

NRTC 1997

Correspondence

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LTR



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97232-2036

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 8, 1997

ER 96/0593

Paul J. Krupin, Project Manager  
Comprehensive Land Use Plan  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A5-15  
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Krupin:

The Department of the Interior reviewed and commented on the Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Plan), Richland, Benton County, Washington. After our comments were transmitted to your office on December 9, 1996 we discovered the need for two minor corrections to the project's comments. The corrections are in bold type below:

Page 3-35. Lines 1-6. First Bullet Statement (second paragraph of comments)

We recommend the State's proposed disposal site be moved to an area close to the ~~U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration~~ **Environmental Restoration and Disposal Facility** and the U.S. Ecology sites. This move would consolidate waste sites in one area, and thereby reduce future risks and limiting impacts to natural resources.

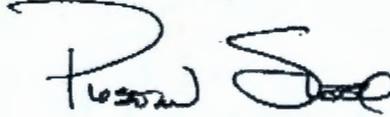
Page 3-35. Lines 8-16. Second Bullet Statement and Figure 3-3

The discussion in this bullet statement is confusing. If the withdrawn lands are ~~not~~ returned to the Department, unrestricted future land use of uncontaminated parcels remote from waste sites would not be an inconsistent use. This inconsistency demonstrates the need for the analysis of an additional alternative as suggested in our above Page 28 comment. ~~However,~~ Unrestricted future land use or management of portions of the All Other Areas geographic area may be feasible and logical.

In addition we would like to reiterate concerns that the CLUP does not clearly address the withdrawn Public lands status. An additional alternative should be analyzed for the All Other Areas designation. This alternative should analyze a combination of land use designations which provide for the relinquishment of the Public land withdraws. The Plan also needs to clearly address the constraints the withdrawn Public lands place on the uses identified in the CLUP.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and if you have any questions please contact me at 503-231-6157.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston Sleeper". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Preston Sleeper  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer