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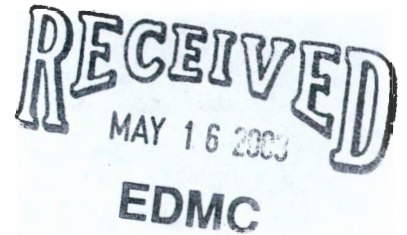
STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

May 12, 2003

Ernest L. Stensgar, President
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States
P.O. Box 408
Plummer, Idaho 83851

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States
P.O. Box 408
Plummer, Idaho 83851



Dear Mr. Stensgar and Ms. Louie:

Re: Resolution 03-11, "A Resolution Calling for the Cleanup of the Soil & Groundwater at the Hanford Nuclear Site"

The State of Washington recognizes its special relationship with the federally recognized tribes of the State of Washington and formalized that relationship in the Centennial Accord dated August 4, 1989. The State of Washington also signed the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, wherein Section 10.10 of the Action Plan recognizes that several Northwest Indian tribes have treaty-reserved rights to resources located on the Hanford Reservation or that could be affected by activities on the Hanford Reservation. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) also shares with affected Tribes the rights and responsibilities as a Natural Resource Trustee, under Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (US Code Title 42, Chapter 103). In accordance with these relationships between Ecology and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Ecology has responded below to your Resolution #03-11, "A Resolution Calling for the Cleanup of the Soil & Groundwater at the Hanford Nuclear Site."

First, please be assured that Ecology recognizes that toxic releases at Hanford have impacted the cultural and natural resources at the Hanford Site. We are aware of the traditional uses of the Hanford site by tribes, in accordance with treaty-reserved rights. Ecology will continue to facilitate tribal participation in Hanford decision making.

Ernest L. Stensgar
Norma Jean Louie
May 12, 2003
Page 2

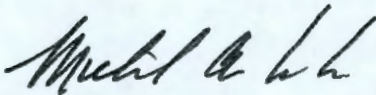
Ecology also recognizes the unique position of the tribes with respect to Hanford cleanup. Ecology is required by law to select cleanup remedies that protect the reasonably maximally exposed individual. We ask for and welcome the comments of the tribal nations on tribal exposure scenarios so that we can do a credible evaluation of whether Hanford cleanup will be protective of tribal members.

Also, please be assured that Ecology remains committed to cleanup of Hanford soil and groundwater and to protect and restore the Columbia River. Our role as a regulatory agency is to ensure that the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) cleanup of soil and groundwater complies with the requirements of environmental laws and regulations. Resolution #03-11 says that soil and groundwater contamination will remain in the environment for many years to come, with continuing impacts to groundwater and the Columbia River. Ecology remains committed to the cleanup of groundwater to its highest beneficial use wherever practicable, and we welcome tribal nation comments a groundwater strategy recently published by Ecology, the USDOE, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

As a Natural Resource Trustee, Ecology shares some concerns with affected Tribes. We will continue to cooperate with Tribal government where we have similar interests. Where Tribes have unique concerns, Ecology will continue as an advocate for tribal rights in accordance with federal and state law.

If there are any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (360) 407-7150.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Wilson
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

MW:jc

cc: see next page

Ernest L. Stensgar
Norma Jean Louie
May 12, 2003
Page 3

cc: Kevin Clarke, USDOE
Keith Klein, USDOE
Roy Schepens, USDOE-ORP
Todd Martin, HAB
Ken Niles, OOE
Rick Gay, CTUIR
Pat Sobotta, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Administrative Record: Tribes ✓