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TRI-CITY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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EDMC

Dennis Faulk  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
712 Swift Blvd, Suite No. 5  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Faulk:

### B REACTOR CLEAN UP PLANNING

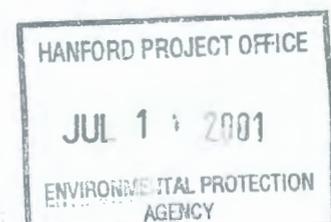
The Tri-City Industrial Development Council (TRIDEC) is a non-profit economic development agency whose objective is support and enhancement of the TRI-Cities area economy. Our membership is composed of over 500 individuals, business firms, and governmental agencies having an interest in the economic development of this area. The Department of Energy has designated TRIDEC as the "one voice" spokesman on economic issues related to the Hanford site.

We are pleased to submit our comments regarding the proposed clean up of the B Reactor for your consideration and inclusion in the Record of Decision for this issue.

The preferred alternative clean up option of Hazard Mitigation for Public Access is strongly supported as the most appropriate action to be taken on the reactor at this time. We support cleanup of the reactor facility to a condition, which would permit unrestricted access to the facility. Our support of this action as the preferred alternative is based upon a number of considerations, which are discussed below.

We believe that the B Reactor has a national historical significance and should be preserved as an element of our nations history. Its location adjacent to a National Monument provides the opportunity for public access to the reactor, which was a significant scientific and engineering achievement and provided the basis for earlier termination of our nations conflict with Japan. This reactor facility is of significance not only to the WW II generation but also to all citizens having an interest in our nations history.

The Department of Energy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service must cooperatively include in their land use planning for open and direct public access to the B Reactor, once interim cleanup and hazard mitigation has been completed. Currently public access to the reactor is highly



restricted and difficult to obtain. A facility of this historical significance needs to and must be accessible to the general public.

Others have raised concerns regarding the expenditure of approximately \$3 M for clean up and hazard mitigation at the reactor. We believe that this expenditure is highly appropriate and is of a high priority in site clean up planning. We also do not believe that the use of funding for this purpose will have any significant impact on or cause further delay in the overall clean up of the Hanford site. Much larger costs are incurred every year in the site cleanup program due to administrative delays, unnecessary paper work, and questionable clean up requirements. The limited funding required for the stabilization of the B Reactor can be readily identified within the current Richland Operations budget without significant impact on the progress of the site clean up program.

We do not believe that it would be appropriate or in the public interest to return the B Reactor site to its original pristine condition as has been proposed by others. The B Reactor is of national and regional historical significance to most of our nations citizens and should be available to them.

The Tri Party Agencies should work cooperatively with the local community, governmental and business interests to provide early public access to this major national heritage. The estimated costs for stabilization and hazard mitigation are a small cost for the preservation of a historic national treasure.

Very truly yours,

  
Sam Volpentest  
Executive Vice President

cc: Keith Klein, DOE-RL  
Greg Hughes, USF&WS