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Nez Perce

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT
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February 9, 2004

Mr. Keith Klein
Hanford Site Manager
U.S. DOE, Mail Stop A7-50
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

RE: Review of Hanford Trustees Project Management Plan (PMP)

Dear Mr. Klein:

The ERWM has recently completed a review of the above mentioned document.

Since 1855, reserved treaty rights of the Nez Perce Tribe in the Mid-Columbia have been recognized and affirmed through a series of Federal and State actions. These actions protect Nez Perce rights to utilize their usual and accustomed resources and resource areas in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and elsewhere. Accordingly, the Nez Perce Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program (ERWM) responds to actions that impact the Hanford ecosystem.

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustees have been working on the PMP for several months. The PMP is an attempt to work within the DOE budgetary structure in order to set up a means to fund council activities for the next few years. We realize that what we have reviewed to date represents a first draft and before it is finalized many changes may be made.

However, the ERWM does support the concept of working with DOE in order to fund council activities. At the present time council members do not have the necessary time or means to fully participate in council activities to the extent that is needed.

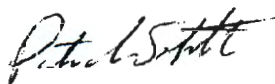
One of the ways the PMP addresses the issue is by proposing a Joint Technical Capability defined as a group of people who perform the technical work and labor identified in the sub-modules of this plan, in support of the HNRTC. This group may be DOE/contractor staff, staff from one or more of the trustee organizations, an independent set of technical staff, a combination of these, or other alternative approaches agreed to by the trustees.

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Another purpose of this document is to define the work of the trustees to facilitate the division of labor. This document anticipates a small number of trustees will be actively involved in each trustee activity. This allows trustees to use their time most efficiently.

The ERWM supports the general concepts identified in the PMP and hopes that meaningful discussions can be held with the trustees and DOE to fund council activities in the future that will help the cleanup effort at the Hanford Site and ensure that CERCLA requirements for trustees are being met.

Sincerely,



Patrick Sobotta
ERWM Director

Cc: Kevin Clark