0048588

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

DEC 1 1 1997

054366

JAN 1998 RECEIVED EDMC

Ms. Carol Rutte
2002 Dawson
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Ms. Rutte:

Thank you for your letter dated October 10, 1997, concerning your desire to see the Hanford Reach at the Columbia River remain under Federal control. As the senior Department of Energy Headquarters manager responsible for landlord activities at Hanford, I have been asked to respond to your concerns.

I share your appreciation of the Hanford Reach as an important natural asset, which has been preserved by the stewardship of the Department of Energy. However, as the mission of the Hanford Site has changed, we must look for a new arrangement that provides the best prospect for protecting the asset, along with its associated number of significant resources. A final decision regarding Federal ownership of the Hanford Reach has not been made, but the Record of Decision for the Final Hanford Reach of the Columbia River Comprehensive River Conservation Study and Environmental Impact Statement does recommend continuing Federal control by placing the Reach under the management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and National Wild and Scenic River.

The Department will continue to work with Senator Murray and others to seek the best resolution of this issue. I want to assure you that I will continue to give full consideration to the wishes of the local community as the work progresses.

If you need additional information, please contact me or Mr. Ray Won of my staff at (301) 903-4526.

Sincerely,

Carl W. Lindeke
for Eugene C. Schmitt
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Site Operations
Office of Environmental Management

RL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL
DEC 2 2 1997
RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE

RECEIVED
DEC 2 6 1997
DOE-RL/DIS

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

054366

EM-72:RWON:PBE:903-1920:12/3/97:Q:EM-74/WON/712011.es

Distribution:
so: Addressee

2bcc: EM-70 Rdg
1bcc: EM-72 Rdg
1bcc: EM-72, R. Won
1bcc: J. Cayce, FM-20
1bcc: J. Wagoner, RL
1bcc: P. Willison, RL
1bcc: T. Ferns, RL

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW Pat Evans 12/9

EM97-05083
ES97-015270

EM-72
WON
12/09/97

EM-74
SCHNEIDER
12/9/97

FM-20
KNOX
see attached
/ /97

EM-70
GOLDSMITH
/ /97

EM-70
SCHMITT
/ /97

054366

EM-72:RWON:PBE:903-1920:12/3/97:Q:EM-74/WON/712011.es

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CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW _____

EM97-05083
ES97-015270

EM-72
WON

/ /97

EM-74
SCHNEIDER

/ /97

Andrew for Duane
FM-20
KNOX

12/3/97

EM-70
GOLDSMITH

/ /97

EM-70
SCHMITT

/ /97

054366

12/11/97 09:26:06 AM
EM97-05083

Office of Environmental Management
Correspondence Control Ticket

Correspondence From:

Person	Org
Rutte, Carol	
SMITH, SUE J	WH

Correspondence To:

Person	Org
PEÑA, FEDERICO	DOE

Assigned By Harris, Shelby R
EM-2

Assigned To Schmitt, Eugene
EM-70

As'gn Date: 11/05/97
Doc't Date: 10/31/97
Due Date: 12/11/97
EST-123 Date:
To ES Date:
Comp Date: 12/11/97

Commit No: EM97-05083
E.S. No: ES97-015270

STATUS

CLOSED

Document Type:

Action Type: Action

Subject: Urges President Clinton to put the Hanford Reach in Washington State

External Concurrences Required:

By:

From:

Special Instructions:

Comments:

Date	Commentor	Comment
12/11/97	WILLIAMM	RECVD IN EMCC, /S/ GUIDICE FOR SCHMITT, DTD AND DISP, CPY SENT TO E.S. FOR CLOSE-OUT, ORIG PKG RTND TO EM-72 (WON), CPY TO EM-70, CLOSED IN EMCC FILES, 12/11 (MW)
12/10/97	BRIGHTW	GUIDICE /S/; FWD TO EMCC FOR FURTHER PROCESSING
12/10/97	BRIGHTW	PKG. REC'D IN EM-70; FWD TO GUIDICE FOR REV/CONC
11/5/97	BRIGHTW	REC'D IN EM-70; FWD TO SCHNEIDER TO PREPARE RESPONSE; DUE TO EM-70 BY 12/8
11/5/97	HARRISS	Recvd in EMCC, sent to EM-70 to reply direct, info cpy to EM -1, -2, Levitan, Hanson, Gillis and BAM, 11/5 (SRH)

11/05/97 08:55:18 AM
EM97-05083

Office of Environmental Management
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Person	Org
Rutte, Carol	
SMITH, SUE J	WH

Correspondence To:

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PEÑA, FEDERICO	DOE

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EM-2

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Subject: Urges President Clinton to put the Hanford Reach in Washington State

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From:

Special Instructions:

Ray - Action SS 11/5

Comments:

Date	Commentor	Comment
11/5/97	HARRISS	Recvd in EMCC, sent to EM-70 to reply direct, info cpy to EM -1, -2, Levitan, Hanson, Gillis and BAM; 11/5 (SRH)

Steve, please prepare response for Gene's signature.
PKg is due to EM-70 front office Monday
Dec 8.

Thanks
Sedra

Em-70 reply direct
Info Em-1, 2, Levitan
Hanson, Gillis, Bem,
Due: 12-11-97

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

IMPORTANT
ES NUMBER: ES97-015270
EXTERNAL

DATE OF DOC: 10/31/97 REC'D: 11/03/97 CONTROLLED: 11/04/97 DUE: 12/18/97

FROM: SMITH, SUE J
THE WHITE HOUSE
RUTTE, CAROL

DC O
WA C

NOTES AREA:

SUBJECT SUMMARY: URGES PRESIDENT CLINTON TO PUT THE HANFORD REACH IN WASHINGTON STATE

SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE BULK

DOCUMENT TYPE: REFERRAL

ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FOR SIGNATURE OF: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ACTION TO: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
ACTION TYPE: See REMARKS
ACTION OFFICER:

1997 NOV -5 A 7:35

CONCURRENCE COPIES TO:
INFORMATION COPIES TO: ES1 TEAM

CONCURRENCES COMPLETED:

RECEIVED
NOV - 5 1997
ALM

REMARKS: PLEASE RETURN THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AND A COPY OF RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR DISPATCH TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT CONTACT: C Carpenter

---------- EXEC SEC INTERNAL USE ----------

SUBJECT CROSS REF:
RELATED CODE/NUMBER:
ACCRTS NUMBER:

SPECIAL INT. CODE:
SPECIAL INT. DATE:

FILE CODE: WBSMITH-ES97015270

COMPLETION DATE:

INFORMATION GENERATED ON 11/04/97 AT 12:40

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

10-31-97

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: DOE

FROM: SUE J. SMITH
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF CASEWORK IN BULK

An unprecedented number of individuals still write the President and the First Lady for help. I know that this has meant a far greater volume of mail for your agency than ever before. I appreciate your continuing cooperation in our efforts to be as responsive as possible.

The attached letters have not received a White House Staff response. I am forwarding this correspondence to your agency for any appropriate action.

Please return the original incoming letter, along with a copy of any written or telephone response, to me at the address below. I also would appreciate your sending a copy of your agency's log of the names and addresses of these individuals. Any misreferrals should be returned to my office. If you have questions you can reach me at 456-7486.

Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

10/24
AGLIAS
DOE

10-10-97

President Bill Clinton

Dear Mr. President,

Please, please move quickly to put the Hanford Reach here in Washington State under federal control. It is a priceless treasure, and under local control it will be lost forever. Senator Murray has good legislation. It needs to be passed. The citizens of this area want Federal control.

Please, Thank you.

Sincerely
Carol Rutte
2002 Dawson
Richland WA 99352

Post-it™ Fax Note 7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To Ray Wan - FM	From Ian Ferns	
Co./Dept.	Co. DOE-RL	
Phone #	Phone #	
Fax # 301-903-4414	Fax #	

0196 TO:506 3
S&E DIRECTORATE
PNRO

Background

ARTMENT OF THE RECORD OF DECISION HANFORD REACH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE RIVER CONSERVATION STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Public Law 100-605 requires the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report for Congress evaluating the outstanding features of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and its immediate environment (including fish, wildlife, geologic, scenic, recreational, historical, cultural and other natural values) and to examine alternatives for preserving those values. The alternatives considered are to include, but not be limited to, inclusion of the Hanford Reach in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In conducting the study, the Secretary is to consult with the Secretary of Energy. A draft report/DEIS was released in June 1992. In July of 1994, the National Park Service (NPS) released the *Final Hanford Reach of the Columbia River Comprehensive River Conservation Study and Environmental Impact Statement* (FEIS).

The NPS prepared the Environmental Impact Statement in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) and pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Section 1505.2) and the implementing procedures of the NPS. This Record of Decision is based on the information contained in the final report/FEIS.

Pursuant to the Proposed Action in the FEIS, a National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and National Wild and Scenic River would be established to protect and enhance both nationally and regionally significant features as detailed in the study report. Nationally significant features include:

- Fall chinook salmon along with their spawning and rearing habitat
- The intact ecosystem of the river and the adjacent Wahluke Slope
- Federally recognized threatened or endangered plant and animal species
- Archaeologic artifacts of the many indigenous cultures preserved along the river.

Regionally significant features include:

- The White Bluffs area
- The Ringold agricultural area
- Sport fishing and hunting
- State recognized endangered plants and animals
- Historic sites
- Flatwater recreation

Establishment of the Hanford site for nuclear defense production in 1943 removed this area from private development. Restricted access to the study area lands north and east of the river for the past 50 years has provided protection to natural and cultural values. The Hanford Reach is also the last major undammed segment of the Columbia River in the United States and includes the last major spawning area for fall chinook salmon in the mainstem of the Columbia River. Lands within the proposed boundaries of the refuge and wild and scenic river contain 13 Federal and 59 State listed rare wildlife and plant species and are an important wintering area for large concentrations of migratory waterfowl and other birds. Lack of access and absence of a reservoir has also protected, yet kept accessible, significant American Indian archeological sites and areas that are culturally important. In short, this is the only segment of the Columbia River in the United States resembling its natural condition.

DECISION

As Secretary of the Interior, following consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE) I recommend the Proposed Action -- as described in the FEIS -- of establishing a National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and designating a National Wild and Scenic River along the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, Washington. Both would be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action recommends establishment of a National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and a National Wild and Scenic River to be managed by the FWS. The refuge boundaries would include all land currently in the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and the Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area, approximately 102,000 acres. These lands are currently part of the DOE Hanford Site, but are managed under separate permits held by the FWS and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The DOE cleanup of the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and the Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area is nearly complete. Certification of the lands as suitable for transfer to the FWS will be required before any transfer occurs. This certification would be provided by the DOE, with concurrence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The DOE will retain full liability and cleanup responsibility in perpetuity for contamination problems which originated during its management of the Hanford Site.

The National Wild and Scenic River boundaries would average approximately 1/4 mile on both sides of the river and would overlap refuge and Hanford site lands. The Hanford Reach would

be classified as a "recreational river" as defined by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. This classification recognizes the outstanding qualities of the Hanford Reach yet acknowledges that portions of the shoreline have been developed. Primary management emphasis would be directed towards fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. Recreation and educational uses would be encouraged.

Approximately 1800 acres of private land are located at the upstream and downstream ends of the study area. They would be included in the river boundary, but not the refuge boundary. These upstream and downstream sections are adjacent to portions of the river providing significant fall chinook salmon spawning habitat. Existing land uses would not be affected, but new land uses would be evaluated for compatibility with National Wild and Scenic River goals, which would be established during development of a river management plan. Preferably, the land would remain in private ownership.

Congressional designation of the federally owned lands within the study area as a National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and designation of the river corridor, including the private lands as a National Wild and Scenic River, makes the Proposed Action the environmentally preferred alternative.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

During the study process, a number of management scenarios were considered. Six were evaluated in depth in the development of the FEIS and are described below.

The Proposed Action and Alternatives A, D and E would have similar boundaries, and each would offer long-term protection and public use of the Hanford Reach and its resources. These alternatives would protect the river from major water development projects such as dams; provide improved control over development and use of the area to avoid impacts adversely affecting natural, cultural and recreational values; and secure the intact native habitat north of the river. With the exception of approximately 1800 acres in the Proposed Action, all of the affected land is already in Federal ownership. The principal differences among these alternatives are the inclusion of private lands in the National Wild and Scenic River designation under the Proposed Action and the differing management emphases of the NPS, FWS, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Alternative A: National Wildlife Refuge with National Wild and Scenic River Overlay, Excluding Private Lands -- This was presented as an option in the Proposed Action in the draft EIS. This alternative is the same as the presently Proposed Action, except that private lands within 1/4 mile of the river would be excluded from the National Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Future management and use of private lands would be entirely at the discretion of the owners given State and local government constraints.

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Alternative B: No Action -- Under this alternative, no specific protective measures beyond those that presently exist would be authorized, and no new legislatively designated areas would be created. Existing legislation, policies and procedures would continue to provide a certain level of protection to the significant biological and cultural resources of the area. Major water resource development projects would not be prohibited but would continue to be subject to existing laws, regulations and policies. Future ownership, management and use of the public and private lands would be subject to change.

The No-Action Alternative has been modified since the draft EIS. The projected scenario for the study area in the Draft EIS assumed that land ownership and administration would remain essentially the same, though it recognized the changing primary mission of the DOE at the Hanford Site and potential shifts in land ownership. The FEIS addresses the DOE intention to divest itself of all unnecessary lands, including the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area, because they are no longer needed as a safety and security buffer for Hanford site operations. While the future of this land is uncertain, it is clear that it will not continue to be a part of the Hanford Site. The most probable scenario is that the land will remain in Federal ownership and be managed for conservation purposes.

Alternative B would not assure long-term protection of resources. Current laws and regulations do not assure that after 1996 major water resource projects adversely affecting natural and cultural values will not be built along the Hanford Reach. Without legislation, lands in the Saddle Mountain Refuge and Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area which were purchased for establishment of the Hanford site would be subject to Federal surplus property disposal procedures. Lands transferred from the public domain would be returned to the BLM and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

Alternative C: Dams Prohibited, Limitations on Water Resource Development Projects, No Additional Designations -- This alternative is similar to the No-Action Alternative, with a major distinction. All hydroelectric projects and water resource development projects which would have adverse effects on natural and cultural resources would be prohibited by Federal law. There would be no further protection from other types of development or activities beyond those contained in existing laws and regulations. Future ownership and use of public and private lands would be subject to change.

Alternative C would protect areas that might otherwise be inundated by dams or adversely affected by water resource development projects, but it would not prevent the cumulative impacts of future shoreline and in-water developments. Under this alternative, lands in the Saddle Mountain Refuge and Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area purchased for establishment of the Hanford site would be subject to Federal surplus property disposal procedures. Lands transferred from the public domain would be returned to the BLM and BOR.

Alternative D: National Conservation Area -- Under this alternative, legislation would be passed for the BLM to manage the site. A broader range of public uses would be allowed than under the Proposed Action, such as grazing and mineral leasing, but there would still be an

emphasis on protecting the natural and cultural resource values. As with the Proposed Action, hydroelectric and water resource development projects which would adversely affect the resource values would be prohibited by law. The designated area would be the same as for Alternative A (49.5 miles of the river, publicly owned lands within 1/4 mile of the river on both banks, and lands currently in the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area). No private lands would be included. The DOE would continue to be responsible for cleanup of contaminants from past Hanford Site operations.

Alternative E: National River – Under this alternative, legislation would be passed for the NPS to administer the site as a unit of the National Park System. Management emphasis would be on resource protection, recreation and environmental education. The boundaries would be the same as with alternatives A and D (49.5 miles of the river, publicly owned lands within a 1/4-mile-wide strip on both banks, and the area presently in the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area). Some recreational activities could be enhanced, while others, such as hunting, could be eliminated. As with the Proposed Action, hydroelectric and water resource development projects which would adversely affect resource values would be prohibited by law. No private lands would be included. The DOE would continue to be responsible for cleanup of contaminants from past Hanford Site operations.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the importance of the natural and cultural values associated with the lands and waters in the study area, I have determined that the most environmentally protective measures are appropriate. Therefore, I am approving the selection of the Proposed Action as outlined above and as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for recommendation for congressional action.

Approved: [signature]
Secretary of the Interior

Date: JUL 16 1996

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL | # of pages ▶ 5

Paul Dunigan	From
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax # 509-376-0306	Fax #

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION