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DOE-RL / DIS

Monday, May 10, 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy, Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland WA 99352-0550

RE: HRA EIS

Dear Mr. Ferns,

I has come to my attention that you are seeking individual input on actions that will determine the environmental future of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and its surroundings.

I think it is extremely important that this national environmental treasure be protected for the benefit of this and future generations. Failure to act responsibly now can jeopardize irretrievably an ecologically sensitive and a valuable resource. I support the Preferred Alternative with the following modifications:

- A. The following adjoined DOE lands should be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. This will provide a large, continuous "crescent" of protected habitat lands surrounding central Hanford.
- B. To ensure long-term protection for key native species and systems located across the Site (including central Hanford), there should be no agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing permitted.
3. To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated lands, DOE should issue separate decisions for the areas mentioned above .

Thank you for consideration of my feelings on this subject. I look forward to future news on the progress of this issue.

Yours truly,


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cc: hhall