft
14 and bringing all the cooperating agencies together,
15 and I would also like to thank those here from the
16 cooperating agencies for all of the time and effort
17 they have put into this document.

18 We have Dan Landeen back here, he is
19 with the Nez Perce. Hi, Dan.

20 We have Jay McKonahay here, who is
21 really not a cooperating agency, put a lot of time
22 on this EIS, Fish and Wildlife with the state.

23 We have Darren Arrasmith. Where is
24 Darren? There he is. He's from Benton County.
25 Put a lot of time and effort into this EIS.

1 We have Dave Geoke from the U. S. Fish
2 and Wildlife Service over there.

3 Next to him is Jim Blanchard from
4 Bureau of Reclamation.

5 A lot of people putting in a lot of
6 time, and we're glad you're here. Also Matt was
7 here from Grant County. Well, he was here.

8 Anyway, take a look at the EIS, take a
9 look at the alternatives. Also look at Chapter 6,
10 which are our implementation plans, because that's
11 very important as to how this will actually be
12 realized, one of these maps, whatever map we
13 finally choose.

14 I'll start with that, and we'll open it
15 for comments. This is Dale Jackson, our moderator.

16 MR. JACKSON: I would like to join
17 in welcoming you all this evening.

18 My job here tonight is to make sure
19 that each of you, as members of the public who have
20 comments that want to be made, have an opportunity
21 to do that.

22 The public agencies that are here
23 tonight take very seriously their roles as public
24 servants. We value the comments that members of
25 the public make, the viewpoints and ideas that you

1 share with us in this process.

2 To make sure that each of you have an
3 adequate opportunity to make comments tonight, I
4 want to play by a few simple ground rules.

5 First of all, I have a list of persons
6 that have expressed interest in making comment, and
7 I'm going to call on those persons in turn. But I
8 would like you to limit your time here to about 10
9 minutes tonight on the comments that you make.

10 Be comfortable. Feel free to speak
11 your mind. And I'll give you a little bit of
12 warning, at about eight minutes, so you know you
13 are about to exhaust your time. But we do want to
14 try to stick to that ground rule so that everyone
15 has a chance to speak. Currently we have 12
16 people, and if everyone takes their ten minutes'
17 time, that means a couple hours for everyone to
18 make their presentations.

19 I would also like you to be a little
20 bit conscious about limiting your comments to the
21 particular issue that we're addressing here
22 tonight. Again, in order to be fair to everyone,
23 we want to limit the comments to the land use EIS
24 that we're addressing.

25 I want to assure you that all comments

1 that we receive, whether they be oral or written,
2 are going to receive adequate consideration.

3 If you don't want to make an oral
4 comment here tonight, there are forms at the back
5 of the room that you can pick up at the desk, you
6 can make a written comment and mail it back to us
7 and we'll take your comment that way.

8 The comment period that we're engaged
9 in right now runs from April 23rd to June 7th,
10 1999. We have two more meetings after tonight.
11 One in Mattawa at the Wahluke High School on June
12 2nd, and another one in Spokane at the Ridpath
13 Hotel on June 3rd.

14 And the public hearings on both those
15 will begin at 7 p.m. There will be information
16 sessions in Mattawa and in Spokane. And those I
17 believe, Tom, are from 6 to 7 p.m. in each case?

18 MR. FERNS: Yes.

19 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Having said
20 all of that, I think the first person that I have
21 is Gene Weisskoph. Mr. Weisskoph?

22 MR. WEISSKOPH: Yes.

23 MR. JACKSON: We have two
24 microphones, and we would like all of you to either
25 use the microphone back here in the audience or you

1 can come up front if you like and use this one.

2 MR. WEISSKOPH: I thank you for
3 letting me open, be the first one. I hope you feel
4 the same way afterwards.

5 I'm with the B Reactor Museum
6 Association. My name is Gene Weisskoph. I moved
7 here in 1995, expecting to find all sorts of
8 Hanford atomic history. You know, the place where
9 it all started. And instead I found virtually
10 nothing.

11 And I joined the B-Reactor Museum
12 Association soon after moving here, and because I
13 did that I've gotten inside the reactor a couple
14 times, I went through C-Reactor, I've talked to
15 people who worked there when it opened, and it's an
16 amazingly significant place, if I could be so
17 unpoetic as to say that.

18 And I've always been surprised that
19 Richland can be the atomic city that isn't
20 somehow. It seems to have faded into the past.

21 And as Hanford gets cleaned up and
22 taken care of, there's not going to be much left.
23 And our group is concerned with making sure that
24 B-Reactor, which is the world's first nuclear
25 reactor, and the very first one that started up at

1 Hanford, is preserved and some day made into a
2 museum that's open to the public.

3 And our interests in the land use is
4 somewhat limited in scope tonight.

5 I don't want to talk about all the
6 other things that might interest us. I'm trying to
7 limit it to the B-Reactor, which on several of the
8 maps shows up as a nice little orange dot up by the
9 river of high intensity recreation, and it shows it
10 as being a, quote, museum. And we're glad to see
11 that. We think that's great. We like the sound of
12 it. It's perfect. That's just what we're looking
13 for.

14 We tend right now to be more or less in
15 favor of the DOE preferred plan. Again, we're not
16 saying everything about it is good for everybody or
17 even for us. But we like the way they're treating
18 many aspects and those around the B-Reactor.

19 In terms of the plan, in what we might
20 want to see, the word museum can mean an awful
21 lot. It can mean a sign on the side of the road
22 that points over to the B-Reactor and says, that's
23 the world's first reactor, or it might mean a
24 reactor that's open all year around with visitor
25 facilities and all kinds of buildings around it to

1 serve as a real museum.

2 What we would like to do, if it's
3 appropriate, in our written comments, is to perhaps
4 expand on the scope of what that museum might be
5 like, and maybe it could be put into the document,
6 not as hard facts, but as one of those shaded boxes
7 that kind of says, this is what it might mean.

8 Because just saying it's a museum,
9 we're glad to hear it, but it doesn't quite tell
10 the whole story. And we don't want it being sort
11 of looked over because it's not explained well
12 enough to people, because most people in the world
13 don't know where the world's first nuclear reactor
14 was. They don't know there was a B-Reactor and
15 they don't know where it is. All they know is that
16 Hanford is an environmental cleanup site, and
17 that's the reputation it now has.

18 And we would like to see its history
19 during the Manhattan Project and the cold war made
20 available to the public so you're seeing maybe
21 school buses coming over from the west side and
22 finding out what went on over here all those years,
23 and as well, seeing the beautiful countryside, the
24 desert, the river, the geology, and there's lots of
25 stuff here.

1 We just want to make sure that the
2 B-Reactor is preserved as part of the whole Hanford
3 saga of the atomic era.

4 We have a table set up back here if
5 anybody would like more information. We're here in
6 Richland. And we will be presenting written
7 comments. And I thank you.

8 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
9 Weisskoph.

10 Our second commenter tonight is Lupito
11 Flores.

12 MR. FLORES: My name Lupito
13 Flores. I am with Save the Reach. It is a
14 committee of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon
15 Society. And we have about 1800 members
16 nationwide.

17 And we would like to thank the
18 Department for having this comment period. We're
19 really encouraged by this EIS and the plans to
20 designate a lot of the public lands as a national
21 wildlife refuge.

22 For years, at least the last 10 or 20,
23 the majority of the public, the Tribes and the
24 scientific community, time after time have said
25 that they want the Hanford Reach protected for fish

1 and wildlife. That message will never change. So
2 let's do it now.

3 We urge DOE to designate the following
4 areas as a national wildlife refuge. The entire
5 Wahluke Slope, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the
6 islands, the Riverlands area, the McGee Ranch, and
7 agriculture should not be allowed on the Wahluke
8 Slope or any of the public lands in the Hanford
9 ecosystem. The fragile white Bluffs of the slope
10 contain fossils of bison, camel and mastodon and
11 critical nesting habitat for birds. Irrigation
12 farming above the bluffs would cause them to
13 collapse and smother the last healthy spawning
14 habitat of wild salmon in the entire Columbia
15 Basin.

16 The Hanford ecosystem contains more
17 than 80 newly discovered rare plants and important
18 shrub-steppe habitat for hundreds of wildlife
19 species. These unique lands should not be grazed
20 or commercially mined either.

21 We have written comments that we will
22 be submitting in more detail. But we would just
23 like to thank the Department for going this far,
24 and we would like to see a lot of it protected.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
2 Flores.

3 Next we have Barry Jacobson.

4 MR. JACOBSON: Barry Jacobson,
5 environment information network.

6 My comment is very brief. I don't
7 think that we as a nation, that we need any more
8 farm land. We have farms going broke in various
9 parts of the country. And I don't think we need
10 any more grazing land either, especially in very
11 dry areas. I think there isn't that much of the
12 natural desert land in Washington left. Most of
13 it's all in agriculture now. Thanks.

14 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
15 Jacobson.

16 Next we have Scott Woodward.

17 MR. WOODWARD: Once again, thank
18 you for allowing us an opportunity for public
19 input. It's always encouraging when we get to have
20 a voice.

21 I would like to exemplify what my
22 colleagues have already said about our group, the
23 Reach, and how we feel about agricultural
24 developing of the surrounding area.

25 My comment is also very short. I am a

1 lifetime resident, and I have watched a prime
2 example go down the tubes. The Yakima River itself
3 is a prime example of the influence, uncontrolled
4 and unmonitored, of over-grazing and agricultural
5 runoff. We've watched this river change. We're
6 trying to make it come back. What we have here is
7 a prime opportunity to prevent that.

8 And I would just like to remind
9 everybody of your own back yard and what has
10 happened in the Yakima. And if we allow this
11 development, an agricultural development up here on
12 the slopes progress, and agricultural development
13 on the Reservation itself to progress, we're going
14 to have Phase II, and we're going to watch another
15 resource go down the tubes. Thank you.

16 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Next we
17 have Nat Ballou.

18 MR. BALLOU: Thank you. We
19 appreciate this opportunity to provide our own
20 input to this important question. I have some
21 comments to make, and my wife and I will elaborate
22 on these in a written letter recommending our own
23 recommendations.

24 I would like to point out that the
25 natural and sensitive public lands in the Hanford

1 Nuclear Reservation are precious resources that
2 must be preserved for all persons in this region
3 and in the rest of the country.

4 We now have the opportunity of doing
5 that, and must not let the opportunity escape us.
6 We therefore strongly support the Department of
7 Energy's Preferred Alternative in the Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement and land use plan
9 for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

10 In addition, we urge that all public
11 lands on the Wahluke Slope, the islands in the
12 Hanford Reach, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands
13 Ecology Reserve be included in the national
14 wildlife refuge. We also believe that there should
15 be no grazing or mining operations except those
16 essential to cleanup and remediation activities
17 permitted on the Hanford Reservation.

18 Protection of the Columbia River and
19 all of its resources are essential for the economic
20 and recreational well-being of the region. Such
21 protection requires establishment of the above
22 described national wildlife refuge.

23 The Department of Energy should
24 immediately issue a separate Record of Decision in
25 order to establish the national wildlife refuge.

1 This will permit timely protection of prime fish
2 and wildlife habitat uncontaminated by Hanford
3 Operations without having to wait until complex
4 decisions on cleanup in the central Hanford Area
5 are made.

6 We look forward with appreciation to
7 strong and meaningful protection of the unique and
8 valuable natural and sensitive lands in the Hanford
9 Reservation.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Next is
12 Bob Wilson.

13 MR. WILSON: You are doing a great
14 job here tonight, Dale.

15 My name is Bob Wilson. I'm with the
16 Columbia River Conservation League.

17 I want to thank the Department of
18 Energy for providing these opportunities for public
19 input on their Comprehensive Land Use Plan and
20 Remedial Action EIS. I have oral comments tonight,
21 and will be followed by written comments before the
22 comment period closes.

23 And in general, the Columbia River
24 Conservation League is pleased with the Preferred
25 Alternative as far as the desire to protect the

1 Wahluke Slope and the Hanford Reach. The Hanford
2 Reach is a wild and scenic river and the Wahluke
3 Slope is a natural wildlife area. We concur with
4 that.

5 However, there's more to be done. We
6 support the Preferred Alternative, with the
7 following amendments to it. We see that all the
8 lands within Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the
9 Wahluke Slope, Riverlands area, McGee Ranch, what
10 we call the big C, should be designated wildlife
11 refuge, and that designation should occur as soon
12 as possible.

13 The Record of Decision will be issued
14 separately from dealing with central Hanford.

15 The Hanford Reach again should be
16 designated as a recreational wild and scenic river
17 within the wild and scenic river system.

18 We suggest that the industrial use
19 areas be reconfigured to represent those in
20 Alternative One and Alternative Two, rather than
21 that in the Preferred Alternative, and the
22 exclusive industrial use area, the 200 Areas,
23 represent the areas represented in Alternative One
24 and Alternative Two also. That being the small
25 western extension of the 200 Areas brought back

1 in.

2 Recreational use. We recommend one
3 high intensity recreation area be the B-Reactor as
4 a museum. But we don't see the need for that
5 recreation -- that high intensity recreation area
6 to extend to the river area, to the river line
7 area. The intact riparian area is invaluable.

8 We also, as far as recreation goes, we
9 see only the need for one low intensity recreation
10 area, that being an improved boat ramp in
11 conjunction with the existing Vernita rest stop
12 facilities on that south side of the river.

13 Again, we minimize damage to valuable
14 riparian areas and archeological sites, while at
15 the same time providing upgraded facilities for
16 boaters and recreational use.

17 Other areas we see as conservation and
18 mining areas, but with no grazing. Grazing serves
19 to expand the spread of noxious weeds, and in their
20 place, things like cheatgrass which actually
21 increases wild fire danger, not reduce it.

22 And mining we say should be restricted
23 to just those materials that are needed for Hanford
24 cleanup operations. That is all.

25 Oh. One last thing I would like to

1 say, about the Wahluke Slope. Apparently a lot of
2 people don't know this. But back in 1953 and 1958,
3 and John Stank could probably help you out with
4 this, because it was reported in your predecessor,
5 The Villager, 192,000 acres that were restricted
6 from use by the establishment of the Hanford Site
7 were released in 1953 and '58. Those are in
8 agricultural production. What's left is 90,000
9 acres.

10 We think that the last third of all
11 that land should be preserved.

12 Thanks a lot. Appreciate the time.

13 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Bob. You
14 actually finished a little earlier. After that
15 gracious comment, I was going to give you 15
16 minutes.

17 Next up here is Jim Timmons.

18 MR. TIMMONS: Thanks for the
19 opportunity. I don't have a lot of comments to
20 make, other than that I support the Audubon Save
21 the Reach alternative. That is actually a modified
22 version of the Preferred Alternative that you have
23 come up with.

24 I know that a lot of work's gone into
25 this. The one thing that I think's difficult to

1 swallow on it is the amount of grazing that might
2 possibly be allowed in the future.

3 I farmed near here, just off the
4 Hanford Area, past N Reactor for a few miles. And
5 used to see this all the time.

6 Grazing would typically result in
7 several years of wild fires after that. Grazing is
8 a very difficult thing. It is something that's
9 been done for very many years. I know there are
10 ways of doing it and ways of not doing it. But
11 historically it has not been done very well and it
12 has caused a lot of problems. And it is truly at
13 odds with any sort of preservation things that we
14 want to do.

15 So, good work, but let's keep grazing
16 down. Thank you.

17 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
18 Timmons.

19 Next commenter, Victor Moore.

20 MR. MOORE: I'm Victor Moore,
21 speaking for myself and my wife Roberta. Dear Mr.
22 Ferns. Can you all hear me?

23 Dear Mr. Ferns. We feel very strongly
24 about the importance of protecting the Hanford
25 Reach. Energy Secretary Richardson's recent

1 proposal to protect the entire Wahluke Slope as a
2 national wildlife refuge under the management of
3 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a welcomed
4 plan.

5 We come here tonight to give our
6 approval of DOE's Preferred Alternative, which
7 designates the vast majority of the Wahluke Slope
8 for preservation.

9 We would like to see amendments to the
10 revised draft of the Hanford Remedial Action
11 Environmental Impact Statement as follows.

12 One. Designate all public lands on the
13 Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the
14 McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a
15 national refuse, 176,000 acres, total acres.

16 Two. Oppose grazing on the Hanford
17 Nuclear Reservation.

18 Three. Support restricting all mining
19 operations to those essential to completing cleanup
20 and remediation on the Hanford Reservation.

21 Four. Issue a separate Record of
22 Decision, ROD, for all areas mentioned above.
23 These are prime fish and wildlife habitat.
24 Uncontaminated by Hanford Operations and should not
25 have to wait for protection until the complex

1 decisions involving cleanup in the central Hanford
2 Area are made.

3 Thank you for having this hearing
4 tonight. Respectfully, Victor and Roberta Moore.
5 I will give a copy to you.

6 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
7 Moore.

8 Next commenter is Bill Kuhn.

9 MR. KUHN: I'm Bill Kuhn. I have
10 lived in Richland for about 25 years. I anticipate
11 that as you take testimony across the state, you
12 are going to have a lot of people talking to you
13 about local control as a matter of principle. And
14 so I wanted to speak briefly about local control.

15 In our nation local control over our
16 affairs is a cherished concept, especially in
17 largely rural areas such as Eastern Washington.
18 Proposing local control will win at least some
19 support to almost any political cause. That
20 clearly is not always for the best.

21 For example, if we had never invoked
22 zoning laws in our communities, arguing instead
23 that the decision should be left to property owners
24 so we could exercise local control, then no parks
25 and not any geography making the community a

1 desirable place to live, would have swung magically
2 from the ensuing free for all.

3 But at the national level, the same
4 philosophy would have resulted in no national
5 parks, wilderness areas, forests, seashores,
6 prairies, monuments or wildlife refuges.

7 They can only result from a decision by
8 the society as a whole that some self-control is
9 needed for the good of us all. But society is not
10 a thing. It's a myriad of individuals. With
11 self-control at that level inevitably means some
12 individuals do not get what they want. Such denial
13 is not an act of malice or insensitivity. It's
14 doing what's best for all of us based, in this
15 case, on where undeveloped land remains.

16 A space shuttle's view of Eastern
17 Washington is instructive. The Hanford Site stands
18 out as almost the nonmountainous, non-scabland
19 terrain not already transformed by agriculture.

20 You can see part of that in the poster
21 over there. If you saw all of that for all of
22 Eastern Washington, it would be quite striking. So
23 we need to preserve what little remains.

24 If the current wildlife refuge is
25 released effectively to control at the county

1 level, it would be like holding a fragile antique
2 in front of us and releasing it to the local
3 control of gravity. The outcome is inevitable. So
4 it is the release itself that destroys this
5 antique.

6 If our wildlife refuge is released to
7 local control, we may not know the exact course of
8 events, but we do know the ultimate result, it will
9 be farmed.

10 I would like to thank, publicly thank
11 our farmers for feeding me. I don't get a chance
12 -- I don't know if we have farmers here tonight or
13 not, but I know where my food comes from, and I
14 thank the farmers.

15 But as has been pointed out already
16 tonight, we already have farmland. So please do
17 not release this refuse for our native plants and
18 animals. Thank you.

19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much.

20 Jerry Turnbaugh.

21 MR. TURNBAUGH: I am Jerry
22 Turnbaugh. I live in Pasco. And I support the
23 Save the Reach efforts and the Department of Energy
24 Preferred Alternative on their land use plan. And
25 I thank Tom Ferns and others who have worked very

1 hard on this. We have watched it develop over a
2 long period of time.

3 There are a couple of flaws with it and
4 I will speak to those. But first I would like to
5 put a bit of a human face on the Hanford Area out
6 there. There are probably some of you who have not
7 had the opportunity to get out on the Area and
8 spend any time out there.

9 Fortunately or not, I work out there,
10 so I have plenty of opportunity to be on the Area.
11 I work at the far end of the Hanford Area in the
12 100 K Area, if you know where that is, up on the
13 north part of the river there, and since I live in
14 Pasco, I have to get myself from Pasco up there.
15 That involves a long drive. I'm part of the mega
16 van, and so I get to sit in the seat and look out
17 the window. And every morning as the sun comes up,
18 I can study the Hanford Reservation. And every
19 evening as the sun goes down, I can study the
20 Hanford Reservation.

21 There are a couple things about that
22 Reservation that are truly awesome. The first
23 thing is its size and its emptiness. That is an
24 unusual situation in today's world, to find size
25 and emptiness, except in the oceans.

1 And I'm also a sailboater, and the
2 ocean is probably the last place, wild place left
3 on earth.

4 The Hanford Reach and the Hanford
5 Reservation come close to that for our local area,
6 and that's what makes the thing unique. You can
7 see the scars of our activity out there, starting
8 from the 300 Area, you see the results of that
9 disastrous burn, you see the massive amount of
10 cheatgrass infestation, and then as you go farther
11 north, the countryside changes. You begin to see
12 the big sagebrush and you begin to see the wild
13 flowers and you see the ground with a natural
14 protective covering that is undisturbed, and it
15 takes a long time to develop this natural
16 covering. It keeps out weeds and it also promotes
17 soil moisture, that sort of thing. Also you see
18 the native bunch grass out there.

19 Those things, and grazing do not go
20 together. Turning livestock loose into those areas
21 that are free from cheatgrass and still have their
22 protective covering and the big sagebrush I think
23 would be a travesty. And the value is nothing.
24 The value of a few cows and the poor grazing out
25 there, frankly, is not worth it.

1 And so when I look at the Preferred
2 Alternative, I see that cloud hanging over the
3 middle of, the green patch. I like the green
4 patch. I don't like that cloud. And I cannot see
5 any reason, any scientific reason why there should
6 be grazing of all things allowed out there in this
7 preservation area.

8 The other thing that bothers me is that
9 white patch in the middle. We have industrial
10 parks here that aren't full. They're having
11 trouble. They need to be given preference. We
12 don't need an industrial park sitting in the middle
13 of this large open space, which is one of its
14 values. And I just don't see --

15 The principle of growth management is
16 to fill in high density, high usage areas, in high
17 density, high usage appropriate areas. It is not
18 appropriate to fragment and put a barrier out there
19 in the middle of this large area in the name of
20 industrial development.

21 Otherwise, I support the Preferred
22 Alternative. Thank you.

23 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

24 The next commenter, Ray Rose.

25 MR. ROSE: I am Ray Rose. Have

1 been a resident of this community for about 50 --
2 about 45 years now. And I have a pretty good
3 background on it.

4 I would like to thank the Department of
5 Energy for listening to us. I think that's
6 refreshing.

7 I very much feel like Jerry Turnbaugh.
8 He hit it right on the head about grazing, the
9 openness and all of that. But I also feel that
10 that Preferred Alternative, it looks good, but with
11 the reservations that Jerry brought up. I think we
12 do need to consolidate our industrial areas, and I
13 think they don't need to be out in the middle of
14 nowhere.

15 But one point I do want to make, I
16 don't think it's been emphasized too much so far,
17 and that's the Conservation Reserve Program that we
18 have in this country, where the farmers are paid
19 money to hold back and put their land back into a
20 natural state.

21 Well, here we have a conservation, a
22 CRP, that wouldn't cost anything. It's already
23 there. And we don't have to pay anybody for not
24 growing any crops. I think that's one thing that
25 does need to be emphasized, because this is for

1 nothing. We don't pay a nickel.

2 And one other thing I think was brought
3 up, it was about the local control. I think I have
4 my doubts. The idea of local control sounds great
5 to me. But I think we have a classic example of
6 local control right up in the Yakima River, and we
7 know what the Yakima River is like on the lower
8 third. It's a mess. And we've had local control
9 up and down that Yakima River.

10 So there you are. So that's about all
11 I have to say. I think everything else has been
12 said. But thank you very much for listening.

13 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Mike
14 Lilga.

15 MR. LILGA: Thanks. Hi. I am Mike
16 Lilga. I just wanted to start off by thanking DOE
17 and all the people that helped prepare this EIS.
18 It was a tremendous amount of work. It took years
19 to accomplish, I know. But I think you've done a
20 great job in terms of putting together lots of
21 things for us to talk about tonight, some good
22 alternatives.

23 I'm speaking for myself tonight. And
24 when I look at the alternatives, I guess my
25 Preferred Alternative is somewhere between

1 Alternative One and Alternative Two.

2 My values say that we should be
3 preserving as much of the Hanford Site as possible
4 for the reasons that have been very eloquently
5 stated by other speakers. But this is the last of
6 the big areas of shrub-steppe habitat left in
7 Washington State. We need to do what we can to
8 preserve what we have by not developing it, but
9 also by maintaining the attacked nature. Let's not
10 fragment it further, again, which has been spoken
11 about early, by developments such as the May
12 junction, which is a big block right in the middle
13 of beautiful, expanse of shrub-steppe habitat.

14 In terms of some of the other
15 industrial areas, again, I tend to favor a
16 combination of Alternative One and Alternative Two,
17 which takes into account the needs stated by the
18 city of Richland in their urban growth areas that
19 they have put forward. There's plenty of land
20 there for economic development.

21 I tend to think that 300 Area should be
22 used for research and development rather than the
23 Preferred Alternative, which sets aside a humongous
24 area for undesignated future speculative use.

25 I think this land use plan needs to be

1 a little more definitive in terms of designating
2 expected land use rather than just saying, hey, we
3 need a third, you know, or a quarter of the Hanford
4 Site for some possible unforeseen future use.

5 I do support the preferred alternative
6 in that the Wahluke Slope, the entire Wahluke Slope
7 should be a national wildlife refuge. I do agree
8 with some of the previous speakers that would also
9 include in that designation Arid Lands Ecology
10 Reserve, the Columbia River islands, the Riverlands
11 area, the McGee Ranch.

12 And I also agree that the Record of
13 Decision should be -- a separate Record of Decision
14 should be written for those areas so we can get on
15 with protection without getting caught up in issues
16 associated with land use on the rest of the site.

17 Definitely we need to take grazing out
18 of the picture on the Hanford Site.

19 If you go with the Preferred
20 Alternative, the conservation mining and grazing
21 areas should be converted to conservation, mining
22 only. But in terms of mining, my Preferred
23 Alternative would limit mining only to those areas
24 that are actually necessary to provide the minerals
25 that are needed to support Hanford cleanup.

1 I'm not an expert on those needs, but
2 my Preferred Alternative would not include mining
3 on ALE as shown in the Preferred Alternative, if
4 possible. For one thing, that area's right along
5 the highway. One of the beauties of ALE is as you
6 drive up highway 240, you look off towards ALE,
7 there is this incredible, beautiful expanse of open
8 space.

9 The Preferred Alternative proposes to
10 put in a mine right in the middle of that beautiful
11 scenic vista. I would encourage you not to do
12 that. Look for alternate spots.

13 I know that's a sticky point. But I
14 think we need to look at other locations.

15 I think we need to eliminate any
16 possibility of agriculture at all anywhere on
17 Hanford. And my reason doesn't have anything to do
18 with how much agricultural land is available, it's
19 the impact, the negative publicity I think of doing
20 any kind of agriculture on Hanford. I really think
21 that would be extremely detrimental to agriculture
22 in Washington State to do that.

23 In any case, you will have more
24 comments from me in writing. I've got lots more
25 detailed comments, and I appreciate the effort

1 that's been put into this and the opportunity to
2 speak. Thanks.

3 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

4 Dave Terentieff.

5 MR. TERENCEFF: Thank you for
6 holding this hearing tonight. I appreciate the
7 DOE's effort in this regard.

8 I want to comment that I was just
9 thrilled with the proposal by Secretary Richardson
10 here a couple months ago to preserve the Wahluke
11 Slope, and where I'm coming from, I'm just speaking
12 as an individual, I came to the Tri-Cities in 1955
13 with my family, like many people did, came to work
14 on the Hanford Project, and when I was growing up
15 and going to school here, well, our pastimes were
16 hunting and fishing around the project out in the
17 Area.

18 And as years went by, I discovered more
19 and more that the lands that were so nice to walk
20 across up here across the river were slowly being
21 posted. Frequently some of the most favorable --
22 you know, farmers, they are a pretty smart bunch of
23 people, and when they see a gold mine, they know
24 how to exploit that.

25 And farmers that have thousands of

1 ducks and geese landing on their land every year,
2 they went and found organizations to lease the
3 land, and you could hunt there if you joined an
4 organization and paid to hunt on the leased land,
5 and for the average soul who would just like to get
6 in the car and drive out and look for a place to
7 hunt and fish, well, those places were starting to
8 disappear.

9 My bottom line, I would like to see the
10 Wahluke Slope and the Columbia Reach remain in the
11 public domain.

12 And as many of you know, the Columbia
13 River in this area has always been wildlife refuge,
14 or waterfowl refuse, and with the exception of a
15 few public hunting areas, the ducks and geese are
16 not molested out on the Columbia here. And I would
17 like to see that continue.

18 It's wonderful that they have the
19 sanctuary that they have, and I would like to see
20 it continue in perpetuity. And if by coming here
21 tonight and participating in this hearing, that can
22 be made possible, well, I will be most happy.

23 Thank you for the forum.

24 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Madeleine
25 Brown.

1 MS. BROWN: My husband says to give
2 them hell, but I really want to give the Department
3 of Energy congratulations.

4 I'm going to start with Tom Ferns. You
5 have been with us for seven years, or is it eight
6 now, and I wonder if this feels like you're
7 presenting your baby or if you are still in
8 birthing pains. Because it's been a long road.

9 I want to say, it's good to take
10 remedial action out of this and call it a land use
11 plan.

12 I'm wearing my support for the Hanford
13 Reach, more or less over my heart. I can support
14 the Department of Energy's Preferred Alternative,
15 and I think you did a good job. I do support the
16 Audubon Society's amendments. You've got to keep
17 grazing off the Reservation altogether.

18 Let's make that Wahluke Slope a
19 national wildlife refuge. I want to applaud the
20 Department of Energy and the leadership of
21 Secretary Richardson in making this a Preferred
22 Alternative. A few years ago you didn't even have
23 a Preferred Alternative. Well, you've got a good
24 one now because you're preserving the Reach and
25 you're preserving the Wahluke Slope, which in fact

1 does preserve the Reach, and this is very good.

2 The alternatives I can support are the
3 Preferred Alternative and Alternatives One and Two,
4 and what's good about them is their emphasis on
5 preservation and that magic orange dot for the
6 B-Reactor. That is important.

7 I'm going to take a historical
8 digression. I have heard a number of people thank
9 the Department of Energy for having this hearing.
10 It's a legal requirement of the National
11 Environmental Policy Act. And that's because of
12 Hanford, the legend, is that the great Scoop
13 Jackson, the Senator from Boeing, he put that law
14 in place because of the N-Reactor. Because he was
15 aware of the impact of all those single pass
16 reactors putting radiation into the river. Raising
17 the temperatures, zinc showing up in the shell fish
18 on the Oregon coast. And what would be the
19 environmental impact of putting one more reactor on
20 line? And saying, wait, federal government, you
21 must consider the environmental impacts of your
22 actions.

23 And now we have had N-Reactor not be a
24 single pass reactor. And in fact, permit the
25 generation of electricity that lighted a number of

1 homes and warmed a lot of babies' bedrooms, and we
2 have public hearings like this.

3 Well, that's a piece of Hanford's
4 history that we are on the verge of losing. We
5 must not lose Hanford's history.

6 Thanks, Gene Weiskoph, for expressing
7 it so eloquently, that we must remember the good,
8 the incredibly significant world changing role
9 Hanford had in making the planet what it is today.

10 And as we clean it up and as we turn
11 these areas green, well, actually they'll be brown
12 because it is a desert, but as we preserve it and
13 preserve these huge hunks of habitat, which you are
14 trying to do, we need to remember Hanford's
15 history, and that it all began, the nuclear age
16 began right here.

17 I want to state quite unequivocally, I
18 find the local alternative unacceptable. The
19 locals do not represent me, and I live in Richland,
20 Washington. They represent agriculture, and I do
21 not want to see Hanford farmed. I do not want to
22 see the salmon spawning lands covered up by silt
23 from the continuing sliding and sloughing of those
24 white bluffs. And nor do our neighbors to the
25 north.

1 We do have treaty obligations to
2 restore our salmon runs, and protecting that
3 Wahluke Slope is an important part of that.

4 I know you're going to go up to Mattawa
5 and you're going to hear totally different things.
6 And I would like the Department of Energy to
7 remember the simple analogy of the goose that laid
8 the golden egg. The environment is the goose. The
9 locals want to kill it and get all the eggs out at
10 once. That's enough.

11 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Lyle
12 Wilhelm.

13 MR. WILHELM: I came to Richland in
14 1974, expecting to find statues of Enrico Freamine
15 and Albert Einstein in the park. Instead of that,
16 I saw people who were kind of proud of what they --
17 the contribution they had made individually to the
18 war effort, and the development of nuclear energy.
19 But as a group, they would just rather not talk
20 about it. I think that's a mistake.

21 I'm President of B-Reactor Museum
22 Association. For several years we have been trying
23 to convince the Department of Energy that we ought
24 to have some monument of some kind that would
25 preserve the historic -- the history of the area.

1 If you've not been to B-Reactor, I hope
2 you will be able to visit there some day. It's a
3 step back to 1943. It's the only place I know of
4 that you can go back and wham, you're back there.
5 Other than maybe visiting a tomb in Egypt. It's a
6 rare, rare place.

7 Well, we're happy to see all the
8 alternatives that include B-Reactor as a museum,
9 and we support those.

10 Of the alternatives that look good to
11 us, the Department of Energy Alternative One seems
12 to be the most satisfactory.

13 We'd like to see some changes in it.
14 It's kind of like the man said about his wife. I
15 love her dearly and I wouldn't part with her for
16 anything in the world, but I wish there were some
17 things she'd change.

18 And that's the way the Alternative One
19 is.

20 We'd like to see a dedicated corridor
21 from the rest stop at Vernita bridge into B-Reactor
22 so we can get people in there, and there's already
23 a road in there. We'd like to see that improved.

24 And I'd also love to see B-Reactor
25 become a museum in my lifetime. Just setting it

1 aside and saying, hey, this is it. We'll keep it
2 from deteriorating isn't enough for me.

3 I have canoed down the Reach several
4 times, and there's something almost eerie about a
5 canoe trip down the Reach. You can play Lewis &
6 Clark, play Indian, anything you want, because
7 there are very few structures you can see on that
8 upper end of the Reach, other than kind of the
9 ghost like remnants of the reactors.

10 And there's something pretty precious
11 about that. And I'd like to see it preserved for
12 the future, for my children and their children and
13 future generations, because in my lifetime the
14 population of the United States has doubled, more
15 than doubled. What's it going to be like when it
16 doubles again? There are not going to be very many
17 places set aside where you can stand in the middle
18 of it and not hear the rumble of cars.

19 You know, when the population doubles
20 again, it's going to be Southern California
21 everywhere.

22 So I think something like this is very
23 precious to set it aside as a block for ecological
24 reasons and for just plain old recreational
25 reasons.

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. I
2 particularly like that part about the man talking
3 about his wife, it struck home, because my wife
4 said the same thing to me the other day, but there
5 are some things I had better change.

6 Jack Young.

7 MR. YOUNG: My name is Jack Young.
8 I am the statewide member at large of the
9 Washington Environmental Council. I testify
10 tonight on behalf of Washington Environmental
11 Council which is the state's largest single
12 environmental organization. It represents more
13 than nearly 200 environmental organizations
14 separately.

15 The Council wishes to commend Secretary
16 Richardson, the Department of Energy and the
17 Clinton Administration for the plan to protect the
18 Wahluke Slope and as part of the national wildlife
19 refuge. That single step would preserve much, if
20 not all, of the shrub-steppe ecosystem through
21 which the Hanford Reach flows to provide a unique
22 spawning and rearing habitat for wild Chinook,
23 summer steelhead, and critical migratory and
24 resting habitat for other salmonids.

25 The Council thus supports the Preferred

1 Alternative of the Hanford Remedial Action
2 Environmental Impact Statement, but with some
3 modifications and additions.

4 We urge that all of the following
5 Department of Energy lands be included as part of
6 the national wildlife refuge, the Wahluke Slope of
7 course, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee
8 Ranch, the Riverlands area, and the Columbia River
9 islands. We ask also for a ban on the entire
10 Hanford Site of all agricultural uses, of
11 commercial mining, of cattle and other grazing,
12 because each of these activities for private gain
13 will destroy native plants, animals, and disrupt
14 the general natural ecosystem, to the detriment of
15 the American public as a whole.

16 And because the Hanford Reach will
17 become part of the U.S. wild and scenic river
18 system, I trust in my lifetime, we ask for a ban on
19 all commercial developments in the lands now under
20 the Department of Energy control within a half mile
21 of the river's edge, within the proposed wild and
22 scenic Hanford Reach corridor. Thank you.

23 MR. JACKSON: Rick Leaumont. Rick
24 Leaumont.

25 We will move on to the next speaker and

1 perhaps come back. There were several people that
2 have indicated that they might like to speak but
3 weren't sure. And I have held those to last.

4 Is Mildred Walton present?

5 MS. WALTON: I am here but I
6 didn't indicate that I wanted to speak. Oh. I
7 might, yeah. But I won't.

8 MR. JACKSON: Would you like to say
9 anything tonight?

10 MS. WALTON: I think in the
11 interest of posterity, we owe it to ourselves and
12 the future to save what we can.

13 I will go back to my childhood and my
14 early memories were of camping in California state
15 parks, and I have found out since then that there
16 were visionary people who went to bat to save
17 places like Big Basin and some of the wonderful
18 places that are protected.

19 They could have all been logged off and
20 we would have forgotten all about them by now.

21 But we have to do the same thing for
22 our future right. Right now we have that
23 opportunity.

24 And so that's what I think. I don't
25 have specific ideas. But just for our soul's sake.

1 MR. JACKSON: Well, with perhaps
2 the exception of one which I had individual hope
3 which what lot will arrive a little later, those
4 are the names of the folks that expressed an
5 interest in speaking beforehand.

6 We've heard I think some very
7 interesting and somewhat differing viewpoints.

8 After having a chance to listen to the
9 other folks making presentations, I'd like to open
10 it up now, if you haven't previously expressed an
11 interest to speak, we certainly still would like to
12 hear from any other members of the audience who
13 would like to step up to the microphone and give us
14 their ideas.

15 There is a small penalty to pay,
16 because you didn't register, you have to spell your
17 name for me if you do that, so the court reporter
18 can get it down.

19 Is there anyone else? Certainly, sir.
20 Come on up.

21 MR. HAGEMAN: Yes. My name is Al
22 Hageman. And I have been in Pasco since 1960.

23 MR. JACKSON: Could you spell your
24 name for us.

25 MR. HAGEMAN: H-a-g-e-m-a-n. I

1 came up here from the Willamette Valley in Oregon,
2 and I like the drier climate, and seeing this area
3 change dramatically in the 40 years I have been
4 here.

5 I would like to echo Dr. Rose's
6 comments, and also Mr. Turnbaugh from Pasco. I
7 think they said everything that I would like to
8 say.

9 However, I might expound a little bit
10 on what Dr. Rose said in regards to the CRP, which
11 is the Conservation Reserve Program. And that's
12 the fact that I think the state of Washington has
13 about 750,000 acres where people have signed up for
14 that program. That is to set it aside from
15 production and make it more enhanced for wildlife,
16 upland game and so forth.

17 Well, I think that's a program that's
18 being paid for, and as Dr. Rose says, we have one
19 out here that's working just fine, let's continue
20 on with it.

21 The salmon spawning naturally is
22 something that I don't think man can recreate
23 nearly as successful as Mother Nature has done up
24 there. So let's leave that alone.

25 I'm in favor of the Preferred

1 Alternative Number One, and I think that it is
2 purely selfish reasoning on my part, but let's
3 leave it like it was when it was under the control
4 of the government for so many years.

5 That's what I feel like I would like to
6 see kept as status quo.

7 The man mentioned B-Reactor corridor,
8 museum corridor from Vernita.

9 I feel like when you open up more area
10 for the public to travel on, henceforth you're
11 going to have the garbage, and that's been proven
12 true on many an area, and the Niobrara River in
13 Nebraska, for example. It was clean and peaceful.

14 You let too many people in, make it too
15 accessible, and then you are going to suffer the
16 consequences with trash and litter and so forth.

17 But anyway, I would like to close by
18 saying that I echo Mr. Turnbaugh and Mr. Rose's
19 comments, if you recall those. Thank you.

20 MR. JACKSON: Sir, come on up.

21 MR. LANDEEN: My name is Dan
22 Landeen. I work for the Nez Perce Tribe.
23 L-a-n-d-e-e-n. I'm here speaking for myself this
24 evening, even though I do represent the tribe.

25 It's interesting, a lot of you don't

1 realize, a lot of people have been saying they like
2 the Preferred Alternative Number One, with a few
3 minor modifications. If you do those minor
4 modifications, you have Alternative Number Two,
5 which is ours. So we're glad to see that.

6 I'm one of the few people that have
7 probably had the opportunity to either walk or
8 drive most of Hanford. I worked at Hanford in my
9 previous life for 16 years as a biologist out
10 there, know the area quite well. I would echo a
11 lot of the same comments that were made here this
12 evening.

13 It is a spectacular area, especially
14 this time of year.

15 I used to do ecological surveys for the
16 Site when there was going to be reconstruction
17 activities, and I always got a kick out of the
18 engineers that would call up and say, you're not
19 going to have to worry about this site because it's
20 only sagebrush.

21 And I would start to laugh and say,
22 little do you know.

23 But it's an area that should be
24 preserved.

25 I just might mention that the tribe has

1 the policy that they support the wild and scenic
2 designation under federal control. The tribe also
3 supports the proposal by Secretary Richardson to
4 have the Wahluke Slope and the surrounding areas,
5 McGee Ranch, Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as under
6 federal control also as a natural wildlife refuge.
7 But it's an area that needs to be saved.

8 Those of you that have had the
9 opportunity to fly over Eastern Washington, as some
10 have commented, it's really interesting to see all
11 the agricultural land, and all of a sudden, boom,
12 you have this undisturbed area.

13 Even though we always say it's
14 undisturbed, there's still a lot of things that are
15 happening at Hanford, like fire, and the invasion
16 of noxious weeds that still threaten that site. So
17 there are still some big battles that are fought
18 there. We lose a lot of acres due to that.

19 And some of these other alternatives
20 that would open that up to more high recreational
21 use and grazing and mining, me personally, I could
22 never support, and I guess I could speak for the
23 Tribe, they wouldn't support that either.

24 I am glad for the opportunity to be
25 here tonight. This was a long, arduous process, to

1 get these various alternatives out there, and I
2 appreciate the opportunity to be here. Thank you.

3 MR. JACKSON: Do we have anyone
4 else that would like to speak this evening? Come
5 on up, sir.

6 MR. LINK: Steven Link, L-i-n-k.
7 I'm the head of the native plants society here
8 locally, and also head of the Noxious Weed Control
9 Board in Benton County.

10 I am representing myself here. And I
11 am in favor of saving the Reach, as has been
12 discussed.

13 I would also like to make a statement
14 about how it might be possible to help agriculture
15 feel good about this, whether agriculture is here
16 to listen about it or not I'm not sure. But I
17 would like to say that there is value in the
18 resource which is going to be saved in this plan,
19 and this value can be recognized, and it can be
20 imparted to agriculture.

21 The primary value is in the natural
22 resources of the site, particularly the native
23 plants. It is possible to collect seed and
24 reproduce our local vegetation, our native local
25 vegetation, for its value in restoring areas which

1 are disturbed currently in the surrounding areas.
2 There's value in attempting to grow these plants
3 for restoration purposes. There is a very strong
4 market for this right now in the state of
5 Washington. One example is the CRP program.

6 Well, the primary statement I want to
7 make is that we should recognize that there is
8 economic value in our natural resources, and how
9 they are managed is an open question, but there are
10 plenty of people that are doing this kind of stuff
11 now, and it is something for agriculture to
12 consider. There is lots of money in it. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

15 Anyone else who would like to speak
16 tonight? We have plenty of time. Anyone else?

17 Ma'am, come on up. Again, would you
18 state your name and spell it.

19 MS. WINTERS: My name is Rosy
20 Winters, W-i-n-t-e-r-s, and I live in Kennewick. I
21 am shaking. That's why I'm last, I guess.

22 I thought maybe you needed a farmer to
23 speak. I'm a farmer who supports the Department of
24 Energy's proposal.

25 I spent all my life on dairy farms,

1 except for the past few years, and I'm still
2 involved in owning and managing a couple of pieces
3 of farm land in the state, some in the Yakima
4 Valley. No, our farm didn't contribute to any of
5 the problems in the Yakima. Dairy farms of course
6 are notorious for being major polluters, and we're
7 working on that.

8 I'm also a member of the Benton
9 Conservation District Board. And we have a lot of
10 programs trying to help farmers convert their
11 irrigation systems in the Prosser area, Whitstran,
12 to more efficient systems that use less water and
13 keep soil sediments and pollutants on the farms so
14 they don't get into the river.

15 I grew up in Vancouver on a good sized
16 dairy farm where we used to graze our cattle in a
17 wetland pond. We stopped doing that years ago. My
18 farther is now gone.

19 My mother is 88, and she's turned into
20 a birder. She always loved the birds and nature
21 and wild flowers. But she didn't really probably
22 appreciate the birds until the huge migrations of
23 geese that used to eat up all my father's winter
24 green plantings headed north, and now that we don't
25 have cattle in those wetland ponds anymore, and by

1 the way she's 88 and still lives on that farm, she
2 has been enjoying a Herron rookery that has sprung
3 up on the old dairy there surrounding the wetland,
4 and we all have become major birders in the lower
5 River Road just west of Vancouver where my mom's
6 place is.

7 Currently I'm a city girl. But I
8 really do enjoy the wide open desert expanse, as
9 some of the speakers said tonight, floating the
10 Reach in canoes and kayaks. I've enjoyed that
11 privilege. Being able to walk across the ALE
12 lands, I've really enjoyed that.

13 I'm not a scientist, and I'm not, I
14 don't consider myself a major birder, but I do
15 enjoy being an amateur at it. And I would hate to
16 see all of the beautiful land in the ALE area
17 farmed.

18 I don't agree with the comment that was
19 made that we have enough farms, we have enough land
20 that is used in agriculture. With the exponential
21 growth in population, we are going to always need
22 more farm land. But we have to be very careful
23 about where we put it and how we open up new land
24 and how we irrigate.

25 The science is out there. The science

1 is known. There is money available to encourage
2 opening land and matching funds for farms to
3 convert to more efficient and conservation minded
4 systems, and that is what is happening here in
5 Benton County, even though a lot of people don't
6 know that.

7 There are groups of people that are
8 working very hard to conserve and to do a better
9 job than we have done in the past. I thank you.

10 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

11 Anyone else that would like to speak
12 this evening? Come on up.

13 MR. FALETTI: My name is Duane
14 Faletti. My mother never did get it right. It's
15 F-a-l-e-t-t-i.

16 I basically favor the position that's
17 been given before here, which is to preserve as
18 much of the area as possible. There's no -- It
19 makes no sense to have any mining beyond that
20 needed for Hanford cleanup. Certainly no grazing.
21 I've seen the area go from having quite a bit of
22 sagebrush to basically none.

23 I left Illinois because it was 95
24 percent plowed to come to a countryside that is,
25 except for the Hanford area, is pretty well that

1 way, it is either plowed or burnt over. And
2 Hanford is about all that is left.

3 So I go for as much preservation as is
4 practical.

5 I don't have much more to say, except
6 that the Columbia River is the only part that's
7 free-flowing, the part on the Reach, and to sit in
8 the boat and have that boat coming downstream
9 faster than a man can walk or even run, when you're
10 in 20 feet of water, is something that an Illinois
11 boy has a hard time grasping. Thank you.

12 MR. JACKSON: Come up, sir.

13 MR. DILLMAN: My name is Jim
14 Dillman, D-i-l-l-m-a-n. I didn't come here
15 intending to speak this evening. But my heart is
16 throbbing, and I have to say something, and I don't
17 know how to say it. I don't know how to tell you.

18 Maybe I should take off my human form
19 and put on my butterfly form, and become a paries
20 backari, the sagebrush white, and tell you that
21 Mr. Dillman is a surveyor that worked with the
22 nature conservancy on the Hanford Reservation,
23 worked on the Yakima firing center, and now is
24 working on Beasley Hills north of Quincy, surveying
25 the insects, in particular the butterflies.

1 And one of the surveys I did last year
2 was in property we call MEEC, Mid-Columbia
3 Ecological Education Center, which is in the
4 Burbank slough area south of Pasco.

5 And what Mr. Dillman found was that
6 when he was on the Hanford Reservation, there are
7 lots of paries backari, lots of desert butterflies,
8 and other desert butterflies, because it's big,
9 because you say it's big, but we say it's tiny,
10 it's the last little bit we have left, because when
11 Mr. Dillman went down to the Burbank slough, which
12 is maybe half a mile wide, maybe a quarter of a
13 mile wide, and maybe three or four, five miles
14 long, he found very few desert white butterflies,
15 very few. It's just not big enough.

16 The Hanford Reservation is a place we
17 can be. The Yakima firing center is a place we can
18 be. And if you take away those habitats that are
19 large enough for us, we're gone, along with a
20 couple other butterflies that are white also. I
21 can't think of their names right now.

22 But what I am trying to tell you, we
23 need that big place. You people have the power to
24 save that big place for us. The little people out
25 here that are talking to you individually, they're

1 trying to save us. They're trying to save the
2 Mormon cricket that everybody wants to tromp every
3 year. They're trying to save them in a place in
4 this desert land that has been theirs, because God
5 gave it to them.

6 You have an obligation to the insects
7 and to the little voles and to the little mice and
8 all of the creatures, that when the ground is
9 plowed, they are suffocated to death. When the
10 plants are taken out, they starve to death. When
11 the plants are taken away, they have no food, they
12 have no wives or children.

13 They need this space, and you have got
14 to save it for them.

15 Humans, you don't have to develop
16 everything in the world in your life span. Leave
17 some of it for future generations. Leave some of
18 it for us. Thank you.

19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

20 Anyone else that would like to speak
21 tonight? By chance, is Rick Leaumont present yet?
22 Rick Leaumont?

23 Once again, anyone else that would like
24 to come? Come up, sir.

25 MR. KREID: Maybe I can hold the

1 stage until Rick gets here. I'm Dennis Kreid from
2 Richland, K-r-e-i-d.

3 I want to say a couple things. First I
4 would like to support the alternative that the
5 Department of Energy has put forward, modified in
6 the ways that we have been hearing tonight, to
7 provide additional protections. Eliminate
8 agriculture, essentially.

9 I would also like to comment on local
10 control. That's something we have heard a lot from
11 our local politicians and from a lot of the local
12 people that would like to develop the river.
13 Because that's what local control is all about.

14 If you want local control, look at the
15 Yakima, look at the Umatilla, John Day, the
16 Palouse, and you look at the sediment load, they go
17 dry in the summertime, they are full of sewage and
18 agricultural waste.

19 So, if you want local control, then
20 vote for the local alternative. If you want a
21 river, let's go for the one that DOE and the Tribes
22 have been promoting. That's all.

23 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Anyone
24 else that would like to speak?

25 MS. CLARK: I am Paula Clark.

1 C-l-a-r-k. No "e".

2 And it's awfully hard to stand up here
3 and follow Mr. Dillman, I believe is his name, and
4 some of the other speakers.

5 And I don't have what I would like to
6 have with me right now, which is a poem that
7 resides on the wall in my office. I work out in
8 the middle of the Hanford Site. I travel there day
9 by day, just as Mr. Turnbaugh said, watching things
10 change daily. Just discovered some hot sage the
11 other day when I didn't know where any was. I
12 could see it from the car.

13 And I had the privilege of working on
14 the Hanford Site, and in particular with the Arid
15 Lands Ecology Reserve at the beginning of my career
16 here. And in conjunction with that, Dr. Bill
17 Ricard came into my office one day and brought me a
18 poem from a summer's intent -- summer student
19 rather, here on the Hanford Site. And that is the
20 piece that I wish that I had. And so I may include
21 it in my written comments, because it was very
22 instructive to me.

23 The girl's name was Sandra Shaad. She
24 came from Bellevue. From all that greenery over
25 there. And the poem that she wrote is a result of

1 her summer study here, was really quite
2 remarkable.

3 And brings to mind that when we think
4 about MEEC and with the size of it, it's wonderful,
5 but we have a resource here that's much bigger that
6 we also need to preserve, and to be able to open on
7 occasion for children to come and see.

8 If we aren't able to show them what
9 this is, they will not have the love for the
10 country that people have now. There won't be
11 people left to work for nature. And so I would
12 urge you to preserve it.

13 I haven't studied all the alternatives
14 in detail yet, but I will be providing written
15 comments. Thank you.

16 MR. JACKSON: Sir?

17 MR. WATTS: My name is Dick Watts,
18 W-a-t-t-s.

19 I would just like to speak as an
20 individual and say that I also support DOE's
21 Preferred Alternative, with the amendments that
22 have been brought forward for additional
23 preservation of the Hanford Site.

24 I did have the opportunity to work with
25 the Park Service, representing the federation of

1 fly fishers, and participated in the survey of the
2 resources for the Reach. And having lived here for
3 quite a while and having had the opportunity to
4 spend a fair amount of time on the Reach itself, I
5 have a bad habit of fly fishing, and also spending
6 a fair amount of time flying over the reach, I've
7 had the opportunity to over a period of time really
8 appreciate the values that are there.

9 And I had a friend recently who retired
10 from Hanford and he was discussing the future of
11 the Reach, and the comment that he made to me is
12 that he said, you know, while the people here are
13 really fairly focused on the preservation of the
14 Reach, and that's very good, but there is also a
15 strong constituency that focuses on local control.

16 And the question that he brought to me
17 was that if you are able to say, what would you
18 like the Reach to look like in 75 years, when
19 you're not here, the question that you ask yourself
20 is, would you like local control and the quality
21 that we're experiencing in the Yakima River system
22 right now, lower Yakima River system, or would you
23 like to see the Reach at least in the state that it
24 is in today.

25 And for me that kind of focused the

1 issue kind of clearly, and not only selfishly am I
2 interested in preserving the Reach right now for
3 what I do, I think we all have a tremendous
4 obligation to those that will come after us to be
5 able to appreciate the things we have now. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. I also
8 will put a reply on that, unfortunately I think
9 that is not what I think my wife said, perchance.
10 Rick Leaumont?

11 MR. LEAUMONT: Thank you very
12 much. It's a pleasure to be here. I had a couple
13 of planes canceled on me and just barely got in the
14 door.

15 But I would like to say first of all
16 that I want to thank Secretary Richardson for
17 coming out here and touring the river and giving
18 his support to protecting the Wahluke Slope and
19 Hanford Reach and the ALE for wildlife habitat and
20 preservation.

21 The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon
22 Society supports the Preferred Alternative. Again,
23 we congratulate DOE for designating in the
24 Preferred Alternative as preservation the Wahluke
25 Slope, the McGee Ranch, the ALE, Gable Mountain and

1 the sand dunes.

2 We feel this area should be expanded to
3 include the Riverlands, the islands, and the level
4 2 and 4 habitat that are designated on page 4-80 in
5 the EIS, and the Washington Department of Fish and
6 Wildlife priority habitat which is designated on
7 page 4-53, and when we submit our written comments,
8 we will have a map showing that.

9 We would like the Final Report to
10 eliminate all grazing on conservation areas within
11 Hanford.

12 In the report it was said that grazing
13 is to be used to control noxious weeds. We don't
14 feel like grazing controls noxious weeds. We feel
15 like it destroys habitat and spreads these weeds.
16 We also --

17 It was also stated in the report that
18 grazing would control fire hazards. And we think
19 that the Department of Energy should reintroduce
20 fire, controlled fire, managed fire, as a way of
21 protecting the habitat against disruptive wild
22 fires.

23 Also we think it is very poor for
24 agriculture to introduce grazing on the Hanford
25 Reservation. We think there could be a consumer

1 rejection of Washington beef and lamb products if
2 the public realizes that these products are being
3 grown on a SuperFund site.

4 We think mining and conservation mining
5 areas should be narrowly restricted to only that
6 which is essential to complete cleanup and
7 remediation. And the research and development
8 areas should be confined to the Ligo V area on the
9 map and the FFTF.

10 We would also like to see the
11 industrial areas in the Preferred Alternative to be
12 reduced to those that were in Alternative One and
13 Two.

14 We would like to see recreational
15 facilities kept at low intensity, except at the
16 B-Reactor, which would be the museum. The way high
17 intensity recreation is defined in the EIS would
18 include destination resorts -- could include
19 destination resorts, golf courses, and these kind
20 of developments that are not really appropriate for
21 the Hanford Reach.

22 The issues that are dealt with in the
23 Environmental Impact Statement, particularly in the
24 central part of the Hanford Reservation, are
25 extremely complex, and it could take many months

1 and perhaps years to complete that.

2 On the other hand, the issues on the
3 Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, on the islands in
4 the Columbia River, the McGee Ranch, the
5 Riverlands, and ALE, are very simple and very
6 basic. These areas are not contaminated. And a
7 decision should be rendered on those very quickly.

8 So we are asking that the Secretary of
9 Energy issue a separate Record of Decision for the
10 Wahluke Slope, Hanford Reach and islands, McGee
11 Ranch, Riverlands and ALE.

12 In Chapter 6 the EIS talks about the
13 Site Planning Board. We would like to see this
14 expanded to include the Washington Department of
15 Ecology, the Washington Department of Fish and
16 Wildlife, and the National Marine Fisheries
17 Service. Adams County is listed on this board, and
18 we think they should be eliminated, because Adams
19 County, only about 600 acres of the Hanford
20 Reservation are in Adams County. We would not have
21 any objections to Adams County participating when
22 decisions were made on those 600 acres.

23 In paragraph 6.3.1 it talks about
24 overall policies of the land use planning. We
25 would like to see inserted as one of those policy

1 statements protection, preservation and enhancement
2 of the fish, wildlife and native plant resources
3 and their habitat.

4 The EIS also talks about a trail system
5 being constructed along the river. We are in favor
6 of a trail system, but we believe that it should be
7 very carefully sited so it avoids sensitive
8 wildlife habitat and native plants.

9 And, finally, in the Preferred
10 Alternative, there's an area set aside along the
11 highway on the ALE for mining. And we understand
12 that the type of gravel at that spot are very
13 necessary for constructing caps in cleanup. We
14 also understand there's another location near Horn
15 Rapids.

16 And we would ask that the ALE location
17 be used as a last resort, that if the materials in
18 Horn Rapids is suitable, they of course be used
19 first, and in all mining operations essential for
20 cleanup and remediation, that as these mining
21 operations are completed, that the land be
22 restored.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. JACKSON: Thanks. Anyone else
25 that would like to speak tonight? Anyone else?

1 Well, thank you all. I've got to say
2 that I have found the comments tonight from the
3 audience informative in all cases. I thought
4 moving in other cases. It's been a real
5 interesting process to listen to what you have to
6 offer.

7 It strikes me, I just want to share one
8 thing with you that my daughter occasionally asks
9 me, why do I do something, and I think if she would
10 have been here tonight and hear the kind of input
11 that you folks made, it would have been a real easy
12 answer.

13 We sincerely appreciate what you have
14 to tell us. Thank you very much.

15 We will remain here for a short period
16 of time. You should be aware that we can take
17 written comments. Once again I will remind you
18 that there are forms at the back table. So if you
19 found it just a little too uncomfortable but you
20 did want to say something tonight, give us your
21 comments in writing. Also contact Mr. Ferns. His
22 address, do you want the Post Office Box or --

23 MR. FERNS: Something.

24 MR. JACKSON: His office is Post
25 Office Box 550, mail stop HO-12, Richland,

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Washington, 99352, and that's Tom Ferns. Thank you
again. We appreciate it.

(8:30 p.m.)

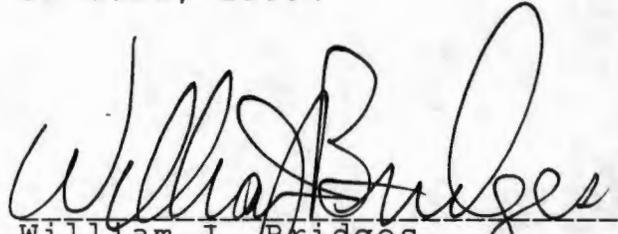
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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
County of Benton)

I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public for Washington; that at said time and place I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting and that the foregoing transcript consisting of 64 typewritten pages is a true and correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand at Kennewick, Washington, on this 22nd day of June, 1999.



William J. Bridges
CSR NO. BRIDGWJ548PO
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public for Washington
My commission expires: 11-1-99