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DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES

Administration

CONFEDERATED TRIBES

of the

Umatilla Indian Reservation

P.O. Box 638

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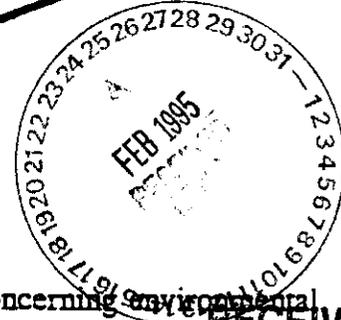
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September 13, 1994

John Wagoner
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Richland Operations Office
 Mail Stop A7-50
 P.O. Box 550
 Richland, WA 99352

Chuck Clarke
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Region 10
 1200 Sixth Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98101

Mary Riveland
 Washington Department of Ecology
 P.O. Box 47600
 Olympia, WA 98504-7600



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RE: The letter from the Hanford Natural Resource Trustees concerning environmental restoration planning and the ERDF.

OCT 07 1994

Dear Mr. Wagoner, Mr. Clarke, and Ms. Riveland:

ERDF DMC

Recently I, as well as staff members of other Hanford Natural Resource Trustees, sent a letter from the Natural Resource Trustees to you. That letter addresses mutually held Natural Resource Trustee concerns about the need for Trustees to play a formal role in: 1) the removal and remedial activity planning process at Hanford, in general, 2) decisions about the impact of remedial activities on natural resources and on natural resource restoration planning, 3) decisions about the siting of facilities, and 4) the decision concerning siting of the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) project.

CTUIR representatives participated in the discussion of these issues and the drafting of the letter. From the CTUIR staff's perspective of this process, the Natural Resource Trustees

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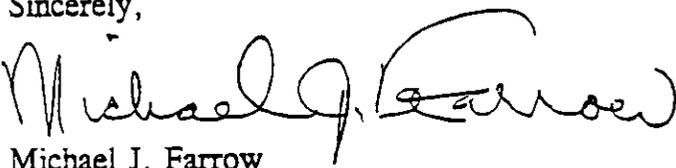
were in substantial agreement on most of the letter's recommendations from the very outset. Nevertheless, there was a great divergence of views among the Trustees about what specific recommendations to make concerning ERDF. Some Trustees felt that the current proposed site for the facility should be rejected. Some felt the current proposed site might be acceptable, if certain conditions were met. Others felt that the Trustees simply had too little information upon which to base a reasoned decision.

In the end, the Natural Resource Trustees were able to agree that they needed to meet face to face with the TPA signatories to discuss the ERDF. Only in such a face to face dialogue could the Trustees and the signatories effectively share information and views about such a technically complex topic. By meeting quickly, they would avoid delays in the project. By meeting face to face with the TPA signatories, the Trustees and signatories could avoid the risk of simply adopting positions in a vacuum and then lobbing salvos at each other in print and the press. Such an outcome would be damaging to all.

I am concerned, however, that the Natural Resource Trustee letter might be misread to mean something more than this. The Trustees wish to "revisit" the siting decision -- and the process that lead to it -- with the TPA signatories. That means we want to meet and discuss these issues. That does not mean that the Trustees are recommending changing the site for the facility. Neither does it mean that the Trustees are calling for delay in cleanup of the Columbia River environment. The Trustees are simply recommending that the TPA signatories and the Natural Trustees get together to discuss these issues. Such a meeting is both practical and legally justified. It might also result in some change to the current plans of the TPA signatories. I am confident, however, that if this meeting does result in changes to the current proposal for ERDF, those changes will represent improvements.

My staff will be available at any time to help in formulating a project that is legal, moral, and logical, thereby gaining the acknowledgement and support of the public.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Farrow
Director, Department of Natural Resources

cc: William Burke, Treasurer, CTUIR Board of Trustees
Hanford Natural Resource Trustees

R.L. Commitment Control

SEP 15 1994

Richland Operations Office

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