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

3 June 1999

Re.: *The Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement
and Comprehensive Land Use Plan*

Dear Mr. Ferns,

It is my judgment that the "Preferred Alternative" of the HRA EIS should be adopted, but with the amendments urged by the Save the Reach Coalition:

- (a) All the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve should be designated as National Wildlife Refuge lands;
- (b) There should be no livestock grazing on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation;
- (c) All mining operations should be limited to only those operations necessary for completing clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation; and
- (d) A separate Record of Decision should be issued for all of the areas noted above because these areas are prime fish and wildlife habitat, so far not contaminated by Hanford work, and the protection of such habitat should be forthcoming as soon as possible rather than have to wait on decisions for other parts of the Reservation.

The Hanford Reach and these other lands are rare along the Columbia River, so much of which has been "developed" for agricultural or other uses, which uses now dominate and control the river and many of its tributaries. Restoring some brief stretches of the river and protecting what little remains as habitat for fish and wildlife is work to secure a much too scarce "commodity", nature itself. Agriculture and cattle grazing uses already have quite enough impact on the Columbia River, with loss of habitats and important pollution of soils and waters. Economic uses of the lands in or near the Hanford Reservation, as proposed by area local governments, are only too common, whilst successful protections of wild nature are now the truly precious enterprises of our times.

With these considerations in mind, I very much endorse the Preferred Alternative and the amendments proposed by the Save the Reach Coalition.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks of mine.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Treleaven, S.J., Ph.D.
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