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December 29, 1993

Ms. Becky Austin
Mail Stop B2-35



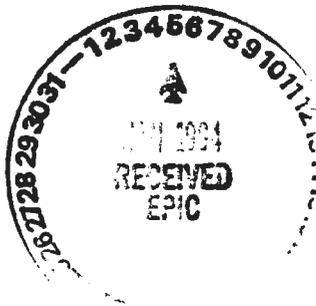
Dear Ms. Austin:

Re: Wahluke Slope Comment Response

Enclosed are three (3) public responses to the North (Wahluke) Slope Expedited Response Action Proposal. Please enter them into the administrative record for the North Slope. If you have any questions please call me at (509) 736-3026. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Freedman
Unit Manager
Nuclear & Mixed Waste Management Program



9402613

16431 N. E. 16th Place
Bellevue, Wash. 98008
December 11, 1993

Mr. Dib Goswami, Unit Manager
Washington State Dept. of Ecology
7601 West Clearwater Avenue, Suite 102
Kennewick, Wash. 99336

NMWMP - Hanford

DEC 14 1993

Dear Mr. Goswami:

SUBJECT: Mattawa Meeting 12-14-93
North Slope - Wahluke Slope
Saddle Mountains - Washington

Kennewick

It will not be possible for me to attend the above scheduled meeting, However this letter is meant to be disapproval of the actions taken by Hanford in the past as well as what they have planned for the future.

Our family have owned 160 acres of the land near the Wahluke Canal for 75 years. We felt Hanford endangered our lives when it started before World War II. Now it endangers the Columbia River, the salmon runs for 1,000 miles and the rich farm lands in the Inland Empire.

The powers that control Hanford seem to be completely ignorant of the area and the following things:

1. The Rim of Fire erupts periodically.
2. The Columbia River is over 1,000 miles. Pollution places an impact on that entire stretch of land as well as the oceans.
3. Our land near the Saddle Mountains had lava rocks on it. How it got there is not known, but it could be that it came there when Mount Rainier erupted many years ago. So it can happen again.
- 4., An earthquake will have an impact on the salt under the ground, and it will release the contaminated materials.

I protest making Hanford a dumping site for nuclear waste for the U. S. and other nations around the world. Hanford should be closed down.

If we must have nuclear power plants each individual state should have their own dumping site. Washington State should not have to store all the waste in the world.

If you as public servants engage in this dangerous health hazard. I hold each and every person taking part in this activity

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accountable to the people.

If I, as an individual, endangered the lives of my neighbors, I most certainly would be prosecuted. I see no distinction to hold you free from prosecution. Waste that is dangerous for 10,000 years certainly is hazzardous .

Enclosed is an article about the dangers of an explosion similar to the one that took place in Russia and contaminated 47 square miles.

My paper boys Father died at 37 years old, as he was killed by nuclear energy in Russia. It appears no one looks at the facts about nuclear energy.

Rest assured, until I can safely live on my land...I hold you personally responsible, as I do each and every other individual that endangers my life.

Sincerely,

Ethel R. Collins
ETHEL R. COLLINS

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Explosion risks 'real' at Hanford, Senate report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The possibility of a chemical explosion like one last spring at a Russian nuclear waste tank "is real and widespread" at a number of U.S. nuclear weapons sites, a Senate committee asserted Thursday.

The report by the Governmental Affairs Committee concluded that many of the same conditions could be present at the government's Hanford weapons complex and at other weapons sites as existed at the Tomsk-7 weapons facility in Russia.

The Russian waste tank exploded April 6 after a chemical reaction, causing radiation to spew across a 47-square-mile area, according to Energy Department officials who have visited the site in Siberia. The extent of injuries is not known.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, the committee's chairman, expressed concern about the possibility of a similar explosion in the United States in a letter Thursday to Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary.

"The potential for explosions is widespread throughout the entire DOE weapons complex," Glenn wrote O'Leary.

U.S. officials have determined that the explosion at Tomsk-7 occurred in a processing tank that contained plutonium nitrate and other fission products. The combination of chemicals in the tank created a compound scientists have called "red oil" — a dense, organic material that decomposes spontaneously upon heating, releasing flammable gases.

The Russian explosion was sparked by a worker adding concentrated nitric acid without the tank contents being mixed.

The report said that the concern is that the same volatile situation could arise at U.S. weapons plants during the separation and processing of tons of highly radioactive wastes. Some of the compounds have been stored for decades and their exact composition

Hanford contractor wants to keep job

RICHLAND (AP) — Despite receiving its worst-ever work evaluation from the U.S. Department of Energy, the chief Hanford nuclear reservation contractor says it aims to keep the job.

But there will be competition if Westinghouse Hanford bids next year for a new multiple-year operations contract, DOE Hanford Manager John Wagoner said this week.

The era of nearly automatic contract extensions at the Energy Department's nuclear weapons complexes is over, Wagoner said.

Will Westinghouse Hanford bid to keep its job as maintenance and operations contractor on the 560-square-mile site?

"At this point in time, I'd say yes," Westinghouse Hanford President Tom Anderson said. "But we don't need to make that decision now."

isn't known for certain.

"There are a number of facilities in the DOE weapons complex where 'red oil' can be a problem" especially in the processing phase of dealing with the wastes, said Glenn.

The facilities cited by the report as having a potential for an explosion during processing are:

- Five separate facilities at the Hanford weapons complex near Richland, Wash.

- A waste separation plant and waste tank farms at the Savannah River complex near Aiken, S.C.

- The gaseous diffusion plant near Portsmouth, Ohio.

- Waste tank farms at the Oak Ridge complex in Tennessee.

- Waste tank farms at the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant near Idaho Falls.

- A processing facility at Los Alamos national laboratory in New Mexico.

Energy Department officials were not immediately available to comment on the report.

The study said department officials have been aware of the concerns about "red oil" and related organic nitrates and have established a task force to evaluate the risks of explosions at the U.S. facilities.

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December 13, 1993

NMWMP - Hanford

Mr. Dib Goswami
Unit Manager
Washington State Dept. of Ecology
7601 West Clearwater Avenue, Suite 102
Kennewick, WA 99336

DEC 14 1993

Kennewick

RE: North Slope Expedited Response Action

To Whom it may Concern:

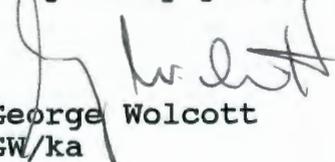
I read recently in the local newspaper about four alternative proposals for cleaning up the North Slope. I believe that the most expensive option is, in the long run, the best clean-up method.

The three cheaper clean-up methods all involve leaving debris, etc., on site. Sooner or later the North Slope will be released to private or public ownership. At that time the owners will want to use the land. In order to use all of the land, they will want to clean it completely. It will be more expensive to clean it in the future than to clean it now.

After reading the four proposals in the newspaper, I was reminded of an incident involving one of my nephews last year. I had instructed him to clean my garage and driveway. I told him that I wanted both to be "real clean". I left him at the garage and went to another area of our property. About one-half hour later, he showed up, announced that he had completed his assigned task and wanted to do more work. I went back to the garage and driveway. As might be imagined, neither was "really clean". He had picked up surface debris, parked bicycles, placed brooms in corners, etc. He did not sweep out from underneath the freezer, refrigerator, use a blower to blow out dust, wash windows, or use a hose to hose down all of the sand and dust from the driveway. The "real clean-up" took approximately three hours.

I think that the North Slope should have a "real cleanup".

Very truly yours,



George Wolcott
GW/ka

9413220-2366

NMWMP - Hanford

12/14/93

Dib Goswami
Unit Manager
Wash. State Dept. of Ecology
7601 W. Clearwater Ave., Suit 102
Kennewick, Wa., 99336

DEC 15 1993

Kennewick

Dear Mr. Goswami:

Please send me more information on the proposed improvement of the Wahluke Slope.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my feelings on what would be desirable for the slope. As you know, Eastern Washington has been rapidly changed to "clean farming" with the subsequent loss of habitat for animals, Upland Game, and particularly Pheasants. As a member of the Spokane Pheasants Forever Organization, I speak for the local club and for Upland Game hunters which they represent.

A large area of the slope should be planted for habitat for Upland Birds. This type of habitat is relatively inexpensive considering other improvement alternatives. There is basically no maintenance involved once the habitat is established. The area is large enough to provide quality hunting and the proliferation of animal and bird species that would be attracted to the area.

The hunting opportunities would provide a substantial additional income for the surrounding communities with no pollution or environmental concerns.

If various local sportsman's organizations were contacted, I am sure labor would be donated to such a project. One such organization is Pheasant's Forever which has numerous clubs within the State.

Nick Lorentz

Nick Lorentz
W. 5715 Lowell
Spokane, Wa., 99208
(509) 467-8521

cc: Congressman Thomas Foley

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CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION COVERSHEET

Author: G. H. Freedman, Ecology Addressee: B. A. Austin Correspondence No.: Incoming: 9402613

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