



**Department of Energy**

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APR 13 1998



Addressees:

**MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRATION OF HANFORD SITE GROUNDWATER AND VADOSE ZONE ACTIVITIES DOCUMENT**

The enclosed document is the first in a series of planning documents being prepared and issued in 1998 by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL) for the purpose of better defining, and ultimately reducing or eliminating risks posed to groundwater and the Columbia River from contaminants generated at the Hanford Site.

This is a very complex and challenging undertaking involving many different RL and DOE Headquarters programs and organizations, as well as affected Tribal Nation Governments, stakeholders and their elected representatives from the states of Washington and Oregon, and the regulatory agencies responsible for overseeing Hanford Site activities. It is an undertaking that DOE takes very seriously and on which the department places very high priority.

Several steps have been taken in the past few months to develop a more focused and effective Hanford sitewide strategy for achieving sub-surface soil and groundwater contamination cleanup goals. Among these actions, the RL Manager directed my program (Environmental Restoration) to lead a new broad-based planning and management effort that we have named the Groundwater and Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project. The GW/VZ Project team has been tasked with identifying and integrating the planning for all Hanford Site programs that currently or potentially cause impact to, or are involved in environmental cleanup of the vadose zone (the geologic area between the land surface and underlying water table) and groundwater beneath the site, and the Columbia River.

The enclosed document, "Management and Integration of Hanford Site Groundwater and Vadose Zone Activities," presents the integrated planning and management approach for this sitewide effort. The described approach features opportunities for review and input by Tribal Nations and stakeholders. These include opportunities to become involved in developing mission, vision, and goal statements for the integration project; as well as reviewing and commenting on the initial integrated plan which is targeted for completion by October 1998.

This planning document is also available on the Internet at our Environmental Restoration Program web site (<http://www.bhi-erc.com>), or may be viewed at DOE's Public Reading Room, at Washington State University, 2770 University Drive, Richland, Washington.

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You may direct any questions concerning this publication to Bryan L. Foley, DOE or Rick Dale, Bechtel Hanford, Inc. on (509) 376-7087 and (509) 372-9097, respectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda K. Bauer".

Linda K. Bauer, Assistant Manager  
for Environmental Restoration

AME:LKB

Enclosure

cc w/encl: See attached distribution list.

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