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Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



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February 6, 2004

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EDMC

Mr. Keith Klein
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
PO Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Klein

Oregon supports full funding of the work scope needed to protect and restore natural resources at Hanford. We encourage your support as well.

Attached is a draft Project Management Plan for natural resource trustee activities at the Hanford Site. As you know, the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council has worked cooperatively with DOE-RL since 1993. During that time, Trustees struggled to stretch limited resources to meet Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act requirements (CERCLA). In the past, Trustees notified DOE-RL that additional resources were required. DOE-RL denied the request, saying Trustee work was already funded in existing grants and, further, the request lacked detail and focus.

In response, a Trustee Council work group developed this draft Project Management Plan that details work scope through 2023 with emphasis on the next 10 years. This draft plan is a template for cooperation and efficient work planning.

This draft plan recognizes the opportunity for efficiency and cost-effectiveness in actions taken to protect and restore natural resources. It envisions integrating natural resources concerns into response actions per U.S. DOE's own policy and guidance. For instance, there are many environmental risk assessments currently being conducted at Hanford. This activity provides a cost-effective opportunity to gather data for injury assessment at the same time. This is consistent with DOE-RL's role as both trustee and party responsible for cleanup. Our shared goal must be to accomplish the best possible protection and restoration of the natural resources at Hanford.

This draft project proposal is a planning level estimate of natural resource trustee participation in policy management, technical assistance and clean-up, and injury assessments required by CERCLA. As with any planning tool, refinements will be needed in response to changes in clean-up plans and actions at Hanford. The commitment to continue cooperation and collaboration with you and your staff is built into the plan.

The work scope projected in this draft plan cover the years through 2024. We believe this must be factored into the DOE-RL planning and budget process. This long-range plan provides an

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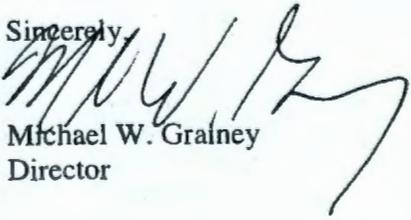
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historic opportunity to accomplish CERCLA requirements early saving dollars, time, and future impacts on natural resources at the Hanford site. Without your commitment, Oregon and other trustees will be forced to conduct independent assessments at a redundant cost to US DOE.

The State of Oregon requests that you coordinate with the natural resource trustees on this proposal. We request you recognize this draft plan and its budget as an emerging need for FY2005 funding. Further, we request the budget request be included in the baseline cost estimate and budget for FY2006 and out years. This proposal is delivered to you at this time in order to meet the current budget cycle schedule.

The State of Oregon endorses this project management plan and strongly encourages DOE's support and action.

Sincerely,


Michael W. Grainey
Director