

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

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July 29, 1999

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Thomas W. Ferns, HRA-EIS Document Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12  
Richland, WA 99352

RECEIVED

AUG 03 1999

Dear Mr. Ferns:

**DOE-RL / DIS**

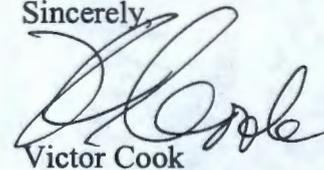
This letter is in reference to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Hanford Site that is under consideration by DOE. As you know, the National Science Foundation supports the construction and operation of the LIGO Laboratory on the Hanford site under the direction of the California Institute of Technology. We have followed closely the efforts of the LIGO Hanford Laboratory Director, Dr. Frederick Raab, to raise the awareness of your office to the concerns we have for future LIGO operations should any of the current six versions of land use be adopted. Our latest information is the Revised Draft report DOE/EIS-0222D entitled "Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan." As described in Dr. Raab's letter to you of June 15, 1999, the sensitivity of the LIGO detectors to vibration could make them inoperable while activities creating vibration are under way on the Hanford site.

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We support the effort to establish criteria for long term land use at Hanford and understand the desire to develop the site to the greatest benefit for the people of the area. We believe this is not incompatible with providing safeguards for effective operation of the LIGO Laboratory. The more we know about planned activities on the Hanford site, and the sooner we know about it, the better we will be able to adapt our operations plans for LIGO. To this end, we suggest that NSF be added to the list of "cooperating and consulting agencies" to develop land use plans for Hanford, and to membership on the Site Planning Advisory Board (SPAB).

We would also appreciate receiving new versions of the Environmental Impact Statements and Comprehensive Land Use Plans as they become available.

Sincerely,



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cc Fred Raab, LIGO Hanford Laboratory Director  
Barry Barish, LIGO Project Director  
Gary Sanders, LIGO Project Deputy Director

