

START

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HANFORD CLEANUP PUBLIC MEETING
JANUARY 25, 1994
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION DISPOSAL FACILITY

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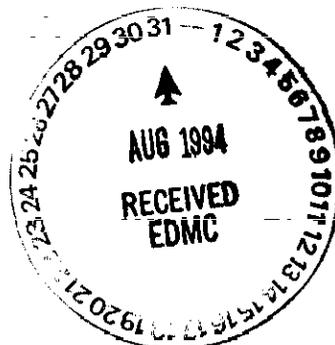
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COMMENT Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ERDF proposal. The lack of participation by the environmental community was because of conflicting public meetings, and is not indicative of a lack of interest. The information presented at the meeting and contained in the fact sheets did not adequately address the site selection criteria for ERDF. The preferred site appears to be located on uncontaminated and undisturbed land, in an area of prime shrub-steppe habitat. This violates a major recommendation of the Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group, making cleanup decisions which ensure protection of environmental values. The Working Group also noted the Site represents important habitat which supports many plants and animals worthy of protection during cleanup and new development. These recommendations apply to the entire site and all existing wildlife and plant life, not just threatened and endangered species on the ALE Reserve, Hanford Reach, and North Slope. Several commenters mentioned the existence of other suitable sites with only surface contamination in disturbed areas large enough to accomodate ERDF. If necessary a contaminated site could be remediated during development of the ERDF facility. Surely DOE and the regulators have known for some time that a disposal facility is needed. Early long-range planning with a careful site selection process would prevent hasty environmentally damaging decisions made in the face of looming deadlines. As cleanup proceeds and uses of the site diversify, there is a critical need to do comprehensive planning for preservation of the remaining native shrub-steppe habitats. Early coordination with the Department of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Natural Resources, and the Nature Conservancy is essential to identifying high-quality habitat and preserving important areas from the pressures of development.

Name (optional)

Address





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ERDF



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