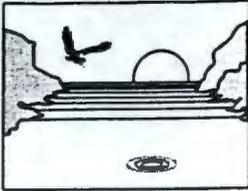


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# THE CRCIA MANAGEMENT TEAM

of the

061065

## Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment

**Stuart G. Harris**

*Confederated Tribes of the  
Umatilla Indian Reservation*

**Laurence E. Gadbois**

*U. S. Environmental  
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Department of Ecology*

**Wade H. Riggsbee**

**Thomas W. Woods**  
*Yakama Indian Nation*

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BY DIS

August 21, 1998

Ms. Linda Bauer, Assistant Site Manager  
U. S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P. O. Box 550, H0-12  
Richland, Washington 99352

Subject: CRCIA Team Comments re: Draft Tribal Government and Public Consultation Plan; Groundwater/Vadose Zone (GW/VZ) Integration Project

Dear Ms. Bauer,

The Management Team for the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) has reviewed the Draft Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project Tribal Government and Public Consultation Plan. We are submitting the following comments.

The CRCIA Team has worked for several years to develop the requirements for assessing the potential impacts on the Columbia River from the radioactive and chemical wastes found at Hanford. Earlier this year we met with U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) officials to convince them of the need to incorporate these requirements into the Integration Plan. We were assured this would be done. Our team is still working to ensure that happens.

However, as we reviewed your consultation plan, the CRCIA team was mentioned only in passing. Because of its obvious impact on the overall plan, it is extremely important that we are identified as a major stakeholder in the consultation plan.

It is also essential that the Consultation Plan give a definitive answer to how involvement by Tribal Nations, stakeholders and the public has changed or will have the potential to change the Project. An open process can mean just letting outsiders watch and listen as the Project is developed. It can also mean that these outsiders actually influence change in the project. The Consultation Plan should define a methodology which enables meaningful participation in the Project's management.

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GW/VZ Consultation Plan  
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There has been a lot of discussion regarding the lack of participation in the development of this consultation plan. You should make every effort to actively engage those individuals and groups that have been excluded, no matter what the reason.

Regional meetings should not be held without having a definite product in mind other than just being able to check a box that says you held public meetings.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Woods  
Chairman

cc: Dru Butler  
CRCIA Team Members