AR TARGET SHEET

The following document was too large to scan as one unit, therefore, it has been broken down into sections.

DOCUMENT #:	DOE/EIS-0222F
TITLE:	Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement
EDMC#:	0051946
SECTION:	6 of 6

LETTER # PL 360

Leslie C. (Les) Davenport
1922 Mahan Ave
Richland, WA 99352-2121

069988

Home Phone (509) 946-4409
Email davenpor@owt.com

June 06, 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 07 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Thomas W. Ferns, NEPA Document Manager for HRA-EIS
U.S. Department of Energy - Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MISN H0-12
Richland, WA 99352-9959

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Subject: **DOE/EIS-0222D, Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and CLUP**

After attending the 5/20/99 public hearing in Richland and reviewing the Executive Summary of the subject document, I support the DOE Preferred Alternative with the following exceptions:

- Grazing or any other form of agriculture should be prohibited throughout the Central Core and Columbia River Corridor, e.g., this land should be put into Preservation except as noted below.
- Mining should be minimized on the entire Hanford Reservation (except on Industrial-Exclusive Use and Industrial Areas) except for that necessary for the cleanup mission, obtaining basalt and fine soils for waste site caps, and highway maintenance. This necessary mining should be confined as much as possible to areas close to the Central Plateau, and should not include the ALE Reserve.
- The B-Reactor area should be developed as a museum in a Low-Intensity Recreation Area.
- No commercial development should be allowed in any Low-Intensity Recreation Area.
- The May Junction area should be put into Preservation, with mining limited as in the second bullet above. Industrial Development should be kept closer to Richland where utilities are available and much of the land has already been disturbed.
- The Industrial area should be reduced in size to approximately that shown in Alternative 4 except with the Energy Northwest corridor to the Columbia and 300 Area kept as Industrial, but otherwise with significant distances from the Columbia and Yakima Rivers kept in Preservation.
- The Research & Development area should be expanded to include all of LIGO plus the addition of the Research & Development area shown in Alternative 4.
- The Big Bend Alberta Mining Co. mineral rights claim should either be bought out by the government, or an exchange should be made with equivalent value government property outside the Hanford Reservation.

I believe that the DOE Preferred Alternative, with the above exceptions, will protect the Hanford Reach and White Bluffs under primarily Federal control, the Wahluke Slope, the ALE Reserve, Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, Riverlands, and the McGee Ranch. Grazing of these areas would destroy or disrupt the native vegetation and the natural ecosystems as they now exist. The ALE Reserve, Wahluke Slope, Columbia River islands, Riverlands, and McGee Ranch should be designated a national wildlife refuge. The Columbia River and an area 1/4 mile from either shore should be designated a Recreational Wild and Scenic River.

I believe it would be best to separate the Hanford Reach and its Record of Decision (and probably all the areas mentioned in the previous paragraph and their ROD or RODs) from the remainder of the Hanford lands, since the latter will take longer to finalize.

Sincerely,

Les Davenport

Les Davenport,
Retired Hanford Safety Engineer

LETTER # RL 361

United States Department of the Interior

069989

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 4 1999

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

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (HRA-EIS) and Comprehensive Land Use Plan(CLUP). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has several comments for consideration. The Service does not object to changing the name of the document to the Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use EIS. The Service appreciates having worked with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the CLUP, and is grateful for DOE's consideration of Service input on the planning team and the opportunity to provide comments on previous drafts. We believe that the CLUP provides a foundation for the Service and DOE to cooperatively protect and maintain one of the Nation's most precious natural areas.

The Service generally supports the DOE Preferred Alternative as shown on the map in Figure 3-3, but suggests the following changes be added from the map of Alternative One, Figure 3-4:

- Show the proposed expansion of the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge boundary, as shown in Figure 3-4, to include the ALE Reserve, McGee Ranch, Riverlands, Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area, and those parts of the Columbia River and its islands within the Hanford Site. *(This expanded refuge designation recognizes that these areas include the bulk of the highest quality shrub-steppe habitat on the Hanford Site and most of the critically important Hanford Reach segment of the Columbia River. By no means, however, does that imply that the resource values of the remainder of central Hanford are not important. Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, the Columbia River Corridor, the Hanford Townsite, the sand dunes, and connecting habitat corridors all need to be preserved.)*

- Extend the "Preservation" designation (dark green) to include the Riverlands.

- Do away with the designation of "Conservation (Mining and Grazing)" for any lands within the Hanford Site. *(While other agencies might wish to reserve the option for grazing, the Service does not. When it comes to managing the sensitive shrub-steppe vegetation and rare plant communities of Hanford, we view the adverse impacts of grazing to outweigh any possible benefits. Among other things, grazing livestock help spread invasive weeds. See remarks under "General Comments").*

- Delete the area reserved for industrial development east of the 200 Area near Mae

Junction and north of the 300 Area from potential industrial development. *(The area east of the tracks is important as a buffer zone for the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and as a wildlife habitat and movement corridor.)*

The Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that DOE has concerns about the potential future reopening of the rail corridor from the Tri-Cities to Seattle through Hanford, and for the need to quarry basalt rock for future cap material to be used in a cleanup of Central Hanford sites. If, as a last resort, the basalt cap material must come from the area of the ALE shown on the map in Figure 3-3, the Service can work with DOE to assure that the refuge designation for that area will not preclude such use. Likewise, if the potential for reopening the railroad line through the Riverlands area is a significant concern, the designation of a refuge boundary in that area can also be crafted to allow for that existing right of way.

General Comments

01 Invasive species represent a significant threat to fish and wildlife habitat under all alternatives, including the no action alternative, in the HRA-EIS. Invasive species are defined to be those non-native flora and fauna present when either the HRA-EIS was written or that has the potential to invade the terrestrial or aquatic habitats. Many invasive species associated with Hanford (such as European starling, cheatgrass, and Russian thistle) are less manageable because of their abundance. Other species, particularly noxious weeds, are in small enough populations to be manageable. We recommend that the Invasive Species Executive Order 13112 (Feb. 3, 1999) be included in Section 1.2.6 Biodiversity in the NEPA Process.

02 We recommend adding the following text to section 1.2.6: Each disturbance factor on a given tract of land weakens the native plant community causing potentially catastrophic and accelerated change in landscape components. Any activity proposed for a site that disturbs the vegetation and soil surfaces should be examined for the effect on invasive weeds and consequences to site biodiversity. If such disturbance activities do occur, it is important to consider how the effects of disturbance will be managed, before the action takes place.

Specific actions should also be taken to help prevent the introduction and/or spread of invasive weeds through the movement of equipment and the use of roads on the Hanford Site. For example, equipment moved onto Hanford should be steam-cleaned and washed free of vegetation and soil debris at an off-site location before being placed on-site to remove invasive plant seeds and reproductive parts. Any road activity should be closely monitored for invasive plants and immediate management action should be implemented to stop invasive species becoming established along roadsides.

Specific Comments

Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 Land Use Designations and Land Use Suitability

03 As discussed earlier, the Service suggests that the designation "Conservation (Mining and Grazing)" be eliminated for the reasons given. The definition of mining needs to be expanded to distinctly explain that managed mining does not included removal of ore bodies and the use of chemical agents to extract precious metals.

Page 3-17 Assumptions Regarding Future Use

04 We recommend that if there are any other industrial uses intended within any of the land use designations (such as transportation corridors), they should be described in the preferred alternative.

Page 3-18, Figure 3.3

We recommend that the Refuge boundary shown in Figure 3-3 be changed to reflect the boundary shown in Figure 3-4. This would add the McGee Ranch, Riverlands, ALE, and the portion of the Columbia River and its islands within the Hanford Site to the refuge area of the North Slope.

The boundary of the ALE, McGee Ranch, Riverlands and the Columbia River, and river islands should be stippled to show these areas as National Wildlife Refuge boundaries.

We recommend that the ALE be shown with stippled boundaries as is the North Slope. At a minimum, the Fitzner-Eberhardt ALE Reserve boundary should be stippled and preferably the McGee Ranch and Riverlands boundary also. The map would then reflect the text found on page 3-2, lines 35 to 51 that discusses the portions of the Hanford Site that the Service manages under a permit. Page 3-22 lines 48 to 53 and page 3-23 lines 1-9, which discuss the disposition of McGee Ranch and Riverlands. The ALE is managed under a permit, and, as the text states, the Service could soon have the authority to manage ALE as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The DOE proposes to use a low-wildlife value portion of the ALE as a quarry site in return for preserving the McGee Ranch as a wildlife corridor.

The River, islands, and 1/4-mile corridor are referred to in the text, page 3-20, lines 41-44, as Preservation. The Service would be the agency to manage this Preservation area, as discussed in the Hanford Reach EIS.

Page 3-22, Preferred Alternative

05 The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE) (3.3.2.3.5) should encompass the McGee Ranch and Riverlands should be included as Preservation. Also, the proposed refuge boundary should be extended to include both of these areas and the ALE.

Page 4-4 (4.1.2.1) Wahluke Slope

06 The discussion contained in lines 23 through lines 27 should be changed to reflect that several sites existed on the Wahluke Slope that were used for disposal of non radioactive hazardous waste. The sites were subject to an Expedited Response Action for remediation. Although remediation took place, the landfills may still have hazardous materials that can cause injury to trust resources.

Page 4-7 (4.1.2.5) Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE)

07 Line 16 should be modified to identify the presence of two landfills on the ALE, at least one of which was used for disposal of a non-radioactive hazardous waste. Although remediated, one of the landfills may still have hazardous materials that can cause injury to trust resources.

Page 4-19 (4.2.4) Geological Hazard

08 The Title of Figure 4-8 needs an addition to the heading to clarify that the Geological Hazards are related to economic land uses such as irrigated farming in the "red zone" and not a natural geological event such as an earthquake.

Page 4-29, Vernal Pools

09 Approximately 20 vernal pools exist on the Hanford site. These are systems of significant quality and should be consistently and carefully monitored for invasive species. Immediate management to stop such invasive plants should occur once detected.

Page 6-4, Section 6.3.2

10 The HRA-EIS indicates that Biological Resources Management Plan (BRMaP) and the Biological Resources Management Plan and Implementation Strategy (BRMiS) be modified to be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) policy. The BRMaP and BRMiS are the DOE policy documents that provide guidance regarding the protection of habitats and species based on the ecosystem management principles stated in DOE Policy Document P 430.1. In October of 1998, DOE issued a memorandum about "Ecosystem Management and Land Use Principles." The policy states that DOE's stewardship will be based on ecosystem management principles. These BRMaP and BRMiS documents are completely independent of any land use planning effort and are not sub tier documents of the HRA-EIS. As stated above, it is DOE's policy that any land use planning effort conform to ecosystem management principles. If a threatened and endangered species is found to be occurring anywhere on Hanford, the guidance in the BRMaP would have to be adhered to regardless of the land use designation. Within a few months the BRMaP will be a DOE policy document, and there needs to be a clear understanding of the jurisdictional differences between the BRMaP and the CLUP. Just because an area may be designated for a given land use, this does not preclude the guidance in the BRMaP from being followed if a sensitive species or unique habitat is identified in that area.

Page 6-8, Sections 6.4 and 6.4.1

11 The makeup of the Site Planning Advisory Board (SPAB), as described, is highly unbalanced. Depending on how it is put to use, the SPAB could become a difficult entity to deal with if it continues to reflect the current pro-development ideals promoted by county government. Under the proposed representation shown, Adams County with only a half section of land within the Hanford Site, has equal standing with the other entities, Richland is the only city represented, all

of the tribal interests would be represented as one, and conservation groups with long-standing involvement in Hanford issues would not be represented. The SPAB should be more representative of the entities with vested interest in Hanford land and resource management.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Don Voros, Refuge Supervisor at (503) 231-6167 or Don Steffeck, Chief, Division of Environmental Contaminants at (503) 231-6223.

Sincerely,

David L McMullen

ACTING Regional Director

LETTER # RL 362

069990

1520 Geneva St.
Bellingham, WA 98226
June 6, 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN H0-12
Richland, WA. 99352-0550

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns,

I am writing to urge protection for the vitally important land around the Hanford Site. It is one of the last places in Eastern Washington where native species thrive. I support the "Preferred Alternative," but with these modifications:

1) [The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve
The McGee Ranch
DOE's entire Wahluke Slope
the Hanford Reach
the Columbia Islands]

should be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge. I believe we need protected habitat land around the central Hanford.

2) I believe there should be no agriculture, commercial mining or livestock grazing permitted.

3) DOE should issue separate decisions for the areas above in #1 for management of uncontaminated lands.

This is our last chance to save these ecologically valuable lands at Hanford. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Colleen + Jim Lourie
360-733-8544

LETTER # RL 363

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

069991

Hanford Remedial Action EIS
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12, Richland, Wa 99352

Ron and Janet Nelson
P.O. Box 203
Easton,
Wa. 98925

We are writing on behalf of preservation of the wonderful National Treasure that we have at the Hanford Reach.

When we first moved to Richland (we've lived there several times) in 1978 the Corp of Engineers was holding hearings on a potential dam on the Hanford Reach in Richland, which we attended. At that time the shipping interests, who wanted another dam, were represented, as well as indians and sport fishermen testifying as to the quality of the fishing and importance as a spawning ground for anadromous fish, not to mention the federal government at Hanford who were concerned about possible impact on the nuclear industry of a potential dam. Most of the people who testified at that hearing were very much opposed to a dam, and helped convince the Corp to not build another dam.

We did a lot of cycling in the Area, you could do that back then, and came to appreciate the biological richness and remote, tranquil, serenity of this island of desert sagebrush steppe in a sea of ever encroaching irrigated farmland.

We visited the Columbia River at Ringold, boated up the river from Richland and even followed the Columbia up and over the Canadian Border to bicycle along the river and could see for ourselves that the only relatively free flowing stretch of the Columbia in the United States was at The Reach. The rest of it has been dammed up. And now with the impending extinction of so many anadromous fisheries it is clear that the Reach has the ONLY healthy salmon spawning fishery on the whole Columbia system. Nothing should harm this fragile situation.

Private interests have had their sights on the Reach for a long time and we are not surprised that farming interests are trying to get the rights to the Wahluke Slope. But this land, which has been protected by the federal government for so long, belongs to All the people not just a few farmers in the neighborhood (who have been polluting the river for years with irrigation runoff, a good example of what kind of care could be expected from them.)

We would like to see All of the public lands at Hanford including the Wahluke Slope, The Reach and its Islands, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to protect them as a National Wildlife Refuge. We support your preferred alternative for the EIS and urge you to protect as much as is possible while the opportunity exists.

Most Sincerely,

Ronald C. Nelson
Janet Nelson

LETTER # RL 364

069992

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Hanford Remedial Action EIA
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

To Whom It May Concern:

A separate Record of Decision to establish the National Wildlife Refuge and protect such special places as its islands., the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, all of the public lands on Wahluke Slope need to be protected.

Future generations deserve more and better protection of all natural and sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

The Columbia River is a priceless treasure. Please protect it from soil erosion and polluted runoff. Thank you for your time.

Jack Tritt
6019 N. Post
Spokane, WA 99205-6564

Jack Tritt
6-1-99

069993

LETTER #RL365

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

June 1, 1999

Hanford Remedial Action EIS
U. S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P. O. Box 550 MSIN HO-12
Richland, Wa 99352

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the preservation and protection of the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach especially its islands, the McGee Ranch and the Aird Lands Ecology Reserve. I would like to see more and better protection of all the lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

DOE should immediately proceed with a separate Record of Decision in order to establish the national wildlife refuge and protect these special places and natural values in the Hanford Nuclear Reservation so we along with our children can enjoy such treasures.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Tritt

Andrea M. Tritt

LETTER #R-366

069994

June 5. 1999

Thomas Ferns
U. S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Please consider this letter part of the public hearing regarding the future of Wahluke Slope and the Hanford Reach.

We have visited this area many times and have great feelings for its uniqueness. It should be preserved forever for the Chinook salmon spawning beds. and the slope for the wildlife to which it provides habitat. There is no other place in the world like it!!

Therefore, we thank the DOE for the work it has done and support the preferred alternative designating the Wahluke Slope for preservation with the following changes:

1. Include all the public areas (ALE, Hanford Reach, adjoining riverlands riparian habitat. McGee Ranch) under designation as a National Wildlife Refuge--issuing a separate recorded designation naming each of these areas specifically to be included at this time. If they are protected now the Hanford area can still receive its clean-up procedures.

2. Oppose all grazing and mining (except necessary for clean-up) to the entire area. Domestic animals and disruption from mining procedures take too much from wildlife, while the process itself allows some ranchers/miners economic advantages over those who do not have permits for private use of public lands.

3. Designate the Reach a Wild and Scenic River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the HRA EIS.

Sincerely,

J. E. Baldi
Gloria E. Baldi

J. E. Baldi
1403 Brick Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926

LETTER #RL367

069995

June 5, 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Tom Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Please count me and my family as being in favor of protecting the entire Hanford Reach as a national wildlife refuge. As you must be aware from the current dispute over land trades in the west, the public does not favor seeing the U.S. government selling our public land for commercial profit by developers. Doc Hastings does not represent the whole population of Washington; he certainly does not represent our thinking.

Public land demands that it be managed in the interests of the general public, and as you must be aware, the public has shown an increasing interest in setting up areas for wildlife and outdoor experience. The Hanford Reach is a unique ecosystem and the public has more to gain in the long run from use of the land as a natural reserve.

I was born and brought up in Seattle and, in spite of what my mailing address suggests, I am a resident and taxpayer in Pend Oreille County, Washington. I have a lifetime experience with the various regions within the state, and I urge you to preserve this Columbia River area for historical, ecological and economic reasons. We have a one-time-only opportunity here to set aside land for future generations which has no equivalent anywhere else in the country; and like other national parks and refuges, it can have a significant role in bringing continuing economic health to Washington.

Sincerely,
Joanne Hirabayashi

Joanne Hirabayashi
316 Bead Lake Road
Priest River, ID 83856

LETTER #RL 368

Dear Sir:

069996

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Because we need to save land that is still in its original state to protect the salmon spawning grounds and protect White Bluffs area so it doesn't destroy spawning areas of Wild Life habitat from disappearing. We should also protect the Hanford Site - shrub - steppe ecosystem.

I feel the best way to do that is by adapting DOE's preferred alternative plus:

1. Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, Hanford Reach, its Islands, the Mc Gee Ranch, the Richland area and the arid lands Ecology Reserve as National wildlife refuge.
2. Restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up on the Hanford Reservation.
3. No grazing on the Hanford reservation.
4. Issue a seperate Record of decision for all areas mentioned above.

Do Not turn any land over to the Counties because they will chop it up, plow it up and divide it amongst their promoters who will seek government subsidies to promote so called jobs, while the winds blow it away.

Lawrence Greer
1405 Kuhn St.
Richland, Wa 99352

LETTER # RL 369

069997

Renate Ryan
27640 SE Bartlemay Rd
Eagle Creek, OR 97022

Thomas Ferns
US. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
PO. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550
June 4, 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing in regard to the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I wish to express my support of the Department of Energy's preferred alternative, which would protect critical habitat in the Hanford Reach. Additionally, I support the amendments (listed below) proposed by the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. The Hanford Reach represents the habitat that once covered this entire region. That habitat is now endangered due to overgrazing, development, and hydroelectric dams. The Hanford Reach is a vital refuge for wild salmon, migratory birds, and many unique plant and insects. We are presented here with a unique opportunity to protect and save a habitat that has been carelessly destroyed over the past 150 years. We have been given a second chance to make up for past recklessness, and it would be a shame to miss this opportunity.

Here is what I would like to see from the DOE: Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge; allow no grazing on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation; restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation; issue a separate record of understanding for all the areas mentioned above, not waiting until decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

Sincerely,

Renate Ryan

Renate Ryan, MS Environmental Science and Engineering

069998

LETTER #RL 370 Written Comment Sheet

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Name: Marlene R Berry

Address:
Company, Agency, or Organization
4417 S. Sheri Ct #4
Street Address
Spokane, WA 99223
City/State/Zip Code
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Location: Spokane Date: 6/3/99

Please designate the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach and islands, the McGee Ranch, the Riverlands Area, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as National Wildlife Refuge.

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

069999

LETTER #RL371 Written Comment Sheet

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Name William D. Adair

Address
Company, Agency, or Organization
2550 Duportail St., Apt F-235
Street Address
Richland, Wa. 99352
City/State/Zip Code
509 946-4574
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Richland, Wa. Location 5/20/99 Date

Having moved to this area within the past three years, I was shocked at the absence of pristine undeveloped land. The expansion of agriculture, even within these three years, is extremely rapid. Please make the decision now to preserve Hanford for wildlife. Set aside all of the Wahluke Slope, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve and McGee Ranch, and the Hanford Reach and its islands, a separate Record of Decision for all these areas should be made now to provide protection for future generations.

Additionally, choose the alternative that provides the greatest protection for Hanford lands into the future. The DOE preferred alternative doesn't provide enough protection. No grazing, agriculture, or development should occur on Hanford. The only exceptions should be those cleanup activities necessary to finish cleanup, and some industrial development associated with the already industrialized 300 area.

Once Hanford has been opened to any type of agriculture or grazing there will be no chance to save these areas.
Thank You for accepting these comments,

William D. Adair, & Family
Janet Adair
April Adair

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

/99)

070000

LETTER #R372

Written Comment Sheet

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Name: REX L MATHER

Address: TOWN of MATTAWA
Company, Agency, or Organization

521 E GOVERNMENT ROAD
Street Address

MATTAWA WA 99349
City/State/Zip Code

509 932 4037
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Location: _____ Date: JUNE 4 1999

FOR SEVERAL YEARS PLANS DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT MANY FORUMS AND LOCATIONS. RECENT MEETINGS TO REVIEW ALTERNATIVES MAKE THE IMPRESSION GRANT COUNTY WILL NOT SHARE IN ANY ECONOMIC BENIFITS of THE MORE THAN 66,000 ACRES LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY BOUNDRIES.

I CONCUR WITH GRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER ALLISON'S STATEMENT THAT ALTERNATE 3 CALLS FOR BALANCED DEVELOPMENT of THE WAHLUKE SLOPE — THIS PLAN (3) IS THE ONLY ONE ADDRESSING EVERY INTERESTED PARTY.

THE FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT of MATTAWA, AND THE SOUTH GRANT COUNTY AREA WILL BE DEPENDENT on THE IMPLEMENTATION of ALTERNATIVE 3.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

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070001

LETTER #RL 373

Written Comment Sheet

RECEIVED

JUN 09 1999

DOE-RL/DIS

06/07/99

Name: GARY CARTER

Address: Company, Agency, or Organization

109 DAISY ST

Street Address

ROYAL CITY, WA 99357

City/State/Zip Code

346-9226

Telephone

Hearing/Meeting: MATTAWA

Location

06/02/99

Date

I would like to see alternative three followed.

There is, I believe, a responsibility on the part of those making the final decision — to make good on the promise originally made when landowners were forced from their homes.

We owe it to those original landowners to give to them or their decendants an opportunity to return.

It would not be difficult to locate those who have a rightful claim and let them have the chance to purchase at "fair market value".

The other (remaining area shown as brown *) should be sold at auction, I feel.

* the brown area was very misleading. Much more appropriate since without that whole Hanford year around.

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

on your displays. It would have been to show it as green water most all of Reach area is brown

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

LETTER # RL-374

070002

Gordon J. Rogers
1108 N. Road 36
Pasco, WA 99301

Phone/ Fax 509 547-7403

June 7, 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Tom Ferns, Rev. Draft HRA/EIS
USDOE
P.O. Box 550, (H0-12)
Richland, WA 99352

Dear ~~Mr. Ferns:~~ Tom

I am submitting my personal comments on the Revised Draft EIS for the HRA/EIS/Land Use Plan. I favor the Counties and Cities Alternative for Land Use. It is obvious to me that the Clinton Administration preempted the possibility of useful public involvement in this matter by the Secretary of Energy's early announcement to place the entire Wahluke Slope in the hands of the federal Fish and Wildlife Service as a refuge. I feel this is an unjustified power grab and an insult to Grant County as well as the former landowners and homesteaders who were forced to give up their land for a vital wartime mission.

I hope that the DOE will give serious consideration to providing a suitable park area and memorial in honor of the Native American Tribes and U.S. citizens who resided in the Hanford, White Bluffs and Wahluke areas.

Sincerely,

Gordon Rogers

070003

LETTER # RL 375 Written Comment Sheet

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Name Barbara Z. Rogers Barbara Z. Rogers

Address 1108 N. Road 36
Company, Agency, or Organization

Street Address

Pasco, WA 99301
City/State/Zip Code

547-7403
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting
Location

Date

I Support the City and Counties alternative Land USe Plan.

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

LETTER # RL 376

070004.

THIS LETTER SENT VIA ~~FAX~~ email, WITH A SIGNED COPY TO FOLLOW IN THE MAIL.

June 6, 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Thomas Ferns
US DOE
Richland Operations Office
PO Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

RE: Hanford Remedial Action EIS

This nation has a rare opportunity to protect the best of what's left of Washington State's native shrub-steppe ecosystem. Only a small fraction (I believe less than 10%) of this ecosystem remains intact. It is critical that we act now to protect the Hanford site for future generations.

I support DOE's preferred alternative WITH MODIFICATIONS.

The following should be designated and managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated land, DOE should issue separate decisions for these areas.

I said before we should protect the site for future generations. But it is also essential for the present. Salmon and bullhead trout within the Columbia River system are at risk, not to mention other water dependent species. We have an impending war over water allocations on our hands. Commercial activities such as grazing, mining and agriculture threaten to overwhelm the needs of native species. It would be a grave mistake to open any of the Hanford site to these kinds of activities, which would most likely lead to economic hardship on taxpayers in the long-run (environmental remediation costs). Consequently, **the final EIS should be modified to prohibit agriculture, commercial mining and livestock grazing on the entire site, including central Hanford.**

Sincerely,

Kammie L. Bunes

Kammie Bunes
7615 Manzanita Drive, NW
Olympia, WA 98502

LETTER # R1 377

070005

Barbara Gilson
Rich Rollins
2509 SE Yamhill Street
Portland, Oregon 97214

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Hanford Remedial Action EIS
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

To all that it may concern:

Thank you for moving forward in the right direction to save the Hanford Reach. We need strong protection of this national treasure that is the free-flowing Columbia River and the desert steppe lands of the Hanford Reach.

We support DoE's preferred alternative in the draft environmental impact statement andlanduse plan, but we want more and better protection of all natural and sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Therefore, DoE should include within the national wildlife refuge all of the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach especially its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve.

DoE should proceed immediately with a separate Record of Decision in order to establish the national wildlife refuge, and protect these special places and natural values in the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gilson

Rich Rollins

Rich Rollins

LETTER # RL 378

070006

4317 SE Harney St.
Portland, OR 97206
June 5, 1999

Hanford Remedial Action EIS
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support of the Department of Energy's preferred alternative in the draft EIS and land use plan regarding the Hanford Reach. Because upriver salmon runs are on the serious decline, the protection of the Hanford Reach fall chinook is vital. Therefore, I call on the Department of Energy to protect even more of the lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation than is outlined in the draft EIS.

The Department of Energy should include within the national wildlife refuge all of the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach (especially its islands), the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. Again, this is necessary in order to restore salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.

Please proceed immediately with a separate Record of Decision in order to establish the national wildlife refuge. Please protect the natural values and special places in the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Sincerely,

Molly Krupa

Molly Krupa

cc Senator Patty Murray

LETTER # RL 379 070067

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church

P. O. BOX 1650
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO 83353
1/208/622-3432

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

June 2, 1999

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing to you to commend you and the Department of Energy for the action you have taken in the past to protect the ecosystem of the Hanford Reach. Since moving to the Northwest I have been trying to learn all I can about the issues of the Columbia River and the breaching of the dams on the Snake River. The past action taken to protect the Hanford Reach indicates the effect action for one part of the ecosystem will have on the entire system. It is a model of what can be done for the Columbia Basin and Snake River Ecosystems.

It is my understanding that the U.S. Department of Energy, at the suggestion of local governments, is considering opening the Wahluke Slope to agriculture. It has been shown that irrigation on the Wahluke slope will cause the White Bluffs to slough into the river at a critical place where salmon spawn. This is home to the last healthy population of wild salmon in the entire Columbia River system and to many rare and endangered plant and animal species. This area is also significant for its cultural and historical sites. It must be protected so that it can be preserved for future generations.

For the sake of the entire ecosystem I urge you to designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach and its islands, the McGee Ranch, the Riverland area and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge. I also encourage you to oppose grazing on the Hanford Nuclear reservation and restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing the clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation.

The above mentioned areas are prime fish and wildlife habitat, as of yet uncontaminated by Hanford operations. It is important that a separate record of Decision be made for all these areas so that they do not have to wait for protection until the complex decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

I again want to commend the DOE for its past actions. It is action like this that will preserve our precious heritage for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ann Kugi, O.P.

Elizabeth Ann Kugi, O.P.
Pastoral Associate

To Whom It May Concern,

070008
LETTER # RL 380

The Sierra Club, of which I am a member, suggests that we indicate support for DOE'S "preferred alternative plan." I am not sure that this plan is inclusive enough. I think we have an opportunity to set aside a very significant portion of DOE's lands at Hanford without doing hardship to anyone. I am interested in preserving what little we have left of fragile pristine areas as well as increasing recreational opportunities for our growing population. It goes without saying that lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach and its islands, the Meber Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve should be included.

DOE should proceed immediately with a separate Record of Decision in order to establish the wildlife refuge.

Sincerely
R Wilson Ward

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Benton PUD
Public Power
Local Control
Public Utility District No. 1 of Benton County

LETTER # RL 381
070009

2721 West 10th Avenue
P.O. Box 6270
Kennewick, WA 99336-0270
(509) 582-2175 • Fax (509) 586-1710

June 7, 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Keith Klein, Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
MSIN A7-50
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Comments on Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Land Use Plan

Dear Mr. Klein:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Land Use Plan. The Benton County Public Utility District strongly supports the local governments' option described as Alternative 3 in DOE/EIS-0222D. The District also supports the DOE Preferred Alternative.

Of particular interest to the District is maintaining the availability of the area east of Route 240 to the Columbia River and north of the Energy Northwest (formally Supply System) site to the City of Richland's northern boundary for Research and Development and Industrial use. We agree that a reasonable buffer zone along the shoreline of the Columbia River for the protection of fish and wildlife critical habitat is appropriate.

Thank you for considering these comments.

James W. Sanders
General Manager

CC: Mr. Thomas W. Ferns/DOE-RL – MSIN HO-12
C. E. Revell/BPUD

LETTER # RL 382

070010

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

June 5, 1999

Hanford Remedial Action EIS
US Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

To Whom it May Concern:

My family members are writing this letter to support more and beeter protection of all natural and sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. We ask that the Department of Energy provide protection of all the national wildlife refuge including all the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach and its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. It is understood that unless the Department of Energy proceed immediately with a separate Record of Decision to establish the national wildlife refuge, and protect the Hanford Nuclear Reservation that great environmental damage will ensue. We have done enough already.

We hope this will have some positive impact on your decisions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

3437 N.E. 31st
Portland, Oregon 97212

LETTER # RL 383

The 1999 Love Stamp

Mr. Ferns.

I am very supportive of the Hanford Reach - the Dept. of Energy's preferred alternative. However, please consider designating all public lands as a National Wildlife Preserve and do not allow grazing on the nuclear reservation. I also oppose mining on the reservation. We need to protect our national treasures now before they are lost forever. Sincerely,

Stacie Hall

STACIE HALL
627 CLEAREBROOK DRIVE
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

JUN 1 11 1999

DOE-RL / DIS

USA 20

Thomas Ferns
US Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA
99352-0550

LETTER # 384

RECEIVED

069885

JUN 07 1999

DOE-RL/DIS

EXAMPLE - "FARM THE SLOPE" (FTS)

RETURN TO:

Jim Curdy
P. O. Box 876
Mattawa, WA 99344

WAHLUKE SLOPE LANDS USED AS A PROTECTIVE ZONE DURING THE WAR

Date: 4/12/93
Acres 960
960 Max in any irrigation district, 40 acres fruit can make a good living.

The 89,000 acres of land on the Wahluke Slope and adjacent areas of the Hanford Reach, it's anticipated the land will go mostly to farms. Some to each of the other interests, Indians for digging roots, Archaeology Digs, Hunting & Fishing, Wildlife and some will be wetlands after the water is applied to the land.

In the proposal to Congress, the authorization we have to show that farmers are willing to commit for additional areas, many new farmers, crops for export. Each one understands that development costs and delivery systems for this land have to be paid for. At the present time, according to the loan agreement on the land, each acre was committed for the $131.60. Added facilities at today's costs will be much higher, however, it is payable over a 50 year period. The land costs are undetermined but estimated at approximately $1,500.00 per acre.

For testimony to Congress, we have to have commitments for the majority of the land by interested and financially capable people and firms.

IF YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACREAGE SIGN UP. PLEASE PRINT

Name: Rebecca Maughan # Acres 960

Address: 2200 M Road P. O. Box 926

City: Mattawa State Wa Zip: 99344

After consulting with my financial advisor, I will deliver a tenative letter of commitment to accompany this proposal to Congress.

Signed: [signature] Date: 4/12/93

The documents must be completed by April 30th, 1993.

Please consider this letter as obvious support for ALTERNATIVE 3 of the Hanford Reach Proposals.

069961

Written Comment Sheet

LETTER # RL 436

RECEIVED
JUN 08 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Name: Linda Watkins

Address: PO Box 26388 SW U Rd.
Company, Agency, or Organization

Street Address

Mattawa, Wa 99349
City/State/Zip Code

(509) (932-4635
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting: Wahluke High School
Location

6/2/99
Date

The Dept of Energy's plans for the Hanford Site have been discussed for years. At the recent meetings to review the alternatives, it appears that Grant County will continue to not share in the Economic Benfits to the area although over 66,000 acres are in the County.

As pointed out by County Commissioner Allison, Alternative 3 which calls for balanced development of the Wahluke Slope, is the only plan that addresses every interested party to some degree.

The future Economic Development of South Grant County is dependent on Alternative 3 being implemented.

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IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

069959

Written Comment Sheet

LETTER # RL 437

RECEIVED
JUN 08 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Name Gordon Lowell

Address P.O. Box 2058
Company, Agency, or Organization

Street Address

Mattawa, Wa 99349
City/State/Zip Code

1-509-932-5151
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Mattawa, Washington
Location

June 2, 1999
Date

I am expressing support for Alternative #3. Although none of your alternatives are balanced Alternative #3 is the only one which comes close to the needs and future of Grant County and the Mattawa area. I also support Representative Doc Hastings proposal for the National Academy of Sciences to "impartially" study all potential uses of the Wahluke Slope. The most balanced and therefore the most "prefferred" alternative is still the Wahluke 2000 proposal. In addition, I strongly feel that all future payment in lieu of taxes or PILT moneys should be based on "lost opportunity" costs, not current use assessements.

Sincerely,

Gordon Lowell

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(04/99)

069958

Written Comment Sheet

LETTER # RL 438

RECEIVED
JUN 08 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Name: Steven W. Clark

Address: Company, Agency, or Organization

2719 North Road 64
Street Address

Pasco, WA 99301
City/State/Zip Code

509-543-9984
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Location: Richland, WA

Date: May 20, 1999

I am concerned that the people who spoke so eloquently and emotionally at the public meeting in Richland are misinformed regarding the importance of the McKee Ranch silt deposits to the cleanup of the Hanford site. This area is already disturbed. If this source of material is not available for use in reclamation of cleanup sites another similar source of material must be found. Exploration and digging of test pits to find such material will result in greater disturbance of wider areas of the Hanford site because it will be too expensive to haul in material from off the Hanford Site. A special mining permit should be granted for use of McKee Ranch silt in the Hanford cleanup.

If there is to be any pretence of nature conveyancy on the Hanford site grazing of domestic animals must not be allowed.

I favor Alternative 4 as the land use plan for the Hanford site but boat launching in the White Bluffs area should be reviewed because of possible eagle nests in this area.

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(99)

069955

Written Comment Sheet

LETTER # RL 439

RECEIVED
JUN 08 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Name Jennifer Lewinsohn

Address
Company, Agency, or Organization
2104 Symons St.
Street Address
Richland, WA 99352
City/State/Zip Code

509-946-0789
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Richland, WA (Location) May 20, 1999 (Date)

I support Alternative 1 because it provides a balance between the preservation of large, biologically rich and intact tracts of land such as the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, Wahluke Slope, the River Corridor, the dune complex near WPPS, Gable Mountain & butte, the McGee Ranch Area, and Yakima Ridge, and encouraging development in a high-density manner to reduce economic & industrial sprawl. I feel very strongly about the preservation status of the lands mentioned above, which is the only logical choice if you base the decision on a regional perspective. Grazing and agriculture should not be allowed on the Hanford Site, as there is enough land allocated to these activities within the State of Washington. I also support the preservation status of lands west of the 200 W area, which contain mature sagebrush.

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IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

LETTER # RL 440

069943

June 7, 1999

Thomas W. Ferns
Hanford Remedial Action EIS Document Manager
US Department of Energy
PO Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

RECEIVED
JUN 07 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing to endorse the Department's preferred alternative for the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I applaud the Department's decision to follow the record of decision on the Hanford Reach issued in 1996. I also appreciate the balanced approach the alternative takes with regard to preservation, recreation, and industrialization, as well as the alternative's commitment to the Tri-Party Agreement.

There are several areas of the preferred alternative I would like to highlight. First, I support the decision to expand the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge to include all of the Wahluke Slope. While I believe there may be some small areas adjacent to the highway or in other previously-developed areas that might be acceptable for light industrial or other uses, our first objective should be to protect the wildlife and fisheries resources.

Similarly, the quarter mile along the Columbia River's Hanford Reach must continue to be designated as a preservation area. Such a designation is compatible with my continuing efforts to make the Hanford Reach a federally-protected recreational Wild and Scenic River managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It is vital we protect the cultural and ecological resources associated with this very special area.

I strongly support the ideas outlined in the preferred alternative to facilitate recreation on these lands. The B Reactor will make a fabulous museum, documenting the area's vital contribution to fighting and winning the Cold War. The Vernita Bridge is already a popular camping and fishing area; developing a boat ramp and other facilities will dramatically improve access and the quality of recreation in the area. The White Bluffs boat launch will also be well-used.

There is little dispute about the Central Plateau continuing as the major site for cleanup activities. The TPA will guide that process and as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight hard for full funding of site cleanup.

2930 Wetmore Avenue
Suite 903
Everett, WA 98201-4107
(425) 259-6815

2988 Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98174-1003
(206) 553-5545

W. 601 1st Avenue
Suite 506
Spokane, WA 99201-3817
(509) 624-9515

140 Federal Building
500 W. 12th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660-2871
(360) 696-7797

402 E. Yakima Avenue
Suite 390
Yakima, WA 98901-2760
(509) 453-7462

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

069943

I also endorse the preferred alternative's plan for economic development in the 200 Area and the site north of Richard. I believe there are probably other areas, too, which should be considered for industrial use and economic development. I urge the Department to work with local governments to locate other areas to facilitate economic development.

The tribes have contributed much to this process. I appreciate the preferred alternative's commitment to preserving important cultural sites, such as Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, the area from Umtanum Ridge to ALE, and the active sand dunes. I continue to believe there is a way to consolidate BLM lands along the south side of the river to facilitate multiple use management by the Bureau, further protect cultural sites, encourage industrial development, and preserve important ecological areas.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Department, stakeholders, tribes, and local governments to find solutions to all of the land use issues facing the Wahluke Slope and Hanford Reach. This HRA EIS moves us closer to a solution that I believe best serves the interests of the citizens of Washington and best protects our important cultural, fish and wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray

Patty Murray
United States Senator

LETTER # RL-441

070244

Written Comment Sheet

RECEIVED
JUN 22 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Name: PAUL R. SABIN

Address: 1840 LAWRENCE RD.
Company, Agency, or Organization

Street Address

ELLENSBURG, WA. 98926
City/State/Zip Code

509-968-3851
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting: Mattawa, Washington

Date: June 2, 1999

I am expressing support for Alternative #3. Although none of your alternatives are balanced Alternative #3 is the only one which comes close to the needs and future of Grant County and the Mattawa area. I also support Representative Doc Hastings proposal for the National Academy of Sciences to "impartially" study all potential uses of the Wahluke Slope. The most balanced and therefore the most "prefferred" alternative is still the Wahluke 2000 proposal. In addition, I strongly feel that all future payment in lieu of taxes or PILT moneys should be based on "lost opportunity" costs, not current use assessements.

Sincerely, Paul R. Sabin

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

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LETTER # KL-442

070245

RECEIVED
JUN 22 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Written Comment Sheet

Name: DIANA WEBERLING

Address: Grant County Public Hospital Dist #5
Company, Agency, or Organization
P.O. Box 1581, 215 1st ave Columbia
Street Address
Mattawa Wa 99349 509 932 4499
City/State/Zip Code Telephone

Hearing/Meeting Location Date

The Hospital Dist Supports Alternative 3 for the Hanford Site.

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 356
Portland, Oregon 97232-2036

070327

IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 18, 1999

LETTER # RL-443

ER 99/346

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

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (HRA-EIS) and Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

On June 4, 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided you comments on the HRA-EIS and CLUP (copy attached). Please consider those as the Department of the Interior's comments.

Please contact me at (503) 231-6157 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Preston A. Sleeger

Attachment

070327

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUN 4 1999

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

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (HRA-EIS) and Comprehensive Land Use Plan(CLUP). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has several comments for consideration. The Service does not object to changing the name of the document to the Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use EIS. The Service appreciates having worked with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the CLUP, and is grateful for DOE's consideration of Service input on the planning team and the opportunity to provide comments on previous drafts. We believe that the CLUP provides a foundation for the Service and DOE to cooperatively protect and maintain one of the Nation's most precious natural areas.

The Service generally supports the DOE Preferred Alternative as shown on the map in Figure 3-3, but suggests the following changes be added from the map of Alternative One, Figure 3-4:

- Show the proposed expansion of the Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge boundary, as shown in Figure 3-4, to include the ALE Reserve, McGee Ranch, Riverlands, Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area, and those parts of the Columbia River and its islands within the Hanford Site. *(This expanded refuge designation recognizes that these areas include the bulk of the highest quality shrub-steppe habitat on the Hanford Site and most of the critically important Hanford Reach segment of the Columbia River. By no means, however, does that imply that the resource values of the remainder of central Hanford are not important. Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, the Columbia River Corridor, the Hanford Townsite, the sand dunes, and connecting habitat corridors all need to be preserved.)*

- Extend the "Preservation" designation (dark green) to include the Riverlands.

- Do away with the designation of "Conservation (Mining and Grazing)" for any lands within the Hanford Site. *(While other agencies might wish to reserve the option for grazing, the Service does not. When it comes to managing the sensitive shrub-steppe vegetation and rare plant communities of Hanford, we view the adverse impacts of grazing to outweigh any possible benefits. Among other things, grazing livestock help spread invasive weeds. See remarks under "General Comments").*

- Delete the area reserved for industrial development east of the 200 Area near Mac

Junction and north of the 300 Area from potential industrial development. *(The area east of the tracks is important as a buffer zone for the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and as a wildlife habitat and movement corridor.)*

The Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that DOE has concerns about the potential future reopening of the rail corridor from the Tri-Cities to Seattle through Hanford, and for the need to quarry basalt rock for future cap material to be used in a cleanup of Central Hanford sites. If, as a last resort, the basalt cap material must come from the area of the ALE shown on the map in Figure 3-3, the Service can work with DOE to assure that the refuge designation for that area will not preclude such use. Likewise, if the potential for reopening the railroad line through the Riverlands area is a significant concern, the designation of a refuge boundary in that area can also be crafted to allow for that existing right of way.

General Comments

01 Invasive species represent a significant threat to fish and wildlife habitat under all alternatives, including the no action alternative, in the HRA-EIS. Invasive species are defined to be those non-native flora and fauna present when either the HRA-EIS was written or that has the potential to invade the terrestrial or aquatic habitats. Many invasive species associated with Hanford (such as European starling, cheatgrass, and Russian thistle) are less manageable because of their abundance. Other species, particularly noxious weeds, are in small enough populations to be manageable. We recommend that the Invasive Species Executive Order 13112 (Feb. 3, 1999) be included in Section 1.2.6 Biodiversity in the NEPA Process.

02 We recommend adding the following text to section 1.2.6: Each disturbance factor on a given tract of land weakens the native plant community causing potentially catastrophic and accelerated change in landscape components. Any activity proposed for a site that disturbs the vegetation and soil surfaces should be examined for the effect on invasive weeds and consequences to site biodiversity. If such disturbance activities do occur, it is important to consider how the effects of disturbance will be managed, before the action takes place.

Specific actions should also be taken to help prevent the introduction and/or spread of invasive weeds through the movement of equipment and the use of roads on the Hanford Site. For example, equipment moved onto Hanford should be steam-cleaned and washed free of vegetation and soil debris at an off-site location before being placed on-site to remove invasive plant seeds and reproductive parts. Any road activity should be closely monitored for invasive plants and immediate management action should be implemented to stop invasive species becoming established along roadsides.

Specific Comments

Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 Land Use Designations and Land Use Suitability

03 As discussed earlier, the Service suggests that the designation "Conservation (Mining and Grazing)" be eliminated for the reasons given. The definition of mining needs to be expanded to distinctly explain that managed mining does not included removal of ore bodies and the use of chemical agents to extract precious metals.

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Page 3-17 Assumptions Regarding Future Use

04 We recommend that if there are any other industrial uses intended within any of the land use designations (such as transportation corridors), they should be described in the preferred alternative.

Page 3-18, Figure 3.3

We recommend that the Refuge boundary shown in Figure 3-3 be changed to reflect the boundary shown in Figure 3-4. This would add the McGee Ranch, Riverlands, ALE, and the portion of the Columbia River and its islands within the Hanford Site to the refuge area of the North Slope.

The boundary of the ALE, McGee Ranch, Riverlands and the Columbia River, and river islands should be stippled to show these areas as National Wildlife Refuge boundaries.

We recommend that the ALE be shown with stippled boundaries as is the North Slope. At a minimum, the Fitzner-Eberhardt ALE Reserve boundary should be stippled and preferably the McGee Ranch and Riverlands boundary also. The map would then reflect the text found on page 3-2, lines 35 to 51 that discusses the portions of the Hanford Site that the Service manages under a permit. Page 3-22 lines 48 to 53 and page 3-23 lines 1-9, which discuss the disposition of McGee Ranch and Riverlands. The ALE is managed under a permit, and, as the text states, the Service could soon have the authority to manage ALE as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The DOE proposes to use a low-wildlife value portion of the ALE as a quarry site in return for preserving the McGee Ranch as a wildlife corridor.

The River, islands, and 1/4-mile corridor are referred to in the text, page 3-20, lines 41-44, as Preservation. The Service would be the agency to manage this Preservation area, as discussed in the Hanford Reach EIS.

Page 3-22, Preferred Alternative

05 The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE) (3.3.2.3.5) should encompass the McGee Ranch and Riverlands should be included as Preservation. Also, the proposed refuge boundary should be extended to include both of these areas and the ALE.

Page 4-4 (4.1.2.1) Wahluke Slope

06 The discussion contained in lines 23 through lines 27 should be changed to reflect that several sites existed on the Wahluke Slope that were used for disposal of non radioactive hazardous waste. The sites were subject to an Expedited Response Action for remediation. Although remediation took place, the landfills may still have hazardous materials that can cause injury to trust resources.

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Page 4-7 (4.1.2.5) Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE)

07 Line 16 should be modified to identify the presence of two landfills on the ALE, at least one of which was used for disposal of a non-radioactive hazardous waste. Although remediated, one of the landfills may still have hazardous materials that can cause injury to trust resources.

Page 4-19 (4.2.4) Geological Hazard

08 The Title of Figure 4-8 needs an addition to the heading to clarify that the Geological Hazards are related to economic land uses such as irrigated farming in the "red zone" and not a natural geological event such as an earthquake.

Page 4-29, Vernal Pools

09 Approximately 20 vernal pools exist on the Hanford site. These are systems of significant quality and should be consistently and carefully monitored for invasive species. Immediate management to stop such invasive plants should occur once detected.

Page 6-4, Section 6.3.2

10 The HRA-EIS indicates that Biological Resources Management Plan (BRMaP) and the Biological Resources Management Plan and Implementation Strategy (BRMiS) be modified to be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) policy. The BRMaP and BRMiS are the DOE policy documents that provide guidance regarding the protection of habitats and species based on the ecosystem management principles stated in DOE Policy Document P 430.1. In October of 1998, DOE issued a memorandum about "Ecosystem Management and Land Use Principles." The policy states that DOE's stewardship will be based on ecosystem management principles. These BRMaP and BRMiS documents are completely independent of any land use planning effort and are not sub tier documents of the HRA-EIS. As stated above, it is DOE's policy that any land use planning effort conform to ecosystem management principles. If a threatened and endangered species is found to be occurring anywhere on Hanford, the guidance in the BRMaP would have to be adhered to regardless of the land use designation. Within a few months the BRMaP will be a DOE policy document, and there needs to be a clear understanding of the jurisdictional differences between the BRMaP and the CLUP. Just because an area may be designated for a given land use, this does not preclude the guidance in the BRMaP from being followed if a sensitive species or unique habitat is identified in that area.

Page 6-8, Sections 6.4 and 6.4.1

11 The makeup of the Site Planning Advisory Board (SPAB), as described, is highly unbalanced. Depending on how it is put to use, the SPAB could become a difficult entity to deal with if it continues to reflect the current pro-development ideals promoted by county government. Under the proposed representation shown, Adams County with only a half section of land within the Hanford Site, has equal standing with the other entities, Richland is the only city represented, all

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of the tribal interests would be represented as one, and conservation groups with long-standing involvement in Hanford issues would not be represented. The SPAB should be more representative of the entities with vested interest in Hanford land and resource management.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Don Voros, Refuge Supervisor at (503) 231-6167 or Don Steffeck, Chief, Division of Environmental Contaminants at (503) 231-6223.

Sincerely,

David L McMullen

ACTING Regional Director

Hope the use of this post card doesn't dim its significance Just trying to be brief.

Re the HRA EIS

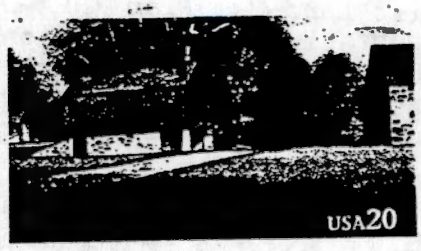
I whole-hearted support the Washington Nature Conservancy's position on the need to protect the Hanford Site and the Preferred Alternative, with such modifications as they deem appropriate.

Thank you

970320

Ann P. Dersch
3618 Oakes Ave
Anaconda WA 98221

LETTER# RL-444



RECEIVED
JUN 21 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Dept of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O Box 550 MSIN H0-12
Richland WA 99352-0550

970326

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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June 17, 1999

Reply To
Attn Of: ECO-088

LETTER # RL-445

DEPARTMENT
JUN 21 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

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

Dear Mr. Ferns:

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the *Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan* (HRA-DEIS). We are submitting comments on the HRA-DEIS in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. We hope that you will accept these comments, and that they will be useful in preparing the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD).

The focus of the Revised DEIS is to evaluate a comprehensive land use plan, which would be in effect for at least the next 50 years, for the 586 square mile Hanford Site. This is a reduction in scope from the 1996 Draft HRA-DEIS, which attempted to address all aspects of the Hanford Environmental Restoration Project, and we support this reduction. Consequently, we also support your proposed document name change to the *Hanford Comprehensive Land Use EIS*.

The HRA-DEIS presents 6 alternatives: the **No Action** alternative, **DOE's preferred alternative** (a multiple use alternative supporting site clean-up, economic development, and natural resource protection), **Alternative 1** (Natural Resource Trustee alternative prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]), **Alternative 2** (prepared by the Nez Perce Tribe, Dept. of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management and emphasizing natural and cultural preservation), **Alternative 3** (prepared by the local cities and counties and emphasizing economic development in the form of industry, agriculture, grazing, mining, and high intensity recreation), and **Alternative 4** (prepared by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation [CTUIR], which emphasizes preservation of natural resources, religious areas, and traditional Tribal uses).

Based on our review of the HRA-DEIS and the DOE Preferred Alternative, we are assigning this document a rating of

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EC-2, Environmental Concerns, Insufficient Information. (An explanation of this rating is enclosed.) Our primary concerns with the preferred alternative are the direct impacts to the last remaining intact shrub-steppe habitat in Washington State and the cumulative impacts of the project to the Columbia Plateau, which already experiences widespread and comparatively high levels of human health and ecological risk associated with the conversion and use of land for agricultural activities. Unless a more conservative alternative is selected, such as Alternative 1 or Alternative 2, we believe that additional protections are needed to preserve the high value ecological areas on the Hanford Reservation. Further, there is additional information from The Nature Conservancy regarding the ecological value of lands in the Central Hanford area that needs to be included in the EIS and factored into the final decision. More specific comments are enclosed following this letter.

Thank you for developing a thorough EIS that includes a good range of alternatives. We understand the context of this planning effort and the multiple demands and requests for use of the Hanford lands. If you would like to discuss these comments, please contact Elaine Somers of my staff at (206) 553-2966.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Parkin

Richard B. Parkin, Manager
Geographic Implementation Unit

Enclosures

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Specific Comments on
Revised Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS
and Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Main Comments

We appreciate the difficulty of this task and the efforts of Department of Energy (DOE) to derive a land use plan that is responsive to diverse needs and interests. The HRA-DEIS attempts to address the DOE clean up mission, economic development, and the natural resource trustee responsibility of the federal government. We believe that it is essential to address these three goals in the context of the shrub-steppe ecosystem. Our comments, therefore, address the importance of the ecosystem, DOE's clean up mission, economic development, and the natural resources trustee responsibility.

Shrub-steppe ecosystem. The Hanford Reservation includes one of the few remaining significant tracts of native shrub-steppe habitat. In Washington State, prior to European settlement, approximately 10.4 million acres of shrub-steppe habitat covered much of what is today central and southeastern Washington. This area is now greatly modified by human activities--primarily by dryland farming, irrigated agriculture, and grazing. About 60% of the original shrub-steppe habitat of the Columbia Plateau has been converted to agricultural uses and, it is estimated, **only about 5% of the remaining shrub-steppe maintains any appreciable degree of integrity.**

As a result of this habitat conversion and alteration, many shrub-steppe dependent species have declined precipitously. For the maintenance of natural heritage and biological diversity, it is
01 important that remaining blocks of intact habitat be protected, and that connections/corridors among them be identified and designated. The HRA-DEIS should more thoroughly address the importance of the Hanford Reservation to the integrity of the remaining shrub steppe ecosystem. It should clearly lay out the impacts to that ecosystem and the plants and animals that rely on it.

Hanford Clean up. It is important to provide adequately for the clean up process at Hanford and, thus, to ensure that adequate resources, i.e., mining sites, are available for capping waste
02 sites. As per the HRA-DEIS (p. 3-21), DOE proposes to use mining sites only for clean up purposes. We support this; no commercial mining should be allocated. In addition, due to the high ecological value of these lands, we urge DOE to set aside only what is truly necessary for clean up purposes, and that land use designations for Conservation (Mining) not be over-appropriated. Further, it is critical that DOE avoid mining or otherwise impacting intact habitat, or habitat elements that are sensitive, rare, unique, or generally of high ecological or cultural value.

It is unclear what the DOE is suggesting (p. 3-21) in terms of using mining to "further the biological function of wetlands." Specifically, which wetlands are being referred to here, and what type of alteration to their physical and/or biological characteristics are being considered?

Economic development. The vast majority (approximately 95%) of lands on the Columbia Plateau have already been dedicated to agricultural uses. Many of the activities associated with agriculture have resulted in widespread human health and ecological concerns now on the Plateau. These problems include terrestrial and aquatic habitat loss, fragmentation and alteration; loss of biodiversity; surface and ground water contamination from application of agricultural fertilizers and pesticides; air pollution from blowing dust creating significant amounts of airborne particulates; and the human health risks associated with these forms of water and air pollution.

The HRA-DEIS should make it clear that the use of these lands for economic development will, in effect, dedicate scarce natural habitat needed to support declining species to uses that may further exacerbate the identified environmental problems. We support the fact that the DOE preferred alternative does not allocate land for agriculture. However, the allocation of 30% of the Hanford lands (108,371 acres) for grazing appears to be quite large in light of the huge impacts already accrued to the Columbia
04 Plateau and the shrub-steppe ecosystem. The HRA-DEIS should clearly delineate how much of that land represents fairly intact shrub-steppe and how much is already disturbed. The HRA-DEIS should discuss the necessary sizes of blocks of land that should be dedicated to protection of the shrub-steppe ecosystem and the size and extent of corridors between those blocks needed in order to preserve the natural functions of the ecosystem and provide adequate habitat for the plants and animals indigenous to it. The
05 dedication of land to economic development should then be done in accordance with that analysis.

It is very difficult to maintain shrub-steppe habitat in conjunction with grazing. In relatively undisturbed areas, the soils of the Columbia Basin steppe are covered by a "microbiotic crust" of algae, mosses, and lichens. The crust's integrity is important to maintaining the native plant community, which in turn
06 supports dependent wildlife, because it prevents the establishment of weeds. Disturbance, e.g., the trampling of livestock, destroys this protective soil layer, thereby permitting the invasion of weeds. In addition, the growing points of the bunch grasses are located higher on the plant than they would be left as a result of selection by grazing animals; thus, the bunch grasses are susceptible to injury by livestock grazing.

As stated on pages 4-63 and 5-23, "Cheatgrass and Russian

thistle, annuals introduced from Eurasia in the late 1800s, invade areas where the ground surface has been disturbed. Grazing ... could alter terrestrial vegetation communities by eliminating or reducing the cover of some species, encouraging the growth of grazing-tolerant species, and providing opportunities for weed species to become established. These changes could adversely affect associated wildlife species." In addition, "wetland and riparian plant communities could be damaged where livestock congregate near water sources."

With weed invasions and changes in land use practices such as grazing, the fire regime is also altered from frequent, low
07 intensity fires to infrequent high intensity fires. "Less frequent and more severe fires have reduced the ability of the native habitat to recover from fire, as well as [reducing] the development of late successional shrub-steppe habitat." (page 4-62)

Since Section 4 of the HRA-DEIS was written, fire has burned a large section of land north of Rattlesnake Spring (Figure 1-2) on ALE and on to Umtanum Ridge (Figure 4-22), which was dominated by big sagebrush and by big sagebrush/spiny hop-sage vegetation types. The dominant shrub type there, big sagebrush, does not re-sprout from the roots after a fire. The area of ALE (perhaps 50% of its total extent) where sagebrush was killed by the 1984 fire still has not been re-populated by sagebrush. These losses of habitat are
08 critical for the shrub-nesting species such as the sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow and the sage thrasher. These species and the sage grouse, also dependent on sagebrush for food and cover, are listed by Washington State as either threatened or as species of concern.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has canceled the only grazing lease currently held on the state-managed portion of the Wahluke Slope (Dell Peterson, personal communication). Considering this, the above facts, and the rarity and vulnerability of shrub-steppe habitat, we feel the need to prevent further risks to sagebrush habitats and steppe outweighs the need for additional rangelands.

The Preferred Alternative would allow conversion of the B reactor to a museum and construction of supporting visitor facilities; construction of a new boat ramp and visitor facilities
09 south of Vernita Bridge; and two Tribal fishing villages and supporting facilities on the Wahluke Slope. Again, given the risks to the shrub-steppe ecosystem we think these proposals should be carefully weighed against the amount of land necessary for ecosystem integrity.

Pursuant to our federal tribal trust responsibilities, we support the Tribes' treaty fishing rights; however, we believe other alternatives should be evaluated for returning to the tribes their treaty fishing rights. Other alternatives should include village sites outside the Hanford Reservation or on land that

doesn't support shrub-steppe habitat. Further, we believe that any new fishing support facilities would best be located outside Hanford lands, or that existing facilities off-site be used as we presume they have been in the past.

Increased boating activity resulting from the boat facilities near Vernita Bridge and the two fishing villages "could adversely affect salmonid spawning areas, aquatic plant communities and other
10 BRMaP III and IV resources." (p. 5-27) These adverse impacts should be better defined and alternatives or mitigation designed to avoid or minimize them. Such steps could include restrictions on the type and timing of boating/motorized recreation.

As stated in the HRA-DEIS, "Missoula Floods [geologic] features could be impacted by sand and gravel operations. Mining could result in soil compaction and increased erosion around quarry sites. ... Industrial development in the southeast portion of the Hanford Site could also destroy dune stabilizing vegetation that could result in activation of the sand dunes." (page 5-13) Future industrial development and research and development activities could degrade water quality as a result of increased waste water discharges to the Columbia River, a 'Class A' water body, and non-point source pollution from runoff (page 5-15). Groundwater flow and quality could also be altered as a result of consumptive uses by industry, mobilization of contaminants in the vadose zone resulting from industrial water discharges, and increased contamination from industrial site chemical spills. (page 5-19) In addition, industrial development effectively obliterates the biological features associated with these lands prior to intensive development.

Consequently, with respect to Industrial Exclusive, Industrial, and Research and Development areas, we recommend that the boundaries depicted in Alternatives 1 and 2 (combined) be
11 selected. These lands would provide adequate area for industrial expansion for the City of Richland, provide for continued research and development activities, and enable clean up operations to proceed while protecting the greater portion of Hanford from the risks associated with industrial activities.

Natural Resource Trustee. The biological resources of the Hanford Site merit protection for a variety of reasons:

- As a unique example, and a major proportion of the remaining sagebrush-blue bunch wheatgrass community type in the world, with its particular suite of animal and plant species;

- As an ecological study area with a rich history of prior studies, and specifically as one of seven National Environmental Research Parks administered by DOE where ecological research is carried out by visiting and resident scientists;

- As critical habitat for a number of rare, threatened, or endangered species of plant and animals; and

12

- As an increasingly rare example of what this part of our nation used to look like, for the inspiration and enjoyment of the public.

It is commendable that the DOE has engaged The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to conduct inventories of Hanford lands. While the information is incomplete, it serves as an adequate basis for making the following decisions, at a minimum, regarding Hanford lands:

- Protect the full crescent of uncontaminated high value ecological lands, without interruption, by designating them as preservation. These include: the ALE Reserve in its entirety; the McGee Ranch, the Wahluke Slope, the Riverlands, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. This would provide a measure of connectivity between the ALE Reserve and the Wahluke Slope, and between the Hanford lands and the Yakima Training Center.

- Protect additional ecologically important lands in Central Hanford with preservation status. While the HRA-DEIS provides good information, it does not include the most recent studies performed by TNC that focus on Central Hanford. It is critical that the information from these studies be used to specify additional areas for preservation including, but not limited to, the vernal pools and other special habitats; Gable Butte and Gable Mountain and their associated rare plant populations; West Lake; sand dune fields from the ALE Reserve to the Hanford Reach, and other occurrences of plant community elements.

13

- Conserve most of the remaining lands in Central Hanford with Conservation status, where no exploitive uses such as mining are allowed until additional study and application of the principles of conservation biology can be incorporated to best determine if and/or how these lands might be used.

14

Additional Comments: Hanford Remedial Actions

- Page 1-1, Line 10. The text indicates that RODs will be issued for CERCLA and RCRA decisions. This statement is incorrect. Although CERCLA decisions are made using RODs, RCRA decisions are made through the permitting process. The text should be changed to reflect this. 15

- Page 1-11, Lines 14 and 15. This sentence is misleading. As written, the text indicates that EPA and Ecology will use the EIS to develop remediation decisions. This is not the case. CERCLA and RCRA pr0cesses will be used to make remediation decisions. We recommend changing the text to read "...EPA and Ecology would not be able to use the EIS in terms of factoring in potential future land use into the cleanup decisions process." 16

- Page 2-1, Line 30, Bullet II. We recommend this statement say, "Support U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Department of Energy remediation decision making process. 17

- Page 3-13, Table IX-2. EPA disagrees with the assumption that 100 Area burial ground lands will remain dedicated waste management units. It is EPA's intent to require DOE to remove 100 Area burial ground waste to the central plateau. The table should be revised to reflect this. 18

- Page 3-19, Line 22, Bullet 7. EPA does not agree with the assumption that groundwater will remain unremediated at Hanford. The bullet should be changed to reflect that groundwater contamination will be remediated through the CERCLA decision process. 19

- Page 6-1, Line 28. The HRA-DEIS implementing procedures should include a section on how DOE will institute procedural controls including mechanisms to be used to document the status of contaminated buildings, soils and groundwater. 20

- Appendix D, Line 19. This section identifies the McGee Ranch as a possible barrow site for clean-up/burial material. The McGee Ranch provides a key wildlife corridor between ALE and the Columbia River. It is EPA's understanding that under the preferred alternative the McGee Ranch would not be available for barrow material. However, the 100 Area burial grounds document, which EPA is currently reviewing, lists the McGee Ranch as the preferred barrow site. EPA recommends that Appendix D be strengthened to indicate that all sensitive areas will be protected from mining activities including the McGee Ranch. 21

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Rating System for Draft Environmental Impact Statements Definitions and Follow-Up Action*

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO - - Lack of Objections

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC - - Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce these impacts.

EO - - Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no-action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU - - Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1 - - Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis of data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2 - - Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonaby available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3 - - Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act and or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

* From EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment. February, 1987.

LIGO HANFORD OBSERVATORY

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070329

LETTER # RL-446

(Email version: RE 030)

Date: June 15, 1999
Refer to: LIGO-L990188-00-W

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
JUN 21 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

The LIGO Laboratory is pleased to provide these comments to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to the revised draft report DOE/EIS-0222D, entitled "Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan." These comments regard proposed land-use designations for the land on which LIGO is located and adjacent lands. These are part of a large land area in the category "All Other Areas." The LIGO Laboratory is concerned that this plan does not adequately represent the extreme sensitivity of the LIGO facilities to noise and vibration created by other activities on the Hanford site, even though such activities may be at large distances from the Observatory. The Laboratory is particularly concerned that several of the proposed planning alternatives indicate that mining activities would be allowable uses for land adjacent to the LIGO site without a discussion of the nature and physical extent of potential impacts on LIGO operations. It is proposed that language in the draft be changed to more accurately reflect the extreme sensitivity of LIGO to noise and vibration created by activities at great distances and that clarifying information on the nature and extent of this sensitivity be included in appendices to the plan. Good communications between NSF and DOE will be essential in managing land use at Hanford over the lifetime of the proposed land use plan. In furtherance of this goal, one effective mechanism is for NSF to become a cooperating agency in completion of the plan and in procedures to advise on and approve future special permits affecting land use.

LIGO Hanford Observatory is a state-of-the-art scientific facility, operated for the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), that is part of an emerging international network of gravitational-wave detectors. LIGO represents the largest investment ever made by the NSF in major research equipment. LIGO uses high-precision laser beams to detect the extremely small motions of mirrors caused by gravitational waves created in deep space. Seismic noise (i.e., natural vibrations of the earth) and noise induced by man-made vibrations can hide or mimic the effect of a gravitational wave. Successful detection of the gravitational waves requires that the Hanford Observatory work in unison with its sister facility in Livingston, Louisiana. Thus, a significant increase in the levels of seismic noise and vibration at either of the LIGO observatories could render all of LIGO inoperable for gravitational-wave observations for as long as these increased levels of vibration persist. For this reason, the observatories were located in places with exceptionally low levels of

seismic noise and vibration. Following the evaluation of 18 proposed LIGO sites throughout the continental United States, the Hanford site was chosen for LIGO in a national competition, based in part on the low levels of seismic noise and vibration known to exist at this site and the likelihood that these levels would remain low in the foreseeable future.

The LIGO Laboratory prepared a memo (LIGO-L960853) detailing the sensitivity of LIGO to seismic effects of various land uses. This memo was made available at the LIGO Hanford Observatory office to provide guidance to planning agencies that request such information. It is encouraging that information concerning the sensitivity of LIGO to vibration has been included in the current draft plan. The revised draft also addresses impacts of activities such as mining in other regards. These are positive developments. The LIGO Laboratory remains concerned that a lack of detail in presentation of this information may mislead readers in the future to underestimate the potential for an activity, like mining, to render LIGO inoperable. For example, reasonable proposers of an activity might assume that operation of mining equipment at a distance of a mile would not seriously impact LIGO when, in fact, such activities at distances of 10 to 25 miles could significantly disrupt LIGO operations. Significant expenditures of money and schedule might thus be spent on planning for a proposed activity with little guidance from the DOE plan that a severe conflict may be expected.

The LIGO Laboratory proposes that the memo (LIGO-L960853) be appended to the final DOE report and that references to this appendix appear wherever there is discussion of locating Conservation zones that include mining adjacent to LIGO (including in the Tables). It is proposed to modify the sentence in Section ES5.5.1 "Cumulative Impacts to Land Use," in paragraph 4, "Operation of LIGO conflicts with Conservation mining designations because of the facility's sensitivity to vibrations." A sentence that more accurately describes the extent of conflict is, "Operation of LIGO conflicts with Conservation mining designations because of the facility's sensitivity to vibrations, even when the source of those vibrations is many miles distant from LIGO facilities."

It is important that the DOE land use plan be written as clearly as possible to minimize dependence many years hence on the memories of individuals who participated in the preparation of the document. Also the nature of conflicting activities can significantly change over the long time span envisioned by this plan. Finally, vibration is only one of a number of possible mechanisms by which adjacent land uses could conflict with LIGO operations. NSF's representation on the Site Planning Advisory Board would allow NSF to play a positive role in articulating its concerns while also providing helpful guidance on potential mitigation measures to those who might propose conflicting activities in future.

Respectfully,

Frederick J. Raab

Frederick J. Raab, Ph.D.
Head, LIGO Hanford Observatory

070329

fjr:fjr

cc:
B. Barish
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CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 070329

Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) Project

To/Mail Code: Otto Matherny, LIGO Hanford
From/Mail Code: Fred Raab/51-33
Phone/FAX: 818-395-4053/818-304-9834

Refer to: LIGO-L960853-01-M
Date: December 2, 1996

Subject: Information on the seismic effects of various land uses.

This letter summarizes information about possible impacts on the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) caused by activities on the surrounding land. The discussion below highlights criteria concerning man-made sources of vibration that were among the criteria used to choose the Hanford site over other proposed sites in the continental United States.

The LIGO Observatory in Hanford, Washington is a state-of-the-art facility, operated for the U. S. National Science Foundation, that is part of an emerging international network of gravitational-wave detectors. LIGO uses high-precision laser beams to detect the extremely small motions of mirrors caused by gravitational waves created in deep space. Seismic noise (i.e., natural vibrations of the earth) and noise induced by man-made vibrations can hide or mimic the effect of a gravitational wave. Successful detection of the gravitational waves requires that the Hanford Observatory work in unison with its sister facility in Livingston, Louisiana. Thus, a significant increase in the levels of seismic noise and vibration at either of the LIGO observatories could render all of LIGO inoperable for gravitational-wave observations for as long as these increased levels of vibration persist. For this reason, the observatories were located in places with exceptionally low levels of seismic noise and vibration. Following the evaluation of 18 proposed LIGO sites throughout the continental United States, the Hanford site was chosen for LIGO in a national competition, based in part on the low levels of seismic noise and vibration known to exist at this site and the likelihood that these levels would remain low in the foreseeable future.

The site-evaluation committee rated each site according to criteria that reflected LIGO's needs. To evaluate sites on the basis of man-made sources of vibration, an international set of guidelines[1] developed for seismic observatories was used. The guidelines list recommended minimum distances to the nearest source of man-made vibration due to different categories of sources. These recommendations were used to obtain "preferred" and "acceptable" minimum distances to these sources. The sites were then graded according to these criteria. Sample criteria, useful for land-planning purposes are listed below:

1. Reciprocating power-plant machinery, rock crushers and heavy machinery should be located at least 10 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 25 miles.

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1. Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice, P. L. Gilmore, ed., World Data Center A for Solid Earth Geophysics, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Data and Information Service, Boulder, CO, 80303; Table 2.1.

2. Railways that operate frequently should be at least 6 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 12 miles.

3. Non-reciprocating power-plant machinery and balanced industrial machinery should be located at least 4 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 10 miles.

4. Vehicular traffic should be located at least 0.6 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 3 miles.

Using these criteria, the only serious seismic noise disturbance identified at the Hanford site was vehicular traffic. The Hanford site was given an acceptable rating because the potential disruption due to traffic would be confined to morning and evening rush hours. This was considered to be the only negative vibration-related impact at the site. With assurances from the United States Department of Energy that no significant development was likely within this zone[2], the Hanford site was given a high rating. In selecting the Hanford site for LIGO, the National Science Foundation recognized the anticipated conditions at the site.

We have recently received a final report concerning vibration measurements done for the LIGO site by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Part of the mission of these measurements was to identify possible impacts on observatory operations caused by man-made vibration. The data obtained from this study confirm that the site-evaluation criteria for man-made vibration sources are applicable to the Hanford site.

The effect of traffic was determined with the help of video surveillance equipment and seismometers. Traffic on Route 10 past the LIGO site was observed to cause increased noise at the corner station of the observatory complex. We can say with certainty that large increases in traffic on this road would be disruptive to operations, especially if the weight of vehicles should increase significantly (as would happen if truck traffic increased on this road) or if the quality of the road surface were significantly degraded. We were less sensitive to traffic on Route 240 and Route 4 South, because they were farther from the observatory complex. However, large increases in truck traffic or degradation of the surfaces of these roads could also have negative impacts.

Measurements were also done during a time when there was construction activity near the site. By moving the seismometers we were able to identify how vibrations from construction equipment would lessen with distance away from the site. We found that vibrations from such activities within approximately 8 to 9 miles of the site could cause significant disruptions for as long as such activity persisted.

Similar activities can be expected to be similarly disruptive unless they are situated sufficiently far away. Practical examples of extremely disruptive operations, similar to category (1) above, would be gravel or basalt mining operations, metal-stamping mills and any kind of construction activity that involved backhoes, bulldozers, heavy digging machinery, etc. Continuous operations of this type would render LIGO inoperable if they were located too closely. The equipment in nuclear reactors at Hanford would likely fall into category (3), as would many modern facilities such as biotechnology or semiconductor fabrication plants. Metal or plastics manufacturing using low-impact methods (i.e., no stamping operations) should also fit into this category. The

---

2. Option to Site A: Laser Interferometer Gravitatinal-Wave Observatory (LIGO), U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, March 1, 1991; Section 3.7

operation of facilities like this within the category (3) range would not be deleterious to LIGO, but construction work on these facilities might cause severe disruption. Mechanized farming operations should be in category (4), with activities that disturb the ground (such as plowing) likely to be more disruptive than use of harvesting equipment. With these guidelines, LIGO should be able to respond to any inquiry and to evaluate proposed uses and to identify adverse impacts on LIGO operations.

fjr:bb

cc:
B. Barish
M. Coles
A. Lazzarini
G. Sanders
R. Vogt
Chronological File
Document Control Center

(04/99)

070351

LETTER # RL-447 **Written Comment Sheet**

RECEIVED
JUN 28 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Name: DOUGLAS W. MERKLE

Address: P.O. BOX 252
Company, Agency, or Organization

Street Address

BEVERLY WA. 99321
City/State/Zip Code

509-952-6836
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting: Mattawa, Washington

Date: June 2, 1999

I am expressing support for Alternative #3. Although none of your alternatives are balanced Alternative #3 is the only one which comes close to the needs and future of Grant County and the Mattawa area. I also support Representative Doc Hastings proposal for the National Academy of Sciences to "impartially" study all potential uses of the Wahluke Slope. The most balanced and therefore the most "prefferred" alternative is still the Wahluke 2000 proposal. In addition, I strongly feel that all future payment in lieu of taxes or PILT moneys should be based on "lost opportunity" costs, not current use assessements.

Sincerely, Douglas Merkle

This is a postage-paid self-mailer. Please fold and seal before mailing to the address on the back.

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

070747

June 30, 1999

LETTER # RL-448

Mr. Thomas Ferns
U.S. Dept of Energy
P,O. Box 550 MSIN GI-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

RECEIVED
JUL 07 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns,

Kittittas Audubon Society (KAS), a chapter of National Audubon with members through the Kittitas Valley in central Washington State wish to have placed on the Hearing record their support of DOE's Preferred Alternative with the following changes:

1. Designate the Reach a Wild & Scenic River

2. Include the entire public land area on the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, the Wahluke Slope, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as National Wildlife Refuge. So that resolution of problems associated with cleaning up the Hanford nuclear reservation will not delay the rest of the designations, we ask that separate Records of Decision be issued for the areas mentioned above.

3. Oppose grazing on the Hanford reservation

4. Oppose mining operations with the exception of those associated with cleaning up the nuclear reservation.

We recognize the lateness of this response; hopefully better late than never.

Hal Lindstrom
KAS Conservation Chair

Hal Lindstrom
1831 Hanson Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Ph 509-925-1807

070469

Written Comment Sheet

LETTER # RL-449

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Name: SCOTT TURNER

Address:
Company, Agency, or Organization
44206 E. RED MOUNTAIN RD
Street Address
KENTON CITY WA 99320
City/State/Zip Code
(509) 967-4681
Telephone

Hearing/Meeting: RICHLAND
Location
Date

I WONDER HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED YOURSELVES, "WHERE IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION DOES IT ALLOW FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL THIS PROPERTY?" OUR GOVERNMENT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE CENTRALIZED, INCREASINGLY MORE POWERFUL AND BUREAUCRATIC. OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE TURNING OVER THEIR PAWER TO THESE BUREAUCRATS AT WHICH POINT OUR REPRESENTIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT WILL CEASE TO EXIST. WE ARE GAURANTEED A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT BY THE US CONSTITUTION, NOT A DEMOCRACY, YET THE TERM "REPUBLIC" IS RARELY USED, IF AT ALL. WHY? DID YOU VOTE FOR BILL RICHARDSON? DID HE STOP BY AND ASK EACH OF US OUR OPINION ON "OUR" BACKYARD? NO! THIS BEING THE CASE, WOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF A REPUBLIC, DEMOCRACY, OR A DICTATORSHIP? BE HONEST WITH YOURSELVES! THINK! I WANT THIS LAND LEFT TO OUR CONTROL, THE LOCAL PEOPLE AS IT SHOULD BE!

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Please fold and seal before mailing
to the address on the back.

IMPORTANT: Before returning this Comment Sheet, please fold the flyer so that it is addressed to Mr. Tom Ferns, and the largest flap on the back matches at the top. Seal with tape at the top only.

May 21, 99

LETTER #RL450

069178

526 S. Taft
Kennewick WA.
99336

William W Bowen
Debra Bowen
Brianne Bowen
Brett Bowen

Thomas Ferns
US DOE
RL
PO Box 550 MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352

RECEIVED
MAY 26 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr Ferns,

We were unable to attend the public hearing on May 20, but would like it known the we STRONGLY support federal control of the Wahluke Slope / Hanford Reach. We do not trust local officials to take a long-term view of this area, but feel they will bow to short term financial gain for a select few.

We support:

- Entire area being named a national wildlife refuge (Wahluke Slope, Reach, islands, McGee Ranch, & ALER)
- Oppose grazing on Hanford Wildl. reservation
- support restricting mining
- issue a separate Record of Decision on this important matter.

Thank you,

William W Bowen
Deb Bowen
Brett Bowen
Brianne Bowen

Ms. Patricia Jo Ritzhaupt
9639 SW Elisha Ln.
Vashon, WA 98070-6600

USA20

Mr. J.W. Terna
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550 MSIN H0-12
Richland, WA 99352

LETTER #R451

068709

Please protect the ecologically significant lands at Hanford. I support the Preferred Alter. Plan but with modifications: the adjoined DOE lands should become a Nat. Wildlife Refuge providing a continuous "crescent" of protected habitat lands around central Hanford. There should be no agriculture, commercial mining or livestock grazing permitted there. DOE should issue separate decisions for the following areas in this proposed Nat. Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve; the McGee Ranch; DOE's entire Wahluke Slope; the Hanford Ranch; and the Columbia River islands. The Hanford Reach and adjacent uncontaminated DOE lands represent an irreplaceable natural legacy. We must act to protect & preserve it. P.J. Ritzhaupt
Science Teacher ret.

RECEIVED
MAY 20 1999
DOE-RL/DIS

069470

Willapa Hills Audubon Society

P.O. Box 399 - Longview, WA 98632-7255

LETTER # RL452

3148 Laurel Road
Longview, WA 98632
4 June 1999

RECEIVED
JUN 07 1999
DOE-RL / DIS

John Flicker, President
National Audubon Society
700 Broadway
New York, NY 10003

Dear Mr. Flicker:

The Willapa Hills chapter of NAS is disappointed to learn that NAS is considering dropping the Endangered Species Campaign.

Saving a particular endangered species was, after all, the concern which brought our organization into being roughly a century ago. Our main mission is surely still to save endangered species; other campaigns (population, wetlands, refuges, living oceans etc.) being merely specific areas of action. This would be analogous to removing "to educate our children" from our schools' mission statement and merely enumerating the subjects to be taught.

Moreover, think what those who would weaken the ESA would do with the information that Audubon had discontinued its Endangered Species Campaign!

Sincerely,

Ruth Deery

Ruth Deery, Conservation chair
Willapa Hills Audubon Society

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

LETTER # RL 453

071523

July 29, 1999

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
DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

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.

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,

Victor Cook
Program Manager for LIGO
National Science Foundation
(703) 306-1892
vcook@nsf.gov

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

SAVE THE REACH

HANFORD REACH: Last of the Free-Flowing Columbia

Hanford Reach Endorsement

5346 HARRINGTON ROAD
RICHLAND, WA. 99352

We JOHN AND SHARON LONG

recognize the incredible natural resources of the Hanford Reach and the public lands on the Wahluke Slope.

We endorse the National Park Service's preferred alternative and urge Congress to designate the Hanford reach as a Recreational Wild & Scenic River and the Wahluke Slope as the White Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.

Sharon Long

Mail to: Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society, PO Box 1900, Richland, WA 99352

Example - "Save The Reach" (STR)

E-Mail Letter # RE001

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: Jeana Frazzini [frazzini@teleport.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 1999 2:32 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Re: Hanford

Dear Sir,
Regarding proposals for the Hanford site, I am writing to encourage you to support the DOE alternative and Save the Reach Coalition's recommendations. This area is of particular concern for me, as I group up nearby and attended college in the area (Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA)..

Thank You,
Jeana Frazzini
18 NE Sacramento
Portland, OR 97212
503-493-7478

E-Mail Letter # RE-002

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Jackie Gardner [jsgardne@uswest.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 1999 9:29 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Protection of Hanford Reach

Mr. Ferns, this note is in support of the Nature Conservancy's position on preservation of the Hanford Reach area of the Columbia. This last bastion of free flowing river and its basin must be protected. Thank you.

Jacqueline Gardner, Ph.D
5111 NE 201 Place
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

RE003

E-Mail Letter # _____

Ferns, Thomas W.
From: Bricwall@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 1999 9:27 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Cc: hhall@tnc.org
Subject: Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferns:

As a longtime supporter of Nature Conservancy, I would like to give my personal endorsement to their HRA EIS specific positions which are stated as follows:

1. Protect the ecologically significant lands at Hanford. The Hanford Site is one of the last places in eastern Washington supporting large areas of native shrub-steppe vegetation and related wildlife.
2. Support the Preferred Alternative, but with some modifications, including:

   A. The following adjoined DOE lands should be managed as a permanent National

   Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River Islands. This will provide a large, continuous "crescent" of protected habitat lands surrounding central Hanford.

   B. To ensure long-term protection for key native species and systems located across the Site (including central Hanford), there should be no agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing permitted.

3. To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated lands, DOE should issue separate decisions for the areas mentioned above in 2A.

Your attention to this personal request is sincerely appreciated.

Richard Wallace
9040 NE 14th
Bellevue, WA 98004-3311

E-Mail Letter # RE004

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: Mindmedic@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 14, 1999 10:35 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford lands.

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Please register that I support the Nature Conservancy's position on the HRA EIS regarding the protection of Hanford Reach and neighboring lands, from commercial or agricultural development.

Specifically, I beleive the ecologically significant lands on Hanford Reach need to be protected in a permanent National Wildlife Refuge, along with adjoining DOE lands known as: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahkuke Slope, the Hanford Reach and the Columbia River Islands.

THANK YOU,

Robert C. Hatton

E-Mail Letter # RE005

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: J K and/or A W Johnston [a-jinc@oakharbor.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 16, 1999 5:13 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Cc: hhall@tnc.org
Subject: Hanford Remedial Action EIS

Dear Mr. Ferns,

It is my understudying that the U.S. Dept. of Energy is considering a draft EIS for the future management of the uncontaminated lands at its Hanford facility, including the Hanford reach on the Columbia River. These lands belong to the American people and should not be opened up for private commercial uses. Too many of our original native areas have already been lost to grazing, mining and logging with too little return to the owners of those lands. With some salmon species already listed on the Endangered Species list it is imperative that spawning habitat be saved from further degradation.

As many as possible of these areas under consideration should be held for the future by managing them as a National Wildlife Refuge. Then every effort must be made to avoid further contamination from the Hanford nuclear facility.

Sincerely,
James K.Johnston, Ed.D.

E-Mail Letter # R6006

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: Elaine Nonneman [elaine@cnw.com]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 1999 11:40 AM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Cc: hhall@tnc.org
Subject: Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing on the issue of land management at the Hanford Reach. Please act to preserve its uncontaminated shrub-steppe ecosystem and the wildlife it supports as well as a free-flowing segment of the Columbia River that supports spawning and rearing of chinook salmon. The DOE can do this by adopting the HRA "Preferred Alternative" with these provisions:

1) Create a zone of protected habitat lands by managing the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, the 90,000 acre Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River Islands collectively as a permanent **National Wildlife Refuge.** Ensure the integrity of the refuge by issuing separate decisions to so manage each of these areas.

2) Prohibit agriculture, commercial mining and livestock grazing within the above **National Wildlife Refugee** to prevent its contamination as a wildlife habitat.

Though I am a resident of Western Washington, I greatly value the existence and preservation of the ecosystem, habitat and wildlife unique to the Hanford region. Its importance as a natural trust and heritage far outweigh the interests of those who would use these lands for commercial gain. Please do not compromise the survival of wildlife.

Thank you for your adoption of this position in the upcoming HRA EIS process.

Sincerely,

Elaine Nonneman, 8023 California Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136 (206) 937-4338

E-Mail Letter # RE007

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Jarold Morgan [jaroldm@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 1999 7:23 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford Reach

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I support the DOE Preferred Alternative. However, I recommend you add the Save the Reach Coalition's amendments as follows:

* Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its
islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as National

Wildlife Refuge (176,000 total acres)
*Oppose grazing on the Hanford Nuclear reservation.
*Restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up
and remediation on the Hanford Reservation.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jennifer Kauffman
8027 Bagley Avenue N
Seattle, WA 98103

LETTER # RE008

069308

Ferns, Thomas W
From: woodmill@oneworld.owt.com
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 1999 9:53 PM
To: Thomas_W_Ferns@rl.gov
Cc: jtimmons@bossig.com; mmlilga@owt.com

Mr. Tom Ferns
HRA-EIS Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland, WA

COMMENT ON THE REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL ACTION EIS AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN (HRA-EIS)

During the course of taking testimony across the state about options for land use at the Hanford site, you will hear, presented as a matter of principle, arguments for local control of the Hanford Reach and adjacent protected areas. I want to address this briefly.

In our nation, local control of our affairs is a cherished concept, especially in principally rural areas such as eastern Washington. Inserting a proposal for local control will win adherents to almost any cause. Yet, clearly local control is not always best.

For example, if we had never imposed zoning laws in our communities, arguing instead that land use decisions should be left to property owners so they could exercise local control, no parks nor indeed any geography making our communities desirable places to live would have emerged spontaneously from the ensuing free-for-all.

At a national level, such a philosophy would have resulted in no national parks, wilderness areas, forests, seashores, prairies, monuments, or wildlife refuges. These jewels in our national crown exist only because our society realizes that self-control is essential for the good of us all. But, society is not a thing, it is a myriad of individuals, so self-control means that some of us cannot get everything we want. Such denial of individual desires is not an act of malice or insensitivity, it is simply doing what is best for all of us, and to do this we need to look at the big picture.

A space shuttle's view of eastern Washington gives us the big picture, and it is instructive: the Hanford site stands out because it is virtually the only non-mountainous or non-scabland terrain not already transformed by agriculture. This transformation has been incessant, driven by the search for farmland so we can feed ourselves. But feeding our exponentially growing population is a vast, complex, and politically-charged cultural problem that could only be delayed, and fundamentally could not be solved, by converting our scarce remaining wild lands to farmland. All this would accomplish is to deny all future generations any access to or any understanding of wild lands. They would be forever aesthetically and scientifically impoverished, with nothing permanent to show for it.

If the lands currently protected by DOE are released to local control, it will be like holding a precious, fragile antique vase in front of us and releasing it to the local control of gravity: the outcome is inevitable, thus it is the release itself that destroys the antique. If the lands DOE protects are released to local control, we may not know the exact course or timing of events that will ensue, but we do know the ultimate result: the land will be farmed.

I do not begrudge our farmers their land. After all, they use that land to feed me. I thank our farmers for taking care of me, often settling for a modest life to do it. But, we have already converted most of our wild lands to farmland and little wild land remains. For the sake of future generations and all life depending on the land you protect, please—do not release to local control this refuge for our native plants and animals.

Respectfully submitted,

William L. Kuhn
624 Millwood Court
Richland, WA

E-Mail Letter # RE009

069306

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Nancy Murphy [rutherfordmurphy@email.msn.com]
Sent: Friday, May 21, 1999 3:28 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford Reach

I would like to commend DOE for taking action to protect the Hanford Reach ecosystem but urge you to go further:

- Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, the Riverland area, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as National Wildlife Refuge (176,000 total acres)

*Oppose grazing on the Hanford Nuclear reservation. *Restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation.

- Issue a separate Record of Decision (ROD) for all the areas mentioned above. These areas are prime fish and wildlife habitat, uncontaminated by Hanford operations, and should not have to wait for protection until the complex decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

Sincerely, Nancy Murphy

LETTER # RE-010

069307

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Fred Runkel [frunkel@igc.org]
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 1999 6:50 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Cc: lupito@owt.com
Subject: The Hanford Reach

We strongly support the preservation of the Hanford Reach. The only good thing that has come out of that place is that the land remains untouched. We commend DOE for taking action to protect the Hanford Reach ecosystem, but we want them to take stronger measures to protect it:

- Designate the 176,000 acres of public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, the Riverland area, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as National Wildlife Refuge

*Oppose grazing on the Hanford Nuclear reservation.

*Restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation.

- Issue a separate Record of Decision (ROD) for all the areas mentioned above. These areas are prime fish and wildlife habitat, uncontaminated by Hanford operations, and should not have to wait for protection until the complex decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

Sincerely Yours, Marilyn D. Ream M.D. and Fred J. Runkel D.V.M.

E-Mail Letter # RE-012

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: Paul Lindholdt [plindholdt@mail.ewu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 1999 2:21 PM
To: Thomas_W_Ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Wahluke Slope Comments

I am speaking on behalf of two different organizations in Eastern Washington to offer comments on the future of the Wahluke Slope. The two organizations are the Upper Columbia River Group of the Sierra Club, which I lead as Chair of its Executive Committee, and Eastern Environmental, a student group at Eastern Washington University which I serve as faculty advisor. Also I am a professor whose teaching and research specialties concern American culture and the environment.

Both groups, which collectively represent some 1,200 people in this region, agree that the Wahluke Slope should be protected to the fullest extent possible under the law. The *worst* management plan would involve returning those lands to county oversight and farming, in our opinion. Privatization would heighten the risk of eroding the White Bluffs and endangering the chinook salmon and other fish that spawn there.

The groups I represent, like my family and myself, use the Hanford Reach for recreation and value it for wildlife habitat. Nowhere else on the main stem Columbia is the ecological fabric so intact, in our experience. For its endangered plants and white pelicans, its Native American artifacts and sport fishing, its grandeur as a paddle route and its value for protecting endangered salmon, the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River needs the Wahluke Slope to be protected against development.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter, at this pivotal moment in the future of American wildlands and rivers.

Professor Paul Lindholdt

Card for Paul Lindholdt

E-Mail Letter # RE-013

Ferns, Thomas W.
From: Dwyer, Jim [JRDWYER@csuchico.edu]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 1999 5:17 PM
To: 'Thomas Ferns'
Subject: Hanford Reach

Dear Mr. Ferns:
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. Although I currently live in California, I lived in Washington the first 23 years of my life, have an uncle who worked at Hanford for many years, and visit my relatives in the area occasionally. When I was a teenager I did some hunting in territory contiguous to Hanford. I am familiar with the Hanford Reach issues since I am in regular contact with others who work in the area and am on the board of the Sacramento River Preservation Trust which networks with Northwestern river groups. I am writing today, though, only as an individual and not on behalf of the SRPT since we have not discussed the HRA EIS at board meetings.

First, I would like to thank the DOE for the good work on the revised HRA EIS which preserves much of the Wahluke Slope as a wildlife refuge. I urge you to extend those protections by expanding the refuge to include all public lands in Hanford Reach, Wahluke Slope, McGee Ranch, Riverlands, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. I also support Alternative 2 in the EIS. Since I suspect you are receiving lots of mail on this topic and know you are very familiar with the issues, I will spare you from any further detail and wish you well in further deliberations and the implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,
Jim Dwyer
Chico, CA

E-Mail Letter # RE-014

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: DALSTAY@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 1999 7:24 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: DOE Lands

Dear Sir:
Having been citizens of the state of Washington for the past 40 years, we take a vital interest in her future. It is our hope that the following DOE lands be managed as a permanent National Wild life Refuge: the Arid land Ecology Reserve, the Mcgee Ranch , DOE's entire Wahluke slope, Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River Islands.

To protect our native species there should be no agriculture , commercial mining or livestock grazing. Please help conserve this wonderful area for our children and future generations.

Sincerely yours,
Dale B. Stayner
Billie J Stayner

columbia River Islands.

E-Mail Letter # RE-015

Ferns, Thomas W
From: Beth Miller [bmiller295@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 1999 9:09 PM
To: Thomas_W_Ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford Reach

From:Brian Miller
1307 S. Greenridge
Liberty Lake,WA 99019

June 3, 1999

To: US Dept. of Energy
Tom Ferns
Document Manager HRA-EIS

CC: Senator Patty Murray

I am writing to express my qualified support for the DoE's preferred alternative for the Hanford Reach. I support the preferred alternative but ask that protection be provided for ALL natural and sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. This should include all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach and all associated islands, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. Providing Federal protection for these lands involves no "takings" of private property or rights. Protection will help preserve the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia river and remnant populations of shrub-steppe flora and fauna, as well protect the most productive Salmon spawning area on the Columbia.

Sincerely,
Brian Miller
bmiller295@worldnet.att.net

E-Mail Letter # RE016

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Donna Caulton [donnac@ewa.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 1999 9:42 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: hanford

Thomas: I say an ad about Hanford land use hearings in Spokane and Mattawa. Am wondering if any are scheduled for Yakima or close by. Please inform.

thanks so much. donna caulton

E-Mail Letter # RE-017

Ferns, Thomas W
From: Elizabeth Watson [emwatson@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 1999 11:39 AM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: HRA EIS

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
Dear Sir:

I would like to comment on the Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (HRA EIS). The Department of Energy has the opportunity to effect the future of the Hanford Reach and surrounding area for decades to come. This can be of a positive nature for ALL the citizens of this state as well as for those of the U.S. in general. A national treasure if you will.

This goal can be achieved by adapting the following key points.

1. The area in question is the best of what remains of the shrub-steppe ecosystem that once covered most of Eastern Washington. There are many groups of diverse native plants and animals in this area. It needs full protection.
2. This area also includes critical spawning and rearing habitat for fall chinook salmon. For that reason alone, this area needs the most stringent controls possible. These controls can always be relaxed at some future date if they are found to be unnecessary. However, reversing ecological damage to such an area is virtually impossible.

Therefore, based on the evidence I have seen, I urge the adoption of the Preferred Alternative for this area. This Alternative does require some modification to meet the above-mentioned goals.

A National Wildlife Refuge needs to be established. This refuge would include the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. This will provide a large and continuous crescent-shaped area of protected lands. In addition, to provide long-term protection for the ecosystems located right across the Site, agriculture mining, or livestock grazing must not be permitted.

Finally, this Site is at a critical juncture. It is incumbent upon DOE to preserve the lands in and around this Site for the present generations and those generations to come. This goal is far more important than any short-term economic gains that might be derived from alternative uses of the area.

Sincerely,

John A. Watson

--
Elizabeth Watson
emwatson@earthlink.net

E-Mail Letter # RE018

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Doris Mussil [dmussil@sprintmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 1999 5:36 AM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford Reach

Please make the Hanford Reach public property. Once it goes private, it will never go back to the public. Its the only free-flowing section of the Columbia River in its 1200 miles, and deserves permanent protection for recreation and wildlife. Thank you.

Doris Mussil 12108 E 21st Spokane WA 99206 509 924-3017

dmussil@sprintmail. com

E-Mail Letter # RE-019

Ferns, Thomas W
From: ACahn59418@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, June 05, 1999 11:46 AM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: My response to the HRA EIS

I have studied the various alternatives, and submit my response as a resident of Richland for the past 48 years, one who has benefitted from development in the area as well as from the unique and bountiful resources of this site.

I commend DOE for the work done and support the Preferred Alternative Plan with a few important modifications.

1. Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, MeGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as National Wildlife Refuge (176,000 total acres). This offers the best hope for sustained restoration of the area.
2. Oppose ALL grazing on the Hanford Nuclear reservation. Contrary to some claims, grazing increases risk of fire and promotes growth of weeds.
3. I understand and accept the fact that some mining operations are necessary in order to complete clean-up on the Hanford Reservation. However, I wonder why the mining sites in the proposal are so scattered over the area. Could they be more confined to fewer sites?
4. I urge you to issue a separate Record of Decision for all the areas mentioned above, so that there is no unnecessary delay in protecting these areas.

Again, thank you for your work,

Alma Cahn Richland WA.

E-Mail Letter # RE020

Ferns, Thomas W
From: Edndaisy@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 1999 7:31 PM
To: Thomas_W_Ferns@rl.gov
Subject: (no subject)

Edward A. and Janet D. Reynolds
6323 E. Jamieson Rd.
Spokane, WA 99223

We favor the strongest possible protection of public land in the Wahluke Slope and the former Hanford Reservation. We have seen the Columbia Basin, particularly the area around the Tri-Cities change from arid sagebrush desert to intensively farmed, irrigated land, and we have witnessed the concomitant destruction of much of the indigenous plant and wildlife. Those areas preserved for wildlife along the Wahluke slope and the area that surrounded the nuclear facilities at Hanford stood and stand as an island in time, a sanctuary for much of what remains of the original ecosystem.

We recently had the pleasure of a day-long tour of the area including Rattlesnake Ridge and much of the Wahluke slope and were greatly impressed. The more than fifty-year closure of the Hanford Reservation resulted in preserving what is now a unique laboratory for studying the ecosystem that pre-dated the Columbia Basin Reclamation Project, and it is a laboratory and showcase that should not be sacrificed to the kind of development precipitated by that project.

To preserve the area in anything like a natural state, provision must be made for wildlife to roam freely. That means preserving the crescent upstream from the Vernita Bridge that connects the two halves of the river. We understand that the Department of Energy opposes keeping the ranch as part of this crescent because they want to mine clay deposits there, but that seems a ridiculous reason not to unify Saddle Mountain, the Wahluke slope and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve by making that crescent an integral part of the unit. Here in the Spokane region, we are about to witness trains hauling mildly radioactive waste across the continent to fill in an abandoned uranium mine north of us, and if we can go to that extreme, we can surely justify hauling clay from an area only slightly less convenient in order to preserve habitat. But even that probably would not be necessary; we understand that suitable and adequate clay deposits exist on parts of the reservation that would not become part of the proposed reserve.

Those who want to exploit the land for agriculture, mining and other interests have had their opportunity, and the results speak for themselves. The vast majority of the land in the Basin has been altered beyond recognition. Even the air has been altered. In the 1950s, a "swamp cooler" air conditioning system was adequate for comfort; now the humidity generated by irrigation is such that only a refrigerated air conditioning system will do. What little remainsmore or less intact of a fascinating ecosystem should be preserved to the extent that it is possible to preserve it and even restored where that is necessary. Irrigation and other water uses above the White Bluffs appear to be eroding the cliffs, destroying them as a landmark and damaging spawning habitat in the river, and it would be nice to see that erosion stopped.

But restoration is a secondary consideration. Preservation comes first, and we should seize this opportunity to preserve and protect what we have, however unwittingly, saved.

E-Mail Letter # RE-021

Ferns, Thomas W
From: fullbloom [fullbloom@olywa.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 1999 4:29 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: HRA EIS

THIS LETTER SENT VIA FAX, WITH A SIGNED COPY TO FOLLOW IN THE MAIL.

June 6, 1999

Thomas Ferns

US DOE

Richland Operations Office

PO Box 550, MSIN HO-12

Richland, WA 99352-0550

RE: Hanford Remedial Action EIS

This nation has a rare opportunity to protect the best of what's left of Washington State's native shrub-steppe ecosystem. Only a small fraction (I believe less than 10%) of this ecosystem remains intact. It is critical that we act now to protect the Hanford site for future generations.

I support DOE's preferred alternative WITH MODIFICATIONS.

The following should be designated and managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated land, DOE should issue separate decisions for these areas.

I said before we should protect the site for future generations. But it is also essential for the present. Salmon and bullhead trout within the Columbia River system are at risk, not to mention other water dependent species. We have an impending war over water allocations on our hands. Commercial activities such as grazing, mining and agriculture threaten to overwhelm the needs of native species. It would be a grave mistake to open any of the Hanford site to these kinds of activities, which would most likely lead to economic hardship on taxpayers in the long-run (environmental remediation costs). Consequently, **the final EIS should be modified to prohibit agriculture, commercial mining and livestock grazing on the entire site, including central Hanford.**

Sincerely,

Kammie L. Bunes

7615 Manzanita Drive, NW

Olympia, WA 98502

E-Mail Letter # RE-022

June 7, 1999

Thomas W. Ferns
HRA-EIS Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN H0-12
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Ferns:

Please find attached several comments regarding DOE/EIS-0222D. The comments primarily address apparent inaccuracies in some of the biological resource data. The inaccurate information, if used for planning purposes, has the potential to result in harmful impacts to some of Hanford's biological resources.

I hope that you are able to use these comments in the revision of the document to support decisions on future Hanford land uses. If you have questions regarding these comments or any other issues regarding the current status of Hanford's biological resources, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Larry Cadwell
Manager, Ecosystems Monitoring Project
Ecology Group

:tlb

attachment

cc: File/LB

Telephone (509) 376-5659 ■ e-mail larry.cadwell@pnl.gov ■ Fax (509) 373-1153

Page 3-6. The Preservation description includes the potential for two management options that are counter to the intent of biological resource preservation. Neither grazing nor fire (presumed to mean controlled burning) have been demonstrated to be effective as a benefit or aid in preserving the native biological resources (plants, animals, microbiotic crusts) of the eastern Washington shrub-steppe. In fact, the opposite is true. Overgrazing and wildfires that remove native plant cover have resulted in degradation of biotic integrity, loss of biodiversity, and an increase in both alien and noxious weeds in the shrub-steppe. Reference to the use of fire and grazing should be removed from the Preservation definition.

Figure 3-3 (and the premise of DOE's preferred alternative) fails to recognize the sensitive nature of much of the area proposed as "Conservation (Mining & Grazing). The majority of the land area having this designation within the area commonly referred to as "Central Hanford" and bounded by the Columbia River, Highway 240, and Horn Road contain numerous high quality habitats (level III and level IV habitats – see Figure 4-27), rare plants, and element occurrences. As such the area is very clearly NOT suited for grazing (See BRMaP, 1996, section 7.5) without being subject to significant environmental damage.

Figure 4-17 lacks metadata and thus can not be interpreted in a manor that leads to "correct" or reasonable conclusions regarding the amounts, numbers, locations or relevant reference time frame. Specific examples include:

- the mapped bald eagle nest sites show some historic nest site, but do not represent either current or even recent bald eagle nest locations (if one uses the BHI reference date at the bottom, the conclusions might be that the information on the map was current as of 07/06/98. That assumption would be incorrect.
- the "ferruginous hawk nest sites" shown on the map are actually historic nest locations, not current or even representative of any recent year. The logical conclusion is that there are about 20 plus active nest sites on Hanford, when in fact the number of active nests is less than half that number. If the intent is to show historic nest sites, they should be identified as such.
- the above comment for ferruginous hawk nest sites also applies to sage sparrow, burrowing owls, and loggerhead shrike, but an important additional interpretation problem also exists for these species. The siting data for these three species were from incidental sightings, not from thorough surveys. Therefore the map user should be cautioned to not infer that areas with no record sighting are devoid of the species in question. Many of these data were obtained from driving (road) surveys as is evident from the pattern on the maps. Thus, if the map were to be used to locate areas devoid of these species, erroneous conclusions would likely result. For example, the block of habitat directly south of the 200 east and west areas contains high quality (Level III, see Figure 4-27) habitats and is some of the Hanford Site's best sage sparrow and loggerhead

shrike habitat. Since the Site has never been surveyed for these species, they frequently do not show up on the map and many locations where they are most likely to occur. Thus, a casual map user might very well conclude that these areas are devoid of these species, when the opposite is most likely to be true.

Figure 4-18 contains several biological resource map areas that can not be substantiated by data and therefore appear to be technically indefensible. Most if not all of the great blue heron occurrence locations are in error. Technical data do not exist to support the "map" locations for several of the species depicted on the map. There are (in existence) data that could be used to create "improved" versions of these maps, but they appear to not have been used.

E-Mail Letter # RE-023

Ferns, Thomas W.
From: paul2s@3-cities.com
Sent: Monday, June 07, 1999 8:58 PM
To: Thomas_W_Ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Comments on HRAEIS and Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Dear Mr. Ferns,

My comments are as follows:

I am a nearby resident, living in Franklin County. I have deep spiritual feelings about the area being affected by the HRAEIS.

My comments are as follows:

1. Everything reasonably possible should be done to protect the undisturbed sagebrush step habitat (USSH)on the Hanford Site south of the Columbia River and on the Waluke Slope. This area is a unique national treasure and should be preserved as such.

2. No grazing or agricultural development should be allowed on any of the Hanford Site addressed in the HRAEIS.

3. There are areas of the Hanford Site that have previously been drastically altered by fire. Limited industrial development of these areas should be allowed only if all of the following are met:

a. The development does nearly nothing to affect the USSH by increasing the chance for fire or by emissions of any kind. including noise.

b. The developer makes a significant contribution on a periodic basis (say 3% of investment plus 3% of annual profits) into a fund which would support vigorous anti-fire activities and activities to minimize the damage prospectively and retrospectively of "ecological trespassers."

c. The development minimizes the visual impact on the environment,

4. Clean up activities for former production reactors, waste in underground tanks, and other wastes given enhanced attention to clean up and stabilization alternatives which affect the USSH without providing a clear an unequivocal reduction in human health effects or effects on the environment. (Calculated cancer deaths, paltry compared to those that may me caused by natural background and are ignored by members of the public when they consider where to live, are not to be considered.) Detrimental environmental effects of a clean up activity should be clearly balanced by the environmental improvements. In making this assessment consideration should be given only to the effects on "bugs and bunnies." Absolutely no weight should be given to exceeding levels set by regulatory authorities.

5. There is one option I wish had been considered. Deeding stewardship of the USSH back to the native Americans, with one proviso. No metaiiic objects longer than a traditional hunting knife are to be brought into the USSH, in perpetuity. An *in perpetuity* should be set up to fund the "ranger and border guard" assisting DOE in the proper deposition of the USSH parts of the Hanford Site.

sincerely yours,

Paul Stansbury
7313 N. Rd. 68
Pasco WA 99301

E-Mail Letter # RE-024

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: Fred Raab [raab_f@ligo-wa.caltech.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 1999 3:42 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Cc: barish@ligo.caltech.edu; sanders@ligo.caltech.edu; vcook@nsf.gov; robert.c.poole@jpl.nasa.gov
Subject: Hanford land use plan

My name is Fred Raab and I am the head of the LIGO Hanford Observatory. I have discovered that the comment period on the revised draft of report DOE/EIS-0222D, entitled "Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan," ends today. I had not been officially notified of the revised draft or the comment period. Because I have not had adequate time to prepare a reasoned report or to coordinate this response with my funding agency, the National Science Foundation, I request an extension of time in which to prepare a careful, coordinated response.

I reviewed the information about this draft available over the internet this weekend at my home and I find serious cause for concern. It appears that proposed land uses adjacent to the LIGO site include mining operations that could significantly disrupt future LIGO operations. LIGO is the largest investment in major research facilities ever made by the National Science Foundation and adequate means must be made to assure that this investment is preserved. This site was chosen in a national site-selection process, based on the fact that the area was seismically quiet and there were assurances in the DOE-prepared site proposal of Marhch 1, 1991, that future development would not degrade seismic conditions at the site. I have attempted in prior conversations with members of the planning effort by DOE to make the point that LIGO has this severe seismic sensitivity and I have received assurances that I would be contacted before any action that would threaten conditions at the site is taken. I do not see any reflection of this in the revised draft of the land use plan and I am concerned by its omission. I feel that a carefully written response, coordinated with NSF is required and I request adequate time to produce such a response.

Frederick J. Raab, Head
LIGO Hanford Observatory

Fred Raab
LIGO Hanford Observatory
P. O. Box 1970; MS S9-02
Richland, WA 99352

phone: 509-372-8125
FAX: 509-372-8137

E-Mail Letter # RE-025

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: REX CRAWFORD [RCMM490@wadnr.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 1999 3:12 PM
To: hraeis@rl.gov; thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: comments to April 1999 EIS

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns

US Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office

Attached is a wordperfect file with comments to the HRA EIS. A signed hard copy will follow.

Rex C. Crawford, Ph.D.
Natural Heritage Vegetation Ecologist
Forest Resources Division
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7016

WordPerfect 6.1

Page 3-6. The Preservation description includes the potential for two management options that are counter to the intent of biological resource preservation. Neither grazing nor fire (presumed to mean controlled burning) have been demonstrated to be effective as a benefit or aid in preserving the native biological resources (plants, animals, microbiotic crusts) of the eastern Washington shrub-steppe. In fact, the opposite is true. Overgrazing and wildfires that remove native plant cover have resulted in degradation of biotic integrity, loss of biodiversity, and an increase in both alien and noxious weeds in the shrub-steppe. Reference to the use of fire and grazing should be removed from the Preservation definition.

Figure 3-3 (and the premise of DOE's preferred alternative) fails to recognize the sensitive nature of much of the area proposed as "Conservation (Mining & Grazing). The majority of the land area having this designation within the area commonly referred to as "Central Hanford" and bounded by the Columbia River, Highway 240, and Horn Road contain numerous high quality habitats (level III and level IV habitats – see Figure 4-27), rare plants, and element occurrences. As such the area is very clearly NOT suited for grazing (See BRMaP, 1996, section 7.5) without being subject to significant environmental damage.

Figure 4-17 lacks metadata and thus can not be interpreted in a manor that leads to "correct" or reasonable conclusions regarding the amounts, numbers, locations or relevant reference time frame. Specific examples include:

• the mapped bald eagle nest sites show some historic nest site, but do not represent either current or even recent bald eagle nest locations (if one uses the BHI reference date at the bottom, the conclusions might be that the information on the map was current as of 07/06/98. That assumption would be incorrect.

• the "ferruginous hawk nest sites" shown on the map are actually historic nest locations, not current or even representative of any recent year. The logical conclusion is that there are about 20 plus active nest sites on Hanford, when in fact the number of active nests is less than half that number. If the intent is to show historic nest sites, they should be identified as such.

• the above comment for ferruginous hawk nest sites also applies to sage sparrow, burrowing owls, and loggerhead shrike, but an important additional interpretation problem also exists for these species. The siting data for these three species were from incidental sightings, not from thorough surveys. Therefore the map user should be cautioned to not infer that areas with no record sighting are devoid of the species in question. Many of these data were obtained from driving (road) surveys as is evident from the pattern on the maps. Thus, if the map were to be used to locate areas devoid of these species, erroneous conclusions would likely result. For example, the block of habitat directly south of the 200 east and west areas contains high quality (Level III, see Figure 4-27) habitats and is some of the Hanford Site's best sage sparrow and loggerhead

shrike habitat. Since the Site has never been surveyed for these species, they frequently do not show up on the map and many locations where they are most likely to occur. Thus, a casual map user might very well conclude that these areas are devoid of these species, when the opposite is most likely to be true.

Figure 4-18 contains several biological resource map areas that can not be substantiated by data and therefore appear to be technically indefensible. Most if not all of the great blue heron occurrence locations are in error. Technical data do not exist to support the "map" locations for several of the species depicted on the map. There are (in existence) data that could be used to create "improved" versions of these maps, but they appear to not have been used.

E-Mail Letter # RE-026

Ferns, Thomas W
From: Sharon K Cody [sharoncody@juno.com]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 1999 12:54 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford

Dear Mr Ferns---

Please PROTECT the ecologically significant lands at Hanford. The Hanford site is one of the last places in eastern Washington that supports large areas native shrub-steppe vegitation and related wildlife.

Also, SUPPORT the PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE, but with the following modifications:

1. Manage the adjoining DOE lands as a permanent NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:
   a. the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve
   b. the McGee Ranch
   c. DOE's entire Wahluke Slope
   d. the Hanford Reach
   e. the Columbia River Islands

   This will provide a large, continuous crescent of protected habitat lands surrounding central Hanford.

2. To ensure the long-term protection for key native species and systems located across the Site, including Central Hanford, the should be NO agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing permitted.

To expeditie a final decision on management of uncontaminated lands, DOE should issue separate decisions for the areas mentioned above (I. a.-e.).

Thank you for your support of the above matters.

Sincerely---Jack and Sharon Cody

4107 35th Avenue Court N.W.

Gig Harbor, WA. 98335-8261

E-Mail Letter # RE-627

Ferns, Thomas W.

From: Larry Hampson [lhampson@ieway.com]
Sent: Monday, June 07, 1999 12:25 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov
Subject: Hanford

I just want to add my support for preservation of the Hanford area. The Reach, the Slope, the Mcgee ranch, ALES, riverlands area all ned to be in the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Larry Hampson & Laura Ackerman
This message uses 100% recycled
electrons

E-Mail Letter # RE-028

June 7, 1999

Keith Klein, Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
MSIN A7-50
Richland, WA 99352

Re: Comments on Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Land Use Plan

Dear Mr. Klein:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Hanford Remedial Action EIS and Land Use Plan. The Benton County Public Utility District strongly supports the local governments' option described as Alternative 3 in DOE/EIS-0222D. The District also supports the DOE Preferred Alternative.

Of particular interest to the District is maintaining the availability of the area east of Route 240 to the Columbia River and north of the Energy Northwest (formally Supply System) site to the City of Richland's northern boundary for Research and Development and Industrial use. We agree that a reasonable buffer zone along the shoreline of the Columbia River for the protection of fish and wildlife critical habitat is appropriate.

Thank you for considering these comments.

James W. Sanders
General Manager

CC: Mr. Thomas W. Ferns/DOE-RL – MSIN HO-12
C. E. Revell/BPUD

E-Mail Letter # RE-628

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Bevis, Carl P [Carl.Bevis@PSS.Boeing.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 1999 9:04 AM
To: 'thomas_w_ferns@rl.gov'
Subject: Hanford - Please Preserve

Importance: High

Dear Mr. Ferns,

I am writing a quick note to show support for placing the Wahluke Slope in a designation as National Wildlife Refuge.

As an international business person and sportsman, I believe as a nation and state we should take this opportunity to preserve this unique region. Many other parts of this nation and the world have been unnecessarily opened to "development" with truly irreversible consequences. Arguments range from fish spawning habitat to native plant preservation. Let alone areas for sporting activities.

In this region of the state agriculture is the dominate feature and as practiced, is not supportive of wildlife and the associated plant communities.

Therefore, I would like to urge you and your colleagues to protect and preserve the Hanford region by supporting the DOE Preferred Alternative.

Best Regards,

Carl P. Bevis, PE
Customer Engineering - Account Manager
M/C 69-92 - NEW
Phone: 425-234-7626 - NEW
Fax: 425-237-1985 - NEW
pager: 206-645-2689
eMail: carl.p.bevis@boeing.com

E-Mail Letter # RE-030

Ferns, Thomas W

From: Fred Raab [raab_f@ligo-wa.caltech.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 1999 10:35 PM
To: thomas_w_ferns@RL.gov
Cc: barish@ligo.caltech.edu; vcook@nsf.gov; sanders@ligo.caltech.edu; jasnow@ligo.caltech.edu; otto@ligo.caltech.edu; Robert.C.Pool@JPL.NASA.Gov
Subject: comment on DOE/EIS-0222D

Dear Mr. Ferns,

Attached are electronic copies of my comments on the revised draft of DOE/EIS-0222D (eis_comments.pdf) along with the memo on land uses and potential impacts on LIGO (landmemo.pdf), which is mentioned in my comments.

I have sent you e-mail and voice-mail on 6/7/99 requesting an extension of the period for comment. After repeated attempts to make comment, I was able to speak with Paul Dunnegan and Liz Williams, who informed me of your absence and the importance of getting this to you in a timely manner. This electronic version should be available to you upon your return. I will also post a hardcopy of these comments. Although Ms. Williams assures me that she is prepared to convert the electronic documents, please let me know if any difficulties arise or if I can help clarify any matter pertaining to them.

Respectfully,
Fred Raab

Fred Raab
LIGO Hanford Observatory
P. O. Box 1970; MS S9-02
Richland, WA 99352

phone: 509-372-8125

FAX: 509-372-

eis_comments.PDF

landmemo.PDF

8137

LIGO HANFORD OBSERVATORY

P. O. Box 1970; Mail Stop S9-02, Richland, Washington 99352
Telephone: 509-372-8106
Fax 509-372-8137

Date: June 15, 1999
Refer to: LIGO-L990188-00-W

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

Dear Mr. Ferns:

The LIGO Laboratory is pleased to provide these comments to the U.S. Department of Energy in response to the revised draft report DOE/EIS-0222D, entitled "Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land-Use Plan." These comments regard proposed land-use designations for the land on which LIGO is located and adjacent lands. These are part of a large land area in the category "All Other Areas." The LIGO Laboratory is concerned that this plan does not adequately represent the extreme sensitivity of the LIGO facilities to noise and vibration created by other activities on the Hanford site, even though such activities may be at large distances from the Observatory. The Laboratory is particularly concerned that several of the proposed planning alternatives indicate that mining activities would be allowable uses for land adjacent to the LIGO site without a discussion of the nature and physical extent of potential impacts on LIGO operations. It is proposed that language in the draft be changed to more accurately reflect the extreme sensitivity of LIGO to noise and vibration created by activities at great distances and that clarifying information on the nature and extent of this sensitivity be included in appendices to the plan. Good communications between NSF and DOE will be essential in managing land use at Hanford over the lifetime of the proposed land use plan. In furtherance of this goal, one effective mechanism is for NSF to become a cooperating agency in completion of the plan and in procedures to advise on and approve future special permits affecting land use.

LIGO Hanford Observatory is a state-of-the-art scientific facility, operated for the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), that is part of an emerging international network of gravitational-wave detectors. LIGO represents the largest investment ever made by the NSF in major research equipment. LIGO uses high-precision laser beams to detect the extremely small motions of mirrors caused by gravitational waves created in deep space. Seismic noise (i.e., natural vibrations of the earth) and noise induced by man-made vibrations can hide or mimic the effect of a gravitational wave. Successful detection of the gravitational waves requires that the Hanford Observatory work in unison with its sister facility in Livingston, Louisiana. Thus, a significant increase in the levels of seismic noise and vibration at either of the LIGO observatories could render all of LIGO inoperable for gravitational-wave observations for as long as these increased levels of vibration persist. For this reason, the observatories were located in places with exceptionally low levels of

seismic noise and vibration. Following the evaluation of 18 proposed LIGO sites throughout the continental United States, the Hanford site was chosen for LIGO in a national competition, based in part on the low levels of seismic noise and vibration known to exist at this site and the likelihood that these levels would remain low in the foreseeable future.

The LIGO Laboratory prepared a memo (LIGO-L960853) detailing the sensitivity of LIGO to seismic effects of various land uses. This memo was made available at the LIGO Hanford Observatory office to provide guidance to planning agencies that request such information. It is encouraging that information concerning the sensitivity of LIGO to vibration has been included in the current draft plan. The revised draft also addresses impacts of activities such as mining in other regards. These are positive developments. The LIGO Laboratory remains concerned that a lack of detail in presentation of this information may mislead readers in the future to underestimate the potential for an activity, like mining, to render LIGO inoperable. For example, reasonable proposers of an activity might assume that operation of mining equipment at a distance of a mile would not seriously impact LIGO when, in fact, such activities at distances of 10 to 25 miles could significantly disrupt LIGO operations. Significant expenditures of money and schedule might thus be spent on planning for a proposed activity with little guidance from the DOE plan that a severe conflict may be expected.

The LIGO Laboratory proposes that the memo (LIGO-L960853) be appended to the final DOE report and that references to this appendix appear wherever there is discussion of locating Conservation zones that include mining adjacent to LIGO (including in the Tables). It is proposed to modify the sentence in Section ES5.5.1 "Cumulative Impacts to Land Use," in paragraph 4, "Operation of LIGO conflicts with Conservation mining designations because of the facility's sensitivity to vibrations." A sentence that more accurately describes the extent of conflict is, "Operation of LIGO conflicts with Conservation mining designations because of the facility's sensitivity to vibrations, even when the source of those vibrations is many miles distant from LIGO facilities."

It is important that the DOE land use plan be written as clearly as possible to minimize dependence many years hence on the memories of individuals who participated in the preparation of the document. Also the nature of conflicting activities can significantly change over the long time span envisioned by this plan. Finally, vibration is only one of a number of possible mechanisms by which adjacent land uses could conflict with LIGO operations. NSF's representation on the Site Planning Advisory Board would allow NSF to play a positive role in articulating its concerns while also providing helpful guidance on potential mitigation measures to those who might propose conflicting activities in future.

Respectfully,

Frederick J. Raab

Frederick J. Raab, Ph.D.
Head, LIGO Hanford Observatory

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CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) Project

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Refer to: LIGO-L960853-01-M
Date: December 2, 1996

Subject: Information on the seismic effects of various land uses.

This letter summarizes information about possible impacts on the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) caused by activities on the surrounding land. The discussion below highlights criteria concerning man-made sources of vibration that were among the criteria used to choose the Hanford site over other proposed sites in the continental United States.

The LIGO Observatory in Hanford, Washington is a state-of-the-art facility, operated for the U. S. National Science Foundation, that is part of an emerging international network of gravitational-wave detectors. LIGO uses high-precision laser beams to detect the extremely small motions of mirrors caused by gravitational waves created in deep space. Seismic noise (i.e., natural vibrations of the earth) and noise induced by man-made vibrations can hide or mimic the effect of a gravitational wave. Successful detection of the gravitational waves requires that the Hanford Observatory work in unison with its sister facility in Livingston, Louisiana. Thus, a significant increase in the levels of seismic noise and vibration at either of the LIGO observatories could render all of LIGO inoperable for gravitational-wave observations for as long as these increased levels of vibration persist. For this reason, the observatories were located in places with exceptionally low levels of seismic noise and vibration. Following the evaluation of 18 proposed LIGO sites throughout the continental United States, the Hanford site was chosen for LIGO in a national competition, based in part on the low levels of seismic noise and vibration known to exist at this site and the likelihood that these levels would remain low in the foreseeable future.

The site-evaluation committee rated each site according to criteria that reflected LIGO's needs. To evaluate sites on the basis of man-made sources of vibration, an international set of guidelines[1] developed for seismic observatories was used. The guidelines list recommended minimum distances to the nearest source of man-made vibration due to different categories of sources. These recommendations were used to obtain "preferred" and "acceptable" minimum distances to these sources. The sites were then graded according to these criteria. Sample criteria, useful for land-planning purposes are listed below:

1. Reciprocating power-plant machinery, rock crushers and heavy machinery should be located at least 10 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 25 miles.

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1. Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice, P. L. Gilmore, ed., World Data Center A for Solid Earth Geophysics, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Data and Information Service, Boulder, CO, 80303; Table 2.1.

2. Railways that operate frequently should be at least 6 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 12 miles.

3. Non-reciprocating power-plant machinery and balanced industrial machinery should be located at least 4 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 10 miles.

4. Vehicular traffic should be located at least 0.6 miles from the site, with a preferred distance of at least 3 miles.

Using these criteria, the only serious seismic noise disturbance identified at the Hanford site was vehicular traffic. The Hanford site was given an acceptable rating because the potential disruption due to traffic would be confined to morning and evening rush hours. This was considered to be the only negative vibration-related impact at the site. With assurances from the United States Department of Energy that no significant development was likely within this zone[2], the Hanford site was given a high rating. In selecting the Hanford site for LIGO, the National Science Foundation recognized the anticipated conditions at the site.

We have recently received a final report concerning vibration measurements done for the LIGO site by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Part of the mission of these measurements was to identify possible impacts on observatory operations caused by man-made vibration. The data obtained from this study confirm that the site-evaluation criteria for man-made vibration sources are applicable to the Hanford site.

The effect of traffic was determined with the help of video surveillance equipment and seismometers. Traffic on Route 10 past the LIGO site was observed to cause increased noise at the corner station of the observatory complex. We can say with certainty that large increases in traffic on this road would be disruptive to operations, especially if the weight of vehicles should increase significantly (as would happen if truck traffic increased on this road) or if the quality of the road surface were significantly degraded. We were less sensitive to traffic on Route 240 and Route 4 South, because they were farther from the observatory complex. However, large increases in truck traffic or degradation of the surfaces of these roads could also have negative impacts.

Measurements were also done during a time when there was construction activity near the site. By moving the seismometers we were able to identify how vibrations from construction equipment would lessen with distance away from the site. We found that vibrations from such activities within approximately 8 to 9 miles of the site could cause significant disruptions for as long as such activity persisted.

Similar activities can be expected to be similarly disruptive unless they are situated sufficiently far away. Practical examples of extremely disruptive operations, similar to category (1) above, would be gravel or basalt mining operations, metal-stamping mills and any kind of construction activity that involved backhoes, bulldozers, heavy digging machinery, etc. Continuous operations of this type would render LIGO inoperable if they were located too closely. The equipment in nuclear reactors at Hanford would likely fall into category (3), as would many modern facilities such as biotechnology or semiconductor fabrication plants. Metal or plastics manufacturing using low-impact methods (i.e., no stamping operations) should also fit into this category. The

2. Option to Site A: Laser Interferometer Gravitatinal-Wave Observatory (LIGO), U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, March 1, 1991; Section 3.7

operation of facilities like this within the category (3) range would not be deleterious to LIGO, but construction work on these facilities might cause severe disruption. Mechanized farming operations should be in category (4), with activities that disturb the ground (such as plowing) likely to be more disruptive than use of harvesting equipment. With these guidelines, LIGO should be able to respond to any inquiry and to evaluate proposed uses and to identify adverse impacts on LIGO operations.

fjr:bb

cc:
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07 Hanford Public Meeting

08 State Office Building

09 800 NE Oregon Street

10 Portland, Oregon

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15 May 18, 1999

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1 May 18, 1999

2 Hanford Public Meeting
State Office Building
3 800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, Oregon 97801-0223
4

STEVE SAUTER: We'd like to get started, if we
5 could. Give a minute for the folks who are in the
6 lobby to come in.

7 My name is Steve Sauter. I'm a Hanford project
8 specialist for the Oregon Office of Energy, and on
9 behalf of Governor Kitzhaber, our office, and the
10 Oregon Hanford Waste Board, I'd like to extend a
11 welcome to you at this meeting we are having here
12 tonight.

13 A lot of the people ask us Oregonians why we
14 are involved with things such as Hanford, which is
15 north of the Columbia River away from our state;
16 and we are always quick to respond that that river,
17 which is the lifeline of the Pacific Northwest,
18 runs through the Hanford site, and then is the
19 northern border for our state for nearly 300 miles.

20 We are deeply interested in maintaining the
21 river and maintaining the life style, the
22 environment, and the health of Oregonians and their
23 economy; and thereby, we are extremely interested
24 in what goes on at the Hanford site.

25 Tonight they will be talking about the revised

1 draft, Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact
2 Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is
3 another piece of the puzzle of putting Hanford back
4 to nearly the way it was 50 years ago, not quite --
5 It never will be that way -- but getting it to a
6 point where we can use it for the things that we
7 want to here in the Pacific Northwest.
8 So again, we welcome you here and hope you have
9 an opportunity to provide good input to the U.S.
10 Department of Energy; and, as I always do, I would
11 ask that our presenters really limit the use of
12 acronyms tonight. A lot of us are not familiar
13 with what they stand for, so we would encourage you
14 not to use those. So with that, I'll turn it over
15 to Tom.
16 TOM FERNS: My name is Tom Ferns. I'm with
17 the Department of Energy, and I am the National
18 Environmental Policy Act document manager for this
19 Environmental Impact Statement. We have revised
20 this draft in response to public comment on the
21 original draft that came out in 1996.
22 The revised draft that we are going to look at
23 tonight and the one we'd really like to get public
24 comment on contains new alternatives for the land
25 use of the Hanford site. It drops most of the

1 Environmental Restoration Program that was a part
2 of the original AIS, and it contains a whole bunch
3 of new players that we picked up in corporate
4 agencies.
5 Corporate agencies that we did pick up were:
6 The Department of the Interior, represented by the
7 US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of
8 Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, the
9 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
10 Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribal Nation, and the
11 City of Richland.
12 Grant County, Franklin County, Benton County,
13 and Adams County is also represented in part of
14 that. I think that's all, but what we did was we
15 got together for about a year and a half after the
16 original draft and heard from the public who said,
17 "No, this isn't good enough." We came up with
18 these alternatives that you see here tonight, and
19 we'd really like to have your comment on them.
20 What we will end up doing is we will take
21 either one of these alternatives over here
22 (indicating), either the DOE's Preferred
23 Alternative or we will have Alternative No. 1,
24 which is a Natural Resource Trustee type of an
25 alternative that is also really a DOE and US Fish

1 and Wildlife Service. There's a big wildlife
2 refuge on that that only the Fish and Wildlife
3 service can actually implement.
4 Alternative No. 2, which is the Nez Perce;
5 Alternative No. 3, which is local government, which
6 was County.
7 Phil Niece is here, and I really apologize Phil
8 for making your map so small tonight. We'll fix
9 that.
10 And then, Alternative No. 4 is the Confederated
11 Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The
12 No-Act Alternative is required by National
13 Environmental Policy Act for any Environmental
14 Impact Statement that we want to do. That's also
15 DOE's.
16 Barbara Williamson is here from the Department
17 and she will be the moderator, and she will
18 essentially say what the time is.
19 Any remarks, Barbara?
20 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Yes. As the moderator, we
21 have a list of folks who want to say some comments,
22 and we're going to ask that you keep your comments
23 to about ten minutes. If you do that, we ought to
24 be able to get through everybody.
25 Earlier this evening we had a question/answer

1 period around the maps around the Alternatives, and
2 we hope that you have had your questions
3 answered -- You've formulated some thoughts, and
4 you'd like to give them to us. If you don't want
5 to do an oral comment, it is possible to do a
6 written comment on a form that's back at the
7 registration desk. You can write it and mail it
8 in. It just folds over with a piece of tape or you
9 can leave it here. If you want to write and leave
10 it right in your lap or something, leave it until
11 the end of the meeting and hand it in. Other than
12 that, you know the registration table is Liz
13 Williams working; she can help you out.
14 We have Dave Geck here from Fish and Wildlife
15 here; we have Phil Niece -- I remembered the Niece
16 part of it -- Phil is here to have some comments,
17 as well. I've noticed that quite a few other
18 folks -- the Sierra Club, Audubon Society -- We
19 have the Physicians for Social Responsibility, the
20 Planning League; and with that I think we'll get
21 started. I will try, if you look like you are
22 running on, to give you a high sign to say, "Let's
23 stop it" and move on. Let's start with Bruce
24 Frazier.
25 RTP001 BRUCE FRAZIER: Thank you. My name is Bruce

1 Frazier and I'm a resident of Portland. I want to
2 express my appreciation to the State of Oregon
3 Office of Energy and the Federal Department of
4 Energy for having this meeting here in Portland and
5 allowing us Oregonians a chance to comment on these
6 land use proposals.
7 I must also say it's -- I feel like I've been
8 here before, because one the first meetings I
9 attended, coming to Portland about three years ago,
10 was held at the Red Lion Inn; and it was a
11 discussion of land use planning, and I think that
12 may have led to some of these Alternatives here.
13 I personally feel that the Alternative One, as
14 proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is
15 the best proposal that I have seen. I believe that
16 there's a tremendous amount of evidence that the
17 natural resource values of the Hanford Reservation
18 are really paramount, and I think that's been
19 expressed by everybody from Mr. Richardson, the
20 Secretary of the Department, on down.
21 In the face of the listings of the number of
22 species that use the Hanford Reach, the Columbia
23 River, I feel that the natural resource values
24 there are especially important, and I feel that
25 Hanford does need time to remediate the effects of

1 the 'cold war' use, and the disturbance of that
2 area would need generations to restore it to
3 anything resembling the pre-World War II landscape.
4 I also feel that there are problems when we are
5 talking about locating industrial and economic uses
6 within the reservation, because I feel that is in
7 conflict with the cleanup. I think many of us who
8 have been concerned with cleanup issues at Hanford
9 would like to see that accomplished first; and we
10 want to be sure that all of the technical problems,
11 all the political problems, and all the economic
12 problems associated with clean-up have been solved
13 before we begin making decisions on future land
14 uses; and locating economic and industrial uses in
15 the heart of the Hanford Reservation really puts
16 that at risk.
17 I noticed that in some of the Alternatives,
18 commercial and other uses were cited along or near
19 the river and I think it's well-known and
20 documented that there are ground water and basaltic
21 (phonetic) problems in those areas. Again, that
22 impacts the cleanup, and I think that the whole
23 area presents an opportunity -- a unique
24 opportunity to preserve open space, to preserve
25 water quality, and to maximize on the investment

1 that the United States Government and the People of
2 the United States are making at the present time in
3 cleaning this area up.
4 I don't think we'll have another area that
5 presents quite the same natural resource values,
6 same open space values, or the same heritage values
7 as this area does; and it's already in Federal
8 ownership. So I'm very, very much in favor of
9 Alternative No. 1, the Natural Resource Trustee,
10 but I would also like to add that I feel -- I know
11 it's necessary that consultation be had with the
12 Tribes with regard to the use of this area; and I
13 would hope that the Department of Energy can
14 accommodate them in spirit, as well as, in letter.
15 These lands were primordially associated with
16 the native peoples of this country, and they were
17 shunted aside by direct actions of our Federal
18 Government, and I think reconciliation has to take
19 place there, and I think that, to the greatest
20 extent possible, the Tribal hunting, gathering,
21 ceremonial, and heritage uses of these areas have
22 to be expanded and they have to be maintained. I
23 believe that's only justice, and if that's what
24 most of us who are citizens of the United States
25 feel that this country is about, then I think that

1 that has to be recognized in the planning process
2 here.
3 I also feel that the people of the United
4 States have made a huge investment -- an enormous
5 investment in this area and are, at present, making
6 a huge and enormous investment; and I think that
7 national values, national concerns, and regional
8 concerns are paramount here, not local concerns.
9 I, as a taxpayer and citizen of the United
10 States, would be very concerned if the billions and
11 billions and billions of dollars that have been and
12 will be spent in cleaning up Hanford adhere only to
13 the benefit or to even a significant benefit to a
14 small group of local and county-wide agencies and
15 groups.
16 I think this is and national site. I think it
17 has national value. I think it has a national
18 aspect, and, as Mr. Sauter pointed out, it really
19 is of importance to the entire region; and I think
20 that it can be best preserved by keeping it as a
21 national/regional site for the pleasure and use of
22 all of it's citizens, including the special rights
23 of the Native Americans; and for that reason again,
24 I reiterate that I support Alternative One. Thank
25 you.

1 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Next we'll
2 have Dick Belsey, Physicians for Social
3 Responsibility.
4 RTP002 DICK BELSEY: I'm Dick Belsey, member of
5 Physicians for Social Responsibility and have been
6 on -- working on Hanford issues from an activist
7 point of view for about 15 years when they were
8 still going over the fences and doing civil
9 disobedience there.
10 A lot of things have changed along the way; a
11 lot of things remain the same. Ted, Tom, your work
12 is cut out ahead of you. You've got six mutually
13 exclusive things that go in different directions,
14 and trying to get that to work with the principals
15 to come to agreement on that, you should live
16 another millennium, and it might give you the
17 chance to do that.
18 I want to also thank of the Department of Energy
19 for coming and presenting this opportunity for
20 Oregonians to participate in the decision making
21 process. The landmark work that this developed
22 from was looking at the site, now nearly a decade
23 ago, and saying, "This is a valuable resource,
24 too," and we have to, not only dirty it up in order
25 to make heavy industrial products, like plutonium,

1 but we also have to look to the future; and the
2 future of the Northwest will depend on the river
3 and the cleanliness of that river, and the pristine
4 quality that people expect in things going into the
5 food chain and into the food line and in the
6 environment.
7 So I don't know how you're going to come to
8 that -- that kind of juncture. First, I think that
9 you should be open to taking, as the draft says,
10 take bits and pieces to barter back and forth in
11 order to allow the real people to reach an
12 agreement; and our surrogates are here tonight, and
13 Bruce does a really well thought out statement that
14 I wish that I could conjure something so eloquent
15 from myself.
16 But the thing that the people of the northwest
17 and Oregon are looking for is something that will
18 be a positive value for the health, but at the same
19 time, taking care of the health and safety issues;
20 that from my perspective, the greener it gets, the
21 better it gets, and the one in the middle on the
22 bottom row looks more like anything that I would
23 prefer. I think the Tribes have done a good thing
24 for the process by bringing the other Alternatives
25 in and making very clear that they have a long hold

1 attachment to the land and that they intend to try
2 to access it -- to access land.
3 The Hanford Advisory Board has said, "protect the
4 river, protect the river banks." I don't see
5 anything here which distinguishes between the
6 banks, the mile and a quarter in from the river,
7 and, as such, there are in the Preferred
8 Alternative.
9 In fact, there are intrusions on the river bank
10 as it comes into the current Hanford site. Those
11 should be mitigated and that -- Perhaps the vision
12 of having a full protected area all the way from
13 just north of Richland back to Bernita Bridge
14 should be protected if at all possible. So I hope
15 you have a long, healthy life, and that we come to
16 closure on some of these issues. I expect that
17 you'll be back again sometime in the future.
18 Thanks.
19 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Dick.
20 Paige Knight.
21 RTP003 PAIGE KNIGHT: Okay. I'm Paige Knight. I'm
22 the president of Hanford Watch, here in town, and
23 actually the comments I'm making tonight are on
24 behalf of myself, and also on behalf of Robin Kline
25 of Hanford Action of Oregon. She and I spent quite

1 a bit of time in 1996 forging some comments
2 together that we took to the Hanford Advisory Board
3 that were very much appreciated, and I remember at
4 that time going to some of the hearings on this
5 land use planning, the previous document, the
6 precursor to the one we are seeing here tonight and
7 left there with a great deal of fear in my heart;
8 because it looked like all out land wars to me the
9 way people were feeling.
10 There is not that kind of fervor right now. I
11 think that cleanup has consumed the minds of the
12 people in a lot of ways, and we have another issue
13 that I think is a little more hot than the land use
14 planning right now, but it's certainly going to
15 come back to this and that's the FFTF issue, and
16 I'm going to address those things in my brief
17 comments tonight.
18 I also want to compliment you, Tom, for this
19 much better document than the one we saw last time
20 and the maps are awful pretty.
21 The things that are the framework for our
22 comments tonight have to do, really, with cleanup.
23 We're in a process right now in the history of
24 Hanford of fighting and struggling for clean-up
25 dollars to clean up a site that if not cleaned up

1 will poison the Columbia River beyond belief.
2 We all know here that the Columbia River is the
3 lifeblood of our region. If we lose the river, we
4 lose everything. We lose our economy. We lose our
5 health. We lose our children, and we leave one
6 terrible, terrible mess for our future generations;
7 and that is first and foremost in our minds at
8 Hanford Watch.
9 Clean-up at the site, including the stopping of
10 migration of all contaminants, must be prevented to
11 the fullest extent possible. That is one of our
12 over-arching boundaries or frameworks for advice.
13 Sufficient funding must be designated for clean-up
14 and for development of advanced waste retrieval,
15 storage, and treatment technologies.
16 Hanford has been hurting for technologies. We
17 are the only site in the country that has waste in
18 tanks and has absolutely no way of retrieving those
19 wastes, no way of treating them; and we have 177
20 tanks with 54 million gallons of probably the worst
21 radioactive waste in the world, and we don't know
22 what to do with them.
23 Right now there is a -- We're in the process of
24 getting the British Nuclear Fuel Company to set up
25 a putrefaction process, and that's going to be a

1 long time out, and the Congress is not funding this
2 to the level needed. One of the things I hope some
3 of you take back with you tonight is, get on
4 Congress. Every phone call to your Congress or
5 congressional representatives makes a huge
6 difference.
7 A pristine site must be strived for as the
8 ultimate goal in order to protect future
9 generations. Now, I differ with the Tribes here a
10 little bit, or at least how I interpret the Tribes,
11 sometimes. Sometimes, I think that they feel this
12 site can go back to pristine; that it will not be a
13 sacrifice zone, and I have my days of doubts, and I
14 have my days of hope; but we have to strive for
15 pristine.
16 We are never going to go back to real pristine,
17 because we have so much fall-out around the world
18 from the whole nuclear debacle. The land use
19 planning must not be used as a justification for
20 lowering cleanup standards and risk standards. The
21 end use of the land must not drive cleanup.
22 In, I think it's this Alternative No. 3, let's
23 see; they don't have the titles up there. Anyhow,
24 in some of them, Hanford is being looked at for a
25 lot of industrial development; and that is

1 something that the counties really want. They are
2 struggling themselves. The counties and all of the
3 local governments are struggling to continue to
4 have the livelihood that they've always had;
5 hopefully without being on the government role
6 someday. I know that that's what they have been
7 wanting for years from the different comments that
8 they have made on the Hanford Advisory Board.
9 But just because we might use some of Hanford for
10 industrial cleanup or industrial sites, we can't
11 say, "Oh, I'm done. The risk is a little lower."
12 You know, we cannot afford to do that, because
13 anytime we lower the risk up at Hanford my feeling
14 is we just have that much more going to the river;
15 that many more contaminants going to the river over
16 time, and that's the heritage you will leave your
17 grandchildren and your future generations.
18 In the Preferred Alternative No. 1, multiple uses
19 of Hanford should not include future missions that
20 create more waste streams that add to the impact of
21 contaminants already seeping into the ground water
22 in the Columbia River; and that divert cleanup
23 dollars from cleanup missions. That is an
24 over-arching value that we hold down here in
25 Portland: That you must not let any lesser cleanup

1 in any of these alternatives say that we don't have
2 to clean up all the way. We don't have to give the
3 dollars to cleanup. We can't let Congress continue
4 to defer the costs that they owe us from their days
5 of plutonium making.
6 All land use plans must support and preserve
7 natural and cultural resources, as well as,
8 traditional and sacred Tribal uses of the land, and
9 that's Alternative -- referring to Alternatives
10 Nos. 2 and 4. Respecting the Tribes rights, as
11 Bruce eloquently put it earlier, that they were the
12 original people here and they have those rights.
13 I heard it said once at a Hanford Advisory
14 Board meeting, and I'll never forget this comment,
15 it really went to the quick for me, and it was said
16 in front of everybody, including the Tribes. As my
17 kids at school would say, "Boy, that was a major
18 dis", a real disrespect, and that was that the
19 Indians and the cowboys fought and the cowboys won.
20 That doesn't mean anything in this day and age,
21 and it cannot mean anything if we are going to
22 leave this region in a good place for our future
23 generations, and it can't mean anything if we are
24 going to create a peaceful world, and all this has
25 to do with peace in a world community.

1 Greater emphasis should be placed on cleanup
2 rather than on barriers, that's caps and covers,
3 and that's one of the myriad of plans to clean up
4 some of the multitude of sites at Hanford; to put
5 caps and covers on; and we should be emphasizing
6 cleanup, not capping and covering and walking
7 around. In some instances, people are looking at
8 fencing the place and walking off. We can't do
9 that. We cannot let that happen here in the
10 Pacific Northwest.
11 Institutional controls for the most contaminated
12 areas, and that really is the central plateau,
13 which is this gray area where the tanks reside,
14 where the plutonium finishing plant is -- Where
15 some of the most contaminated sites are.
16 Institutional controls for most contaminated areas
17 must be planned for thousands of years. What
18 thousands of years -- and most of these plans are
19 looking ahead to 50 and a hundred.
20 Now, that's pretty long-term for politicians
21 these days. Most politicians, in my book, look
22 ahead to a year, maybe five years, max. We have to
23 look ahead to at least a 1,000, and that doesn't
24 even begin to cover the half-lives of some of the
25 contaminants of this site, which will multiply

1 beyond belief as they break down into their
2 products and whatnot.
3 In the 1992 Future Site Uses Report, the result
4 of broad citizen support and consensus building, it
5 does not support a scenario that would limit
6 cleanup level suitable for industrial and
7 recreational use, and I think there that's high, or
8 what do they call it in the document? Intense
9 recreational use?
10 You know Hanford is beautiful. Every time I go
11 up on a tour there I am just overwhelmed more and
12 more by the beauty of that land, and, also, by the
13 starkness of the big buildings that made such
14 lethal materials. We have to -- We have to clean
15 that up, and we cannot afford to have high impact
16 until it's cleaned up, and even possibly after it's
17 cleaned up; with heavy-duty recreational use.
18 Both Dick and Bruce have pointed out that too
19 many incredible species, both of plants and
20 animals, reside up there, oddly enough, due to the
21 50 years of plutonium making. The public is
22 demanding cleanup of Hanford. Goals and priorities
23 must be those that safeguard the health and safety
24 of the environment, the citizens, and the economy
25 of the Pacific Northwest.

1 So this Land Use Plan must protect us, and that's
2 every aspect of our lives from now until eternity
3 in my book. Thank you.
4 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Katherine Ransel, American
5 Rivers.
6 RTP004 KATHERINE RANSEL: I want to thank the
7 Department of Energy for having this series of
8 hearings to discuss this very important issue and
9 State of Oregon for letting us use their facilities
10 tonight.
11 American Rivers is a National Conservation
12 Organization, and we have a Northwest Office in
13 Seattle, and in 1998, pursuant to an announcement
14 that we make every year, we named the Hanford Reach
15 the most endangered river in the United States;
16 that was due to the fact that certain folks, a
17 minority albeit, are interested in turning much of
18 the north slope lines into irrigated agriculture.
19 Anybody that's ever been out there knows what a
20 folly that is; and even the Bureau of Reclamation
21 has said in no uncertain terms that most of these
22 lands should never be farmed.
23 It's for that reason that we are here tonight,
24 to make sure that that doesn't happen, if we have
25 anything to say about it. I'm very moved by the

1 statements that proceeded mine, by the knowledge
2 and the passion of these folks, and I don't pretend
3 to have that sort of in-depth knowledge; but
4 American Rivers and it's thousands of members
5 across the country recognize this place as one of
6 national significance.
7 We've been in the fight for many years now to
8 reverse the decline of salmon in the Northwest, and
9 anybody that knows anything about this area knows
10 that it is the absolute core of recovery for salmon
11 in this region; and that to allow these fragile
12 lands on the north slope to be developed in any
13 way, again, would be purest folly.
14 So we would support the greatest amount of
15 protection possible.
16 In looking at your alternatives, that looks
17 like the Nez Perce Alternative, without the high
18 intensity recreation, that we see there right near
19 the river; but at the very, very, very least, our
20 membership across the nation supports the Preferred
21 Alternative put forth by the Department, with
22 certain additions and amendments.
23 First of all, we would urge you to designate
24 all the public land from Waluke slope, the Hanford
25 Reach, its islands, the Mcgee ranch, and the Arid

1 Lands Ecology Reserve as part of a National
2 Wildlife Refuge. That sum: 176,000 total acres.
3 We would also encourage you to amend your
4 Preferred Alternatives to eliminate any grazing on
5 the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and we would also
6 ask you to amend your alternative to restrict all
7 mining operations to tnose essential to completing
8 cleanup and remediation on the Hanford Reservation,
9 and probably the most important thing for us in
10 terms of process amendment to the current proposal
11 put forth by the Department is that you issue a
12 separate Record of Decision for all the areas that
13 I mentioned above, because these areas are prime
14 fish and wildlife habitat, and they are admittedly
15 uncontaminated by any Hanford operations, and they
16 should not have to wait for protection, which is so
17 critical now until the complex decisions involving
18 cleanup in the central Hanford area are made.
19 Thank you for this opportunity.
20 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: We have Jeff Fryer, Sierra
21 Club.
22 RTP005 JEFF FRYER: Thank you for the opportunity to
23 testify here. I kind of wear several hats here.
24 I'm the Chair of the local group of the Sierra
25 Club. I've also worked for the Columbia River

1 Inner-Tribal Fish Commission, and of the four
2 Tribes I represent, two of them have plans here;
3 but I think I want to speak as a fishery biologist
4 who has the honor and the privilege, I guess it is,
5 of spending two weeks on the Hanford Reach every
6 year as part of one of our Research Projects, and
7 in an area that I most enjoy going to.
8 I guess I come and look at these plans as if I
9 wanted to save the Hanford Reach and protect the
10 area. The first thing I'd do is make sure the
11 Waluke slope was protected -- the White Bluffs.
12 There's been tremendous damage downstream from
13 irrigation. They seem to be pretty well protected
14 by Alternatives One, Two, and Four, and protect the
15 right, as well as, the Preferred Alternative; also
16 protect the clearing area.
17 I have some questions about some of the
18 proposals. The high intensity recreation worries
19 me. I don't necessarily mind seeing perhaps a
20 campground somewhere on this site, but golf
21 courses? Resorts? Do we really need another golf
22 course out in the desert? Where's the water going
23 to come from? We are trying to save the Columbia
24 River salmon and we keep pulling more and more
25 water out of the river.

1 Also, I think there is too much industrial land
2 in the Preferred Plan. I would prefer to see less;
3 more along the lines of One, Two, and Four. And
4 the grazing, I don't see the need for that. One of
5 the things I love about the Hanford Reach is the
6 amount of wildlife you see, especially around dark;
7 and I'd much rather see the wildlife than the cows
8 in the area, not to mention some of the problems of
9 contamination. I think you'd rule out cows to
10 begin with, and limit mining to what is necessary
11 for clean up.
12 I'd like to see more land protected in
13 protected areas, particularly the wildlife refuge
14 as proposed in Alternative One. Anyway, just
15 looking at the area, I would like to see something
16 that would protect it. Last week I drove from
17 Portland up to Wenatchee, and the whole area except
18 for the drive through the Hanford Reach -- I was
19 actually out in the Hanford Reach last year -- The
20 whole area was all dammed.
21 We left 50 miles of river, less than 50 miles
22 for fish, and the orchards and farms follow
23 straight from practically the time you leave
24 Bernita Bridge, now, all the way up to the
25 Okunawkin. If you can, I think we can afford to

1 leave 45 or 50 miles for the fish and for the
2 salmon.
3 I find Hanford a fascinating place, but I also
4 would like to see some of the historical aspects of
5 it leave, to some extent anyway. We spoke earlier
6 about the starkness. Just driving along Hanford or
7 running out on the river and seeing all those --
8 each of those old nuclear reactors and trying to
9 imagine what the place must once have been. You
10 see four-lane highways and not a car around it. I
11 would like to see a little bit of that preserved,
12 as well, but I think the main thing would be to
13 preserve the area for fish and wildlife.
14 So thank you for the opportunity to testify.
15 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Next we have Lupito Flores
16 from Save The Reach/Lower Columbia Audubon.
17 RTP006 LUPITO FLORES: Hi. My name is Lupito Flores.
18 I work with the Save The Reach, which is a campaign
19 of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. We
20 have about 1,800 members nationwide, and some of
21 our members have been working to protect the Reach
22 since the 60s, and we'd like to thank the
23 Department of Energy for this opportunity and
24 commend you for your efforts to protect the Hanford
25 Reach ecosystem.

1 We support the Preferred Alternative but would
2 like to see additional protections for Hanford's
3 undisturbed and remarkable lands. We urge you to
4 include the following areas in your proposal for
5 National Wildlife Refuge. All the public lands in
6 the Waluke slope, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve,
7 the Mcgee ranch, the Riverlands Area, and the
8 entire Hanford Reach environs.
9 But does that in protection provide the much
10 needed continuous crescent of undisturbed natural
11 habitat surrounding central Hanford? This would
12 protect an unbroken migration corridor for fish and
13 wildlife and connect essential habitat on Hanford
14 with adjacent areas, such as the Yakima Firing
15 Range; and going along with that, we request that
16 the DOE issue a separate and immediate Record of
17 Decision for these lands. They are uncontaminated
18 and unrelated to the complex issues of cleanup on
19 central Hanford and should be protected now; and
20 like other testimony, we strongly oppose farming of
21 the north slope.
22 One thing that wasn't mentioned is, if
23 irrigated farming was to take place on the north
24 slope, this would be the first time in history that
25 a wildlife refuge would be sacrificed for

1 agriculture. We also urge the Department to
2 prohibit grazing and commercial mining throughout
3 the Hanford Reach ecosystem; and we urge DOE to
4 limit all recreation on the Reach to low intensity
5 improvements.
6 And, once again, I would just like to say,
7 "Thank you for all your work and the opportunity to
8 testify." Thanks.
9 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Michael Dean.
10 RTP007 MICHAEL DEAN: Hi. My name's Michael Dean.
11 I'm a resident of Portland. I'm also a Sierra Club
12 member and member of the High Desert Committee of
13 the Sierra Club but I'm here speaking for myself.
14 I visited the reservation just this last weekend.
15 It was really the first time I have had a chance to
16 really go through it -- was given a tour of the ALE
17 area south of the highway, the southern end of the
18 Reserve and really came to appreciate it even more
19 so than I had before.
20 So, what I am here to do tonight is to urge the
21 Department of Energy -- Federal Government to help
22 us treasure and protect our treasures. I strongly
23 oppose any privatization that would be represented,
24 particularly by plan Three, the County's plan;
25 destructive uses in general. Privatization of the

1 Reserve by use or by privatization, and any
2 significant de-evolution of the exceptional values
3 represented by this, essentially from ridge line to
4 far ridge -- line that represents this entire large
5 basin.
6 The qualities of treasures I speak of are
7 really that it is a complete ecosystem. The
8 cryptogamic soil is unlike any like I have seen in
9 my extensive travels throughout the great basin.
10 It is thick, which if you go to places where cattle
11 have been removed, you'll start to see it
12 recovering, but it's nowhere near an inch thick and
13 very solid soils you see there. It just doesn't
14 exist elsewhere in the region, in the entire great
15 basin. The native vegetation that exists in this
16 place really doesn't exist -- certainly not in the
17 expanse -- the vast expanse that this reservation
18 has allowed.
19 The quality of solitude, again, is something
20 that is unique, while there are industrial plants
21 in the area, they're sort of this oddity. They're
22 quiet, first of all, they're not operating, so
23 unlike a mine, say, in Nevada where there's this
24 oppressive noise that you can't drown out, these
25 things are just silent testaments to our -- the

1 folly of our past.

2 It's not basically spoiled because of the

3 presence, either, because of the distance that you

4 are up in the highlands of the mountains or the

5 woodsy slope on the far side, these things are a

6 great distance, and they are a relatively small

7 portion of the horizon.

8 I prefer, myself, Alternative Two. The

9 preservation of all areas and in all means. They

10 are not now consumed by nukes or the clean up of

11 our nukes. Basically, in a word, preservation of

12 the entire basin.

13 The Preferred Alternative and contrast, and

14 even more so the Alternative Three and others,

15 really they allow -- to the extent they allow any

16 activity within the basin, tends to be highly

17 destructive to the lands: That is mining, there is

18 no real reason for or extreme economic basis for

19 it; grazing, which would be extremely destructive

20 to this land; and the high density proposals; you

21 know, a golf course? Come on.

22 In addition to the extent any of these

23 activities would be allowed, then management of

24 this area would be biased towards protection of

25 those uses, not of the basic area itself. If we

1 run cattle, are we going to have fire suppression?
2 Yes. We have a golf course. We may not have
3 immediate fire suppression but to the facilities
4 that go along with it, we will have exactly that.
5 Further, any such use -- Grazing, mining, or
6 certainly high density recreation, as it is called,
7 this is going to fragment the reservation. Any
8 sort of activity like that is going to have that
9 effect, not only visually but, more importantly, on
10 wildlife and the animal wildlife that is out there.
11 There is a herd -- and I believe they're elk --
12 There's 700 of them out there. I saw about half a
13 dozen this weekend. What's going to happen if you
14 run cattle out there? There are fences, what's
15 that going to do to them? We have extensive
16 experience with what managing for cattle grazing --
17 both on BLM land, Forest Service land, and even on
18 the National Fish and Wildlife -- wildlife refuge,
19 what it does, it isn't good.
20 Further, the Preferred Alternative, as it's
21 called, fails to protect the entire Reach Area,
22 including the islands, which I think are really
23 key, as the speakers have said, to salmon and the
24 integrity of the Reach itself.
25 Some key facts in my observation, just

1 knowledge of lands such as this, very arid lands,
2 low density visits are crucial. Managing this so
3 that people can visit, but visit in such way that
4 their use -- their trail -- my -- Where I walk
5 isn't the same place that the person ahead of me is
6 walking, being the same place the person behind me
7 has walked. That will destroy slowly,
8 progressively, areas around any place that we
9 concentrate use, and, therefore, I'd urge that we
10 not, rather than concentrate use, but diffuse use
11 to multiple areas.
12 In some fashion, you will need to have camping,
13 not resorts, but camping, just primitive camping
14 areas, somewhere within the area. Not necessarily
15 within the Reserve, but the facilities that are in
16 the area right now will be swamped to the extent
17 that this gets more active public use, and to the
18 extent that it's even thought of, "no all-RV's"
19 anywhere on the reservation. That would be
20 extremely destructive. Thank you.
21 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Paul Ketcham, from Audubon
22 Society of Portland.
23 RTP008 PAUL KETCHAM: Thank you. My name is Paul
24 Ketcham, and I'm the Conservation Director for the
25 Audubon Society of Portland. We have approximately

1 7,000 members in the Portland metropolitan area and
2 in Oregon and in States around the country; and we
3 want to make it very clear tonight that we support
4 a maximum protection of the Hanford Reach area.
5 I would like to thank the Department of Energy
6 for holding this public hearing in Portland. It's
7 very important to have a hearing outside of the
8 State of Washington, and we compliment the
9 Department for doing that, and also for going back
10 and redoing the Environmental Impact Statement from
11 the prior version. We think that a lot of progress
12 has been made; and that there are some alternatives
13 before the public now that we think, with some
14 modifications, we could support.
15 First of all, the Hanford Reach is, in our
16 view, and I am speaking for our Society, a national
17 treasure. That there is, in our view, no
18 justification whatsoever for not extending maximum
19 protection to the Hanford Reach. Any kind of
20 resource use within the boundaries of these public
21 lands should be prohibited; and that would include
22 grazing, and any kind of extracted mining, other
23 than that which is needed, perhaps, for remediation
24 but under strict standards and guidelines.
25 One look at the lands surrounding the Hanford

1 Reach, the aerial photograph here in the room, is
2 an incredibly telling story of the extent of
3 manipulation of the landscape that white settlers
4 have brought to the State of Washington and to the
5 Northwest in the last 150 years, 200 years.
6 The Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing
7 section of the Columbia River in the continental
8 United States, and if that doesn't say something in
9 and of itself, then the person probably who thinks
10 that's not an important statement really needs to
11 think it through.
12 We have more endangered listing salmon than we
13 have ever had in the history of this country. Just
14 recently, the Steelhead and the Chinook were added
15 to the long and growing list of troubled species of
16 salmon in the Columbia River basin. Every high
17 quality habitat area needs to have maximum
18 protection and that would be the Columbia. The
19 Hanford Reach would be the best example of that.
20 Let's look at the variety of wildlife that
21 inhabits this area. We have 44 species of fish, 40
22 species of mammals, 238 species of birds, 15
23 species of reptiles and amphibians, 600 species of
24 insects, not to mention that approximately 16 of
25 these birds are listed or candidate species of the

1 Endangered Species Act, either the State or the
2 Federal Act, the western state trout, which
3 inhabits this area was just petitioned for coverage
4 under the Federal Endangered Species Act a couple
5 of days ago.
6 To make -- Just to cut short, this is an oasis.
7 This Hanford Reach is an oasis of habitat for all
8 of these species, many of which are struggling for
9 their survival, and there is really no
10 justification in light of the evidence today,
11 scientific evidence, why the Hanford Reach should
12 not be given maximum protection.
13 In that context, with regard to the Preferred
14 Alternative, we believe that the Preferred
15 Alternative has some redeeming features. It
16 certainly has come a long way from the 1996 version
17 of the EIS, however, we think that the Preferred
18 Alternative should go further than what it does.
19 We have looked at the Alternative No., I believe
20 it's the Alternative No. 2, which is the tribal --
21 the Nez Perce Tribe -- Yes, and we would support
22 that alternative without the high intensity
23 recreation orange blob along the river; not knowing
24 exactly what would go in there, but the definition
25 of high intensity recreation allows uses which we

1 think are incompatible with the natural values of
2 that, of the Hanford site.
3 With regard to the Preferred Alternative, I
4 believe we would be very supportive of the
5 additional protections that are being recommended
6 to you by the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
7 in their testimony to you tonight. I won't go over
8 those things again, but, just to reiterate, north
9 slope needs maximum protection, should not -- No
10 agricultural use should be allowed on the north
11 slope.
12 The islands should be protected for obvious
13 reasons and all the wet ones. There should be no
14 grazing on Hanford site, and I think that's where
15 we depart from the Preferred Alternative, but there
16 should be greater restrictions on mining while on
17 the Hanford site, and I don't believe that's in the
18 Preferred Alternative; and I agree with prior
19 speakers that we should go ahead and bifurcate the
20 Record Decision process on this EIS. Issue a rod
21 for the areas that do not suffer from
22 contamination; and that can be protected right now,
23 implement that protection right now, and then
24 remaining rod would be reserved for those areas
25 where there needs to be additional study and/or a

1 time taken to look at dealing with the
2 contamination cleanup.
3 In closing, I would just say that we want to go
4 on record opposing Alternative Three. We think
5 that is a counter-productive alternative in light
6 of the realities of modern time. We do not need
7 agricultural use in this area. That will only
8 serve to slide salmon further to extinction, and we
9 think that, for obvious reasons, should not be
10 done.
11 Anyway, thank you very much for the opportunity
12 to speak.
13 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Next, we have Lynn Sims.
14 RTP009 LYNN SIMS: First, I'd like to read a statement
15 that was given to me by the Women's International
16 League for Peace and Freedom by Barbara Degrow and
17 Mary Rose from here in Portland.
18 "The members of the Portland branch of WILPF
19 look forward to the time when the majority of the
20 land of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation can be
21 returned to a productive and clean state. We are
22 concerned that so much is being invested in
23 speculating on future uses, while cleanup continues
24 to be under-funded and deadlines are being extended
25 well into the next century. We wonder if we will

be still alive by the time the proposed plans are possible.

WILPF insists that thorough comprehensive cleanup of all contamination be pursued promptly and with the funding necessary to return the land to its natural use as soon as possible. Our priorities for the too distant future of Hanford land would include returning it to its natural state, restoring the flora, fauna, and geology, and water to its former state and preserving the area to best serve the culture and traditions of the Native Americans who first inhabited the area.

Monitoring the contaminated areas 50 years into the future will most likely be well past our lifetime. Plans must be made to protect the health and safety of those generations which follow. For thousands of years the remaining waste continues to threaten life. We demand that the promise of cleanup be fulfilled promptly." From Mary Rose and Barbara Degrow, the WILPF co-chairs.

RTP010 Then I'd like to make a little comment. My name is Lynn Sims. This is just my own personal comment on this. First of all, I want to thank the Department of Energy for coming to Portland and having a meeting and for letting us talk with you

about this profound and very important issue. Gee, I hardly know where to begin.

I think, first of all, we're happy that the public can be involved in this. Sort of like some days late and it's always many dollars short; and I want to thank everybody that worked so hard to try to remediate all the horrible mistakes that we made knowingly: Dumping all of this stuff right onto the land and putting it into tanks that we knew wouldn't last and putting cleanup off and letting it get worse. It's just terrible. Thank you very much.

It's kind of nice to see a map like this. It's all nice and green and it's great. Hanford is the largest and a very severely radioactive and chemical waste site; the largest in the western hemisphere. We don't see on there any of the corroding fuel rods and the plumes that are going out into the river and the tanks that are leaking and the oozy stuff that's coming out. It's real nice that we can try to envision something and decide that this is what we are going to do, and we're going to pick which plan that we want to have.

I'm hoping that if we pick a nice clear plan,

1 whichever one it turns out to be, that we can
2 fulfill the wishes, I think that Mr. Watkins put
3 forward; that he hoped that Hanford would be the
4 flagship for the world's clean up of radioactive
5 waste, because we have so much of it there, and we
6 have such an opportunity to clean it up.
7 When I see a plan like this, I'm a little bit
8 confused at the public point of view, whether -- Is
9 it our land use that's going to guide our cleanup,
10 or is it funding that's going to guide our cleanup
11 or is our moral attitude and the best science that
12 we possibly can gather going to govern our cleanup?
13 For not only now, for the next 50 years, but
14 already for this stuff that we've dumped on there
15 that we know is lethal for like 20,000 years and
16 beyond, into some infinity, what's our obligation
17 to clean this up?
18 Certainly this is a better plan than some
19 Senators have than just putting a barbed-wire fence
20 around it and just letting it sit there for the
21 next 100 years until whatever happens next; we
22 won't have to worry about it. What I'm worried
23 about in all of this is this little gray part right
24 in there (indicating).
25 While we're planning and building whatever we

1 are going to build, and if you have a golf course,
2 and if you have a research center where you have a
3 farm, if we don't clean up the ground water beta
4 zone (phonetic), if we don't take a look at what's
5 under there and do it, you know, face the music, no
6 matter what we do, eventually, it's all going to
7 leak out there; and it's going to contaminate our
8 very well-laid plans.
9 And this is where I wonder, how come we aren't
10 looking at the heart of the thing? At what's
11 seeping out of there in the ground water beta zone?
12 And how come did the Columbia River Comprehensive
13 Impact Statement, where we were going to tie in
14 everything from all over this site, how one part
15 impacted another part? It makes me feel like we
16 are going a little backwards, because here this
17 says that this Impact Statement used to be the
18 future land use plan. Future land use is now this
19 focus because we narrowed the scope, and we put all
20 the remedial action into the tri-party agreement.
21 Like we are still separating piecemeal, one group
22 is working on this, and we're still not addressing
23 the whole and the holistic effort that we need to
24 take to address these serious problems.
25 In closing, I hope that we'll be able to, in

1 whichever way that we use the land this time; that
2 we will respect the land, all of the land, no
3 matter what it's used for -- Clean it up as well as
4 we can for the sake of all the people who will live
5 beyond us and respect the land, and the people of
6 the future generations better than we have until
7 now.
8 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: We have Gretchen Starke,
9 Vancouver Audubon.
10 RTP011 GRETCHEN STARKE: My name is Gretchen Starke.
11 I'm Conservation Chair of Vancouver Audubon
12 Society. I live in Washington State. I appreciate
13 the opportunity to come here and be able to
14 testify. The Tri-Cities' area is a bit far for me
15 to go to. We think the best use of much of the
16 Hanford site is as a wildlife refuge, because the
17 Hanford Reach area had been protected for 50 years.
18 It has been spared the development that has
19 occurred all over the west. As a result, the
20 Hanford Reach area is one of the very few examples
21 of scrub step habitat left. In fact, because of
22 it's size, of this particular habitat, this area is
23 truly unique.
24 Many native species make their home here; and
25 many of the animals here find it difficult to

1 co-exist with heavy human activity, which is why so
2 many of them are becoming scarce, and as Paul
3 Ketcham pointed out, there are some listed
4 endangered species here, as well.
5 The plant community is particularly special. I
6 understand that at least two new plants have been
7 discovered here at the Hanford Reach -- new to
8 science.
9 I must say a special word about the fall
10 Chinook salmon. I've worked with fisheries also
11 but for quite a different agency. Nothing must be
12 done to disturb this last free-flowing Reach of the
13 Hanford area, last mainstay spawning on the
14 Columbia for the fall Chinook. The Hanford Reach
15 population of fall Chinook is healthy now, and we
16 need to keep it that way.
17 It must be protected to the fullest. Any
18 intensive human -- Any intensive human activity is
19 incompatible with the natural values that exist
20 now. I'm excluding the central area that has been
21 the focus of the 50 years activity, of course.
22 Whichever alternative is chosen there should be no
23 mining, absolutely no mining. No grazing. No high
24 density recreation. Under no circumstances should
25 there be any of the land, this land which belongs

1 to the people of the United States of America, be
2 turned over to a small group of farmers for their
3 own profit or gain.
4 As for the local control of Federal Property,
5 why? That is really absurd. Stop and think about
6 it. Arizona shouldn't run the Grand Canyon
7 National Park. New York City shouldn't be in
8 charge of the Statue of Liberty, and the local
9 counties here should not run the Hanford Reach. It
10 is Federal land and should remain so. There should
11 be room, of course, for the activities of the
12 Tribes and for their usual accustomed ceremonial
13 activities and traditional activities.
14 Here could also be passive recreation. I
15 personally feel that most of it should be confined
16 to the river, and at a time of year when the salmon
17 are not spawning. It should be disturbed as little
18 as possible. Possibly the Agencies could conduct
19 guided hikes at select times. I'd love to see the
20 place myself.
21 We totally oppose Alternative Three as a
22 Federal give-away that would just spoil any of the
23 last of this natural ecosystem of scrub step
24 habitat, but for all these reasons, we tend to
25 support Alternative One, the Fish and Wildlife

1 Conservation Alternative with the necessary
2 modifications to accommodate the needs of the
3 Tribes.
4 Either Two or Four would be acceptable, but
5 there's too much of this development in this
6 Preferred Alternative for me to be comfortable.
7 Should these things be modified and greater
8 protection be given, as some of the previous
9 speakers have indicated we could accept this at
10 all; but under no circumstances should Alternative
11 Three even be considered. Thank you very much.
12 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Our last speaker on the
13 list tonight is Jim Baker from Sierra Club.
14 RTP012 JIM BAKER: Surely, you have been experiencing
15 a very long day. I know I'm closing out my 13th
16 hour on the job today, so I will try to be
17 mercifully brief. I thank you for this opportunity
18 to testify on behalf of the 550,000 members of the
19 Sierra Club, coast to coast, and the 30,000 members
20 we have here in the Pacific Northwest.
21 For the record, my name is Jim Baker. I serve
22 as Northwest Salmon Campaign Coordinator for the
23 Club. I live and work in Pullman, Washington.
24 The Hanford Reach salmon are the last healthy,
25 sufficiently abundant wild run of fish left in the

1 Columbia basin. They are sufficiently abundant
2 that they can be harvested annually. Therefore,
3 these fish are our last line of defense against
4 violation of numerous Federal Laws and Treaties,
5 both International and with the American Indian
6 Tribes of the basin.
7 Therefore we are gratified that the Department
8 of Energy is doing it's part to protect the Hanford
9 Reach, protect the Columbia River from silt and
10 polluted run-off, by this proposal from the
11 Department and the Preferred Alternative. We
12 enthusiastically support the Preferred Alternative.
13 We would respectfully urge you to consider some
14 changes in that Preferred Alternative.
15 First, we would urge you to add all of the
16 Federal Lands on the Wahluke Slope for protection,
17 the entirety of the Hanford Reach and it's islands,
18 the Mcgee ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology
19 Reserve. There should be no grazing in the Hanford
20 Reservation.
21 One of the main reasons why the reservation
22 offers outstanding natural values, particularly
23 outstanding as world class examples of the arid
24 step ecology there, is that there has been no
25 grazing of livestock on the reservation during this

1 critical second half of the Twentieth Century.
2 Similarly, we would urge you to restrict mining
3 to the absolute minimum, prohibit development for
4 any intensive recreation, and, finally, we would
5 urge you to act immediately to protect these
6 outstanding natural lands and the river.
7 If it requires a Separate Record of Decision,
8 we would urge you to consider doing that at the
9 earliest possible date. Thank you again.
10 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Good. We have someone
11 else. Okay. Greg DeBruler.
12 RTP013 GREG DEBRULER: Tonight -- My name is Greg
13 DeBruler. Usually, it's always that, but I usually
14 speak on behalf of Columbia River United as a
15 technical assistant or consultant. Tonight I'm
16 just going to speak as myself, as a citizen living
17 in the Columbia River Gorge, and someone who has
18 worked on Hanford cleanup ten with very little
19 results.
20 When I look at the Preferred Alternative, I say
21 to myself, "How can you have a Preferred
22 Alternative that actually allows lands to be used
23 for, at various uses, when you don't understand the
24 magnitude of contamination and how the
25 contamination's going to be dealt with in the

1 future and cleaned up?" So, real simple, how are
2 you going to protect future users of it from undo
3 exposure?
4 One the past speakers talked about the
5 Comprehensive Columbia River Impact Assessment.
6 The Comprehensive Columbia River Impact Assessment,
7 which I happen to be the chair of the team now, has
8 always insisted that we need to first look at the
9 big picture holistically, at the magnitude of
10 impacts or contaminants at the Hanford site and map
11 those and understand the magnitude of impacts
12 before we proceed down the road of making something
13 useful for something else.
14 When I think of Alternative Three, I personally
15 get kind of nauseated. If you think of Alternative
16 Three and you think of the Waluke slope and you
17 think of the sluffing that's going on and you think
18 of the white bluffs, just add a bunch of irrigation
19 up there and watch the white bluffs sluff off into
20 the Columbia River and back up the Columbia River
21 and potentially dam the Columbia River, so that the
22 hundred areas are flooded with the Columbia River.
23 Can you imagine backing the River up to where
24 it's flooded? To where the water rushes inland,
25 and then floods the hundred areas, releasing even

1 more contaminants? It's a disaster waiting to
2 happen. I think Alternative Three is totally
3 unnecessary.
4 I have to say that Alternative Two makes the
5 most sense. Why does it make the most sense?
6 Well, one, it's what the Tribes would like. I
7 would say that the Nez Perce, I understand -- Is
8 that correct? That's their Preferred Alternative?
9 I understand that the Yakimas would like some
10 inland fishing sites. I would suggest that that be
11 added to the Tribes Alternative if they feel that
12 that is necessary.
13 But if you look at the land in the holistic
14 aspect and think of treaties and the responsibility
15 that we have, the land should be preserved, should
16 be kept intact, and the Tribes should have the
17 right to practice their usual custom practices on
18 that land.
19 When we talked about the -- Somebody mentioned
20 the cryptogamic soils that should be protected. I
21 would say I should agree with that, also.
22 Going back to the organizational structure in
23 figure -- In the chapter 6, something was pointed
24 out to me today that kind of alarmed me, and I
25 guess it's a good way to get around the politics

1 of, if you once have chosen a Preferred
2 Alternative, let's say Alternative One, then how do
3 you kind of suddenly twist the control back into
4 the local control? Well, if you look at the
5 organizational structure for the CLEP, the Site
6 Planning Advisory Board, which is on page 6-9, --
7 has affected tribal governments: US Bureau of Land
8 Management, US Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and
9 Wildlife. Then you have: Benton County, Franklin
10 County, Grant County, Adams County, and the City of
11 Richland. Well, immediately, if you add up the
12 weight of that, you see exactly what's going to
13 happen.
14 You can see clearly that the Counties -- along
15 with the City, along with BLM, maybe, and maybe
16 Reclamation -- will decide what they think is best.
17 The Tribes won't have an equal vote and they'll
18 just get pushed over. So if the Site Planning
19 Board goes forward, I would suggest that the
20 County, Counties, plural, have one seat caucus
21 amongst themselves, which they always do. I would
22 suggest that the cities have one seat caucus
23 amongst themselves, which they always do; and that
24 the tribes have equal seats for each tribe, because
25 they're each separate, sovereign nations; and I

1 think that's one inherent problem with the current
2 proposal that's there.
3 I strongly recommend preservation, and I hope
4 that the Department of Energy will hear what we are
5 talking about when we want the land preserved
6 intact; but, hopefully, the Department of Energy
7 will understand that when they finally do perform
8 the Comprehensive Columbia River Impact Assessment,
9 it will help them make better decisions in the
10 future, and it will help them determine what -- If
11 there is any land out there that could be used for
12 what. Right now, we don't understand the magnitude
13 of impact. We really need to have a comprehensive
14 Columbia River Impact Assessment done of the whole
15 site to understand what the future will hold in
16 store. I thank you for this time to comment.
17 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Is there anybody else?
18 Good. Dirk Dunning.
19 RTP014 DIRK DUNNING: Thank you. I'm Dirk Dunning.
20 D-i-r-k D-u-n-n-i-n-g, and I have a tendency to
21 talk way too fast. You give me the high sign if I
22 do.
23 I'm speaking solely on behalf of myself
24 tonight -- not in any way in relation to my day
25 job. However, because of some of the sensitivities

there, I'm going to stay away from most of the land use planning and related things, but there's some specific things that I did want to say.

In the past six years I've had a chance to see a lot things on the Hanford site, and there is incredibly valuable stuff there. I was tremendously impressed with the presentation talking about the cryptogamic soils and all of the other plant species and animal species present. Until you actually get out and really onto the Hanford site, it's really hard to appreciate what's there. Like you, I see the same thing. The soil is unlike anything I've seen anywhere else. It just is unique and it needs preservation.

Exactly what that means, I don't know. I don't pretend to know. Also, in the center of the site there are some other things and given the things that I have done during the day, it's one that concerned me. In the center of the site there's some tremendously valuable high shrub-steppe habitat that is in danger right now of being destroyed faster than it can be replaced.

As the cleanup goes forward, there are a lot of areas that are currently being utilized, things like the Environmental Restoration Disposal

1 Facility that have gone right into the best
2 habitat. Where that can create a real problem is,
3 I'm afraid that we may be faced in the next 15
4 years with the potential between fires in the
5 various activities of man there on the site doing
6 clean up.
7 With decisions about whether or not to do
8 cleanup and the choice being one of, if we do
9 cleanup, we have to choose to have species go
10 extinct; That the habitat that they depend on
11 would have to be destroyed. That's not necessary.
12 If we plan today, we can avoid that.
13 In the early years and continuing to today, the
14 Natural Resource Trustee Council on the Hanford
15 site has tried to work to develop a system whereby
16 the Department of Energy and other agencies try to
17 repair habitat and improve habitat in several areas
18 on the site in order to, in advance, make up for
19 some of this damage so that these species are not
20 put in jeopardy. I think it's critically important
21 that kind of thing happen.
22 I think, also, one of the things that I see on
23 the drawings that does concern me is, going back to
24 the days of the future site uses working group,
25 people looked at the 200 areas as being one common

1 thing across the central plateau, and on all of the
2 maps it shows that way, as one solid gray block.
3 The reality is, it's two 200 areas. The area in
4 between is, for the most part, undamaged, and a lot
5 of that should be treated separately. It should be
6 treated as unique, and particularly because of the
7 shrub-steppe habitat that is there.
8 I think, for the most part, those are the
9 biggest areas that concern me, but along with those
10 go the companion issues of, if land uses are
11 allowed bordering the site which cause movement of
12 water, these can have huge impacts on transport of
13 the hazardous and dangerous materials and the
14 radioactive materials onto the site; and so, it's
15 critically important that those not be allowed at
16 any time in the future to cause those kinds of
17 impacts. Thank you.
18 BARBARA WILLIAMSON: Anybody else? Well, last
19 call. Well, I guess we'll do some concluding
20 comments. Tom?
21 TOM SAUTER: I'd like to thank everybody for
22 coming out here tonight and showing up and giving
23 us your comments. The comment period will run
24 until the 7th of June, and we have some forms in
25 the back. If you want to, you can get them back

1 there. You will want to mail them in, because
2 we'll, most likely, not be back down this way. Our
3 next public meeting will be in Richland on the
4 20th, and we have a public meeting that we've
5 scheduled in Madalaw (sic) that's on the 2nd, then
6 we have one in Spokane on the 3rd. Thank you for
7 coming in tonight, and, like I said, if you have
8 more comments, take one of the mailers and give
9 them to us before the 7th. Be sure to get them in.
10 Thanks.
11 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:30 P.M.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Diana L. Sweeney, a Court Reporter and Notary Public for Oregon, do hereby certify that, at the time and place mentioned in the deposition herein; that the Hanford public hearing, was taken down by me in stenotype and thereafter reduced to typewriting; and, that the foregoing transcript, Pages 1 to 54, both inclusive, constitutes a full, true and accurate record of said hearing, and of the whole thereof, to the best of my ability.

Witness my hand at Portland, Oregon, this 29th day of May, 1999.

Diana L. Sweeney
Shorthand Reporter for Oregon
Notary Public-Oregon
Commission No. 060789
Expires Jan. 9, 2001

Look-See Concordance Report

UNIQUE WORDS: 1,525
TOTAL OCCURRENCES: 4,012
NOISE WORDS: 385
TOTAL WORDS IN FILE: 10,854

SINGLE FILE CONCORDANCE

CASE INSENSITIVE

INCLUDES ALL TEXT OCCURRENCES

DATES OFF

IGNORES PURE NUMBERS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL ACTION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

May 20, 1999

7:00 p.m.

Shilo Inn

Richland, Washington

BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES
Certified Shorthand Reporters
P. O. Box 5999
Kennewick, Washington 99336
(509) 735-2400 - (800) 358-2345

1 MR. PIPER: Hello. Good evening.
2 I'm Lloyd Piper, the deputy manager for the
3 Richland Operations Office here, and I'm real
4 pleased to see this good turnout tonight. The
5 second time around in about 18 months on our land
6 use plan EIS.
7 We're looking forward to hearing what
8 you have to say tonight about the various
9 alternatives and actions that we may be taking as
10 we consider the input from our public hearings and
11 look at our overall plan and responses to that.
12 As you've seen in the early information
13 session, we have a number of alternatives that have
14 been inserted in the Draft EIS.
15 We have the Department's Preferred
16 Alternative and other alternatives provided by some
17 of the cooperating agencies and the tribal nations
18 associated with the planning effort that they have
19 joined us with over the last few months.
20 I want to encourage you, as you look at
21 this, if you have a Preferred Alternative, please
22 let us know. If you have alternatives that are
23 parts and pieces of one or the other, please let us
24 know. And I would also like to encourage you in
25 your comments and in your written responses, if you

have your preferred one, whatever variation that may be, that's important. I think it will also be helpful for us if you would tell us if any of the other alternatives are at least acceptable to you, because I think that will help us as we evaluate the comments for tonight's proceedings.

Again, thanks. We are looking forward to hearing what you have to say.

Tom Ferns, who is the document manager for the DOE on this EIS, is going to give us a few more comments.

MR. FERNS: I would just like to thank Lloyd for allowing us to do the revised draft and bringing all the cooperating agencies together, and I would also like to thank those here from the cooperating agencies for all of the time and effort they have put into this document.

We have Dan Landeen back here, he is with the Nez Perce. Hi, Dan.

We have Jay McKonahay here, who is really not a cooperating agency, put a lot of time on this EIS, Fish and Wildlife with the state.

We have Darren Arrasmith. Where is Darren? There he is. He's from Benton County. Put a lot of time and effort into this EIS.

We have Dave Geoke from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service over there.

Next to him is Jim Blanchard from Bureau of Reclamation.

A lot of people putting in a lot of time, and we're glad you're here. Also Matt was here from Grant County. Well, he was here.

Anyway, take a look at the EIS, take a look at the alternatives. Also look at Chapter 6, which are our implementation plans, because that's very important as to how this will actually be realized, one of these maps, whatever map we finally choose.

I'll start with that, and we'll open it for comments. This is Dale Jackson, our moderator.

MR. JACKSON: I would like to join in welcoming you all this evening.

My job here tonight is to make sure that each of you, as members of the public who have comments that want to be made, have an opportunity to do that.

The public agencies that are here tonight take very seriously their roles as public servants. We value the comments that members of the public make, the viewpoints and ideas that you

share with us in this process.

To make sure that each of you have an adequate opportunity to make comments tonight, I want to play by a few simple ground rules.

First of all, I have a list of persons that have expressed interest in making comment, and I'm going to call on those persons in turn. But I would like you to limit your time here to about 10 minutes tonight on the comments that you make.

Be comfortable. Feel free to speak your mind. And I'll give you a little bit of warning, at about eight minutes, so you know you are about to exhaust your time. But we do want to try to stick to that ground rule so that everyone has a chance to speak. Currently we have 12 people, and if everyone takes their ten minutes' time, that means a couple hours for everyone to make their presentations.

I would also like you to be a little bit conscious about limiting your comments to the particular issue that we're addressing here tonight. Again, in order to be fair to everyone, we want to limit the comments to the land use EIS that we're addressing.

I want to assure you that all comments

1 that we receive, whether they be oral or written,
2 are going to receive adequate consideration.
3 If you don't want to make an oral
4 comment here tonight, there are forms at the back
5 of the room that you can pick up at the desk, you
6 can make a written comment and mail it back to us
7 and we'll take your comment that way.
8 The comment period that we're engaged
9 in right now runs from April 23rd to June 7th,
10 1999. We have two more meetings after tonight.
11 One in Mattawa at the Wahluke High School on June
12 2nd, and another one in Spokane at the Ridpath
13 Hotel on June 3rd.
14 And the public hearings on both those
15 will begin at 7 p.m. There will be information
16 sessions in Mattawa and in Spokane. And those I
17 believe, Tom, are from 6 to 7 p.m. in each case?
18 MR. FERNS: Yes.
19 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Having said
20 all of that, I think the first person that I have
21 is Gene Weisskoph. Mr. Weisskoph?
22 MR. WEISSKOPH: Yes.
23 MR. JACKSON: We have two
24 microphones, and we would like all of you to either
25 use the microphone back here in the audience or you

1 can come up front if you like and use this one.
2 RTR001 MR. WEISSKOPH: I thank you for
3 letting me open, be the first one. I hope you feel
4 the same way afterwards.
5 I'm with the B Reactor Museum
6 Association. My name is Gene Weisskoph. I moved
7 here in 1995, expecting to find all sorts of
8 Hanford atomic history. You know, the place where
9 it all started. And instead I found virtually
10 nothing.
11 And I joined the B-Reactor Museum
12 Association soon after moving here, and because I
13 did that I've gotten inside the reactor a couple
14 times, I went through C-Reactor, I've talked to
15 people who worked there when it opened, and it's an
16 amazingly significant place, if I could be so
17 unpoetic as to say that.
18 And I've always been surprised that
19 Richland can be the atomic city that isn't
20 somehow. It seems to have faded into the past.
21 And as Hanford gets cleaned up and
22 taken care of, there's not going to be much left.
23 And our group is concerned with making sure that
24 B-Reactor, which is the world's first nuclear
25 reactor, and the very first one that started up at

1 Hanford, is preserved and some day made into a
2 museum that's open to the public.
3 And our interests in the land use is
4 somewhat limited in scope tonight.
5 I don't want to talk about all the
6 other things that might interest us. I'm trying to
7 limit it to the B-Reactor, which on several of the
8 maps shows up as a nice little orange dot up by the
9 river of high intensity recreation, and it shows it
10 as being a, quote, museum. And we're glad to see
11 that. We think that's great. We like the sound of
12 it. It's perfect. That's just what we're looking
13 for.
14 We tend right now to be more or less in
15 favor of the DOE preferred plan. Again, we're not
16 saying everything about it is good for everybody or
17 even for us. But we like the way they're treating
18 many aspects and those around the B-Reactor.
19 In terms of the plan, in what we might
20 want to see, the word museum can mean an awful
21 lot. It can mean a sign on the side of the road
22 that points over to the B-Reactor and says, that's
23 the world's first reactor, or it might mean a
24 reactor that's open all year around with visitor
25 facilities and all kinds of buildings around it to

1 serve as a real museum.
2 What we would like to do, if it's
3 appropriate, in our written comments, is to perhaps
4 expand on the scope of what that museum might be
5 like, and maybe it could be put into the document,
6 not as hard facts, but as one of those shaded boxes
7 that kind of says, this is what it might mean.
8 Because just saying it's a museum,
9 we're glad to hear it, but it doesn't quite tell
10 the whole story. And we don't want it being sort
11 of looked over because it's not explained well
12 enough to people, because most people in the world
13 don't know where the world's first nuclear reactor
14 was. They don't know there was a B-Reactor and
15 they don't know where it is. All they know is that
16 Hanford is an environmental cleanup site, and
17 that's the reputation it now has.
18 And we would like to see its history
19 during the Manhattan Project and the cold war made
20 available to the public so you're seeing maybe
21 school buses coming over from the west side and
22 finding out what went on over here all those years,
23 and as well, seeing the beautiful countryside, the
24 desert, the river, the geology, and there's lots of
25 stuff here.

We just want to make sure that the B-Reactor is preserved as part of the whole Hanford saga of the atomic era.

We have a table set up back here if anybody would like more information. We're here in Richland. And we will be presenting written comments. And I thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Weisskoph.

Our second commenter tonight is Lupito Flores.

RTR002 MR. FLORES: My name Lupito Flores. I am with Save the Reach. It is a committee of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. And we have about 1800 members nationwide.

And we would like to thank the Department for having this comment period. We're really encouraged by this EIS and the plans to designate a lot of the public lands as a national wildlife refuge.

For years, at least the last 10 or 20, the majority of the public, the Tribes and the scientific community, time after time have said that they want the Hanford Reach protected for fish

1 and wildlife. That message will never change. So
2 let's do it now.
3 We urge DOE to designate the following
4 areas as a national wildlife refuge. The entire
5 Wahluke Slope, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the
6 islands, the Riverlands area, the McGee Ranch, and
7 agriculture should not be allowed on the Wahluke
8 Slope or any of the public lands in the Hanford
9 ecosystem. The fragile white Bluffs of the slope
10 contain fossils of bison, camel and mastodon and
11 critical nesting habitat for birds. Irrigation
12 farming above the bluffs would cause them to
13 collapse and smother the last healthy spawning
14 habitat of wild salmon in the entire Columbia
15 Basin.
16 The Hanford ecosystem contains more
17 than 80 newly discovered rare plants and important
18 shrub-steppe habitat for hundreds of wildlife
19 species. These unique lands should not be grazed
20 or commercially mined either.
21 We have written comments that we will
22 be submitting in more detail. But we would just
23 like to thank the Department for going this far,
24 and we would like to see a lot of it protected.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
2 Flores.
3 Next we have Barry Jacobson.
4 RTR003 MR. JACOBSON: Barry Jacobson,
5 environment information network.
6 My comment is very brief. I don't
7 think that we as a nation, that we need any more
8 farm land. We have farms going broke in various
9 parts of the country. And I don't think we need
10 any more grazing land either, especially in very
11 dry areas. I think there isn't that much of the
12 natural desert land in Washington left. Most of
13 it's all in agriculture now. Thanks.
14 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
15 Jacobson.
16 Next we have Scott Woodward.
17 RTR004 MR. WOODWARD: Once again, thank
18 you for allowing us an opportunity for public
19 input. It's always encouraging when we get to have
20 a voice.
21 I would like to exemplify what my
22 colleagues have already said about our group, the
23 Reach, and how we feel about agricultural
24 developing of the surrounding area.
25 My comment is also very short. I am a

1 lifetime resident, and I have watched a prime
2 example go down the tubes. The Yakima River itself
3 is a prime example of the influence, uncontrolled
4 and unmonitored, of over-grazing and agricultural
5 runoff. We've watched this river change. We're
6 trying to make it come back. What we have here is
7 a prime opportunity to prevent that.
8 And I would just like to remind
9 everybody of your own back yard and what has
10 happened in the Yakima. And if we allow this
11 development, an agricultural development up here on
12 the slopes progress, and agricultural development
13 on the Reservation itself to progress, we're going
14 to have Phase II, and we're going to watch another
15 resource go down the tubes. Thank you.
16 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Next we
17 have Nat Ballou.
18 RTR005 MR. BALLOU: Thank you. We
19 appreciate this opportunity to provide our own
20 input to this important question. I have some
21 comments to make, and my wife and I will elaborate
22 on these in a written letter recommending our own
23 recommendations.
24 I would like to point out that the
25 natural and sensitive public lands in the Hanford

1 Nuclear Reservation are precious resources that
2 must be preserved for all persons in this region
3 and in the rest of the country.
4 We now have the opportunity of doing
5 that, and must not let the opportunity escape us.
6 We therefore strongly support the Department of
7 Energy's Preferred Alternative in the Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement and land use plan
9 for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.
10 In addition, we urge that all public
11 lands on the Wahluke Slope, the islands in the
12 Hanford Reach, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands
13 Ecology Reserve be included in the national
14 wildlife refuge. We also believe that there should
15 be no grazing or mining operations except those
16 essential to cleanup and remediation activities
17 permitted on the Hanford Reservation.
18 Protection of the Columbia River and
19 all of its resources are essential for the economic
20 and recreational well-being of the region. Such
21 protection requires establishment of the above
22 described national wildlife refuge.
23 The Department of Energy should
24 immediately issue a separate Record of Decision in
25 order to establish the national wildlife refuge.

1 This will permit timely protection of prime fish
2 and wildlife habitat uncontaminated by Hanford
3 Operations without having to wait until complex
4 decisions on cleanup in the central Hanford Area
5 are made.
6 We look forward with appreciation to
7 strong and meaningful protection of the unique and
8 valuable natural and sensitive lands in the Hanford
9 Reservation.
10 Thank you.
11 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Next is
12 Bob Wilson.
13 RTR006 MR. WILSON: You are doing a great
14 job here tonight, Dale.
15 My name is Bob Wilson. I'm with the
16 Columbia River Conservation League.
17 I want to thank the Department of
18 Energy for providing these opportunities for public
19 input on their Comprehensive Land Use Plan and
20 Remedial Action EIS. I have oral comments tonight,
21 and will be followed by written comments before the
22 comment period closes.
23 And in general, the Columbia River
24 Conservation League is pleased with the Preferred
25 Alternative as far as the desire to protect the

1 Wahluke Slope and the Hanford Reach. The Hanford
2 Reach is a wild and scenic river and the Wahluke
3 Slope is a natural wildlife area. We concur with
4 that.
5 However, there's more to be done. We
6 support the Preferred Alternative, with the
7 following amendments to it. We see that all the
8 lands within Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the
9 Wahluke Slope, Riverlands area, McGee Ranch, what
10 we call the big C, should be designated wildlife
11 refuge, and that designation should occur as soon
12 as possible.
13 The Record of Decision will be issued
14 separately from dealing with central Hanford.
15 The Hanford Reach again should be
16 designated as a recreational wild and scenic river
17 within the wild and scenic river system.
18 We suggest that the industrial use
19 areas be reconfigured to represent those in
20 Alternative One and Alternative Two, rather than
21 that in the Preferred Alternative, and the
22 exclusive industrial use area, the 200 Areas,
23 represent the areas represented in Alternative One
24 and Alternative Two also. That being the small
25 western extension of the 200 Areas brought back

in.

Recreational use. We recommend one high intensity recreation area be the B-Reactor as a museum. But we don't see the need for that recreation -- that high intensity recreation area to extend to the river area, to the river line area. The intact riparian area is invaluable.

We also, as far as recreation goes, we see only the need for one low intensity recreation area, that being an improved boat ramp in conjunction with the existing Vernita rest stop facilities on that south side of the river.

Again, we minimize damage to valuable riparian areas and archeological sites, while at the same time providing upgraded facilities for boaters and recreational use.

Other areas we see as conservation and mining areas, but with no grazing. Grazing serves to expand the spread of noxious weeds, and in their place, things like cheatgrass which actually increases wild fire danger, not reduce it.

And mining we say should be restricted to just those materials that are needed for Hanford cleanup operations. That is all.

Oh. One last thing I would like to

say, about the Wahluke Slope. Apparently a lot of people don't know this. But back in 1953 and 1958, and John Stank could probably help you out with this, because it was reported in your predecessor, The Villager, 192,000 acres that were restricted from use by the establishment of the Hanford Site were released in 1953 and '58. Those are in agricultural production. What's left is 90,000 acres.

We think that the last third of all that land should be preserved.

Thanks a lot. Appreciate the time.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Bob. You actually finished a little earlier. After that gracious comment, I was going to give you 15 minutes.

Next up here is Jim Timmons.

RTR007 MR. TIMMONS: Thanks for the opportunity. I don't have a lot of comments to make, other than that I support the Audubon Save the Reach alternative. That is actually a modified version of the Preferred Alternative that you have come up with.

I know that a lot of work's gone into this. The one thing that I think's difficult to

swallow on it is the amount of grazing that might possibly be allowed in the future.

I farmed near here, just off the Hanford Area, past N Reactor for a few miles. And used to see this all the time.

Grazing would typically result in several years of wild fires after that. Grazing is a very difficult thing. It is something that's been done for very many years. I know there are ways of doing it and ways of not doing it. But historically it has not been done very well and it has caused a lot of problems. And it is truly at odds with any sort of preservation things that we want to do.

So, good work, but let's keep grazing down. Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Timmons.

Next commenter, Victor Moore.

RTR008 MR. MOORE: I'm Victor Moore, speaking for myself and my wife Roberta. Deer Mr. Ferns. Can you all hear me?

Dear Mr. Ferns. We feel very strongly about the importance of protecting the Hanford Reach. Energy Secretary Richardson's recent

1 proposal to protect the entire Wahluke Slope as a
2 national wildlife refuge under the management of
3 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a welcomed
4 plan.
5 We come here tonight to give our
6 approval of DOE's Preferred Alternative, which
7 designates the vast majority of the Wahluke Slope
8 for preservation.
9 We would like to see amendments to the
10 revised draft of the Hanford Remedial Action
11 Environmental Impact Statement as follows.
12 One. Designate all public lands on the
13 Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the
14 McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a
15 national refuse, 176,000 acres, total acres.
16 Two. Oppose grazing on the Hanford
17 Nuclear Reservation.
18 Three. Support restricting all mining
19 operations to those essential to completing cleanup
20 and remediation on the Hanford Reservation.
21 Four. Issue a separate Record of
22 Decision, ROD, for all areas mentioned above.
23 These are prime fish and wildlife habitat.
24 Uncontaminated by Hanford Operations and should not
25 have to wait for protection until the complex

1 decisions involving cleanup in the central Hanford
2 Area are made.
3 Thank you for having this hearing
4 tonight. Respectfully, Victor and Roberta Moore.
5 I will give a copy to you.
6 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr.
7 Moore.
8 Next commenter is Bill Kuhn.
9 RTR009 MR. KUHN: I'm Bill Kuhn. I have
10 lived in Richland for about 25 years. I anticipate
11 that as you take testimony across the state, you
12 are going to have a lot of people talking to you
13 about local control as a matter of principle. And
14 so I wanted to speak briefly about local control.
15 In our nation local control over our
16 affairs is a cherished concept, especially in
17 largely rural areas such as Eastern Washington.
18 Proposing local control will win at least some
19 support to almost any political cause. That
20 clearly is not always for the best.
21 For example, if we had never invoked
22 zoning laws in our communities, arguing instead
23 that the decision should be left to property owners
24 so we could exercise local control, then no parks
25 and not any geography making the community a

1 desirable place to live, would have swung magically
2 from the ensuing free for all.
3 But at the national level, the same
4 philosophy would have resulted in no national
5 parks, wilderness areas, forests, seashores,
6 prairies, monuments or wildlife refuges.
7 They can only result from a decision by
8 the society as a whole that some self-control is
9 needed for the good of us all. But society is not
10 a thing. It's a myriad of individuals. With
11 self-control at that level inevitably means some
12 individuals do not get what they want. Such denial
13 is not an act of malice or insensitivity. It's
14 doing what's best for all of us based, in this
15 case, on where undeveloped land remains.
16 A space shuttle's view of Eastern
17 Washington is instructive. The Hanford Site stands
18 out as almost the nonmountainous, non-scabland
19 terrain not already transformed by agriculture.
20 You can see part of that in the poster
21 over there. If you saw all of that for all of
22 Eastern Washington, it would be quite striking. So
23 we need to preserve what little remains.
24 If the current wildlife refuge is
25 released effectively to control at the county

1 level, it would be like holding a fragile antique
2 in front of us and releasing it to the local
3 control of gravity. The outcome is inevitable. So
4 it is the release itself that destroys this
5 antique.
6 If our wildlife refuge is released to
7 local control, we may not know the exact course of
8 events, but we do know the ultimate result, it will
9 be farmed.
10 I would like to thank, publicly thank
11 our farmers for feeding me. I don't get a chance
12 -- I don't know if we have farmers here tonight or
13 not, but I know where my food comes from, and I
14 thank the farmers.
15 But as has been pointed out already
16 tonight, we already have farmland. So please do
17 not release this refuse for our native plants and
18 animals. Thank you.
19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you very much.
20 Jerry Turnbaugh.
21 RTR010 MR. TURNBAUGH: I am Jerry
22 Turnbaugh. I live in Pasco. And I support the
23 Save the Reach efforts and the Department of Energy
24 Preferred Alternative on their land use plan. And
25 I thank Tom Ferns and others who have worked very

1 hard on this. We have watched it develop over a
2 long period of time.
3 There are a couple of flaws with it and
4 I will speak to those. But first I would like to
5 put a bit of a human face on the Hanford Area out
6 there. There are probably some of you who have not
7 had the opportunity to get out on the Area and
8 spend any time out there.
9 Fortunately or not, I work out there,
10 so I have plenty of opportunity to be on the Area.
11 I work at the far end of the Hanford Area in the
12 100 K Area, if you know where that is, up on the
13 north part of the river there, and since I live in
14 Pasco, I have to get myself from Pasco up there.
15 That involves a long drive. I'm part of the mega
16 van, and so I get to sit in the seat and look out
17 the window. And every morning as the sun comes up,
18 I can study the Hanford Reservation. And every
19 evening as the sun goes down, I can study the
20 Hanford Reservation.
21 There are a couple things about that
22 Reservation that are truly awesome. The first
23 thing is its size and its emptiness. That is an
24 unusual situation in today's world, to find size
25 and emptiness, except in the oceans.

1 And I'm also a sailboater, and the
2 ocean is probably the last place, wild place left
3 on earth.
4 The Hanford Reach and the Hanford
5 Reservation come close to that for our local area,
6 and that's what makes the thing unique. You can
7 see the scars of our activity out there, starting
8 from the 300 Area, you see the results of that
9 disastrous burn, you see the massive amount of
10 cheatgrass infestation, and then as you go farther
11 north, the countryside changes. You begin to see
12 the big sagebrush and you begin to see the wild
13 flowers and you see the ground with a natural
14 protective covering that is undisturbed, and it
15 takes a long time to develop this natural
16 covering. It keeps out weeds and it also promotes
17 soil moisture, that sort of thing. Also you see
18 the native bunch grass out there.
19 Those things, and grazing do not go
20 together. Turning livestock loose into those areas
21 that are free from cheatgrass and still have their
22 protective covering and the big sagebrush I think
23 would be a travesty. And the value is nothing.
24 The value of a few cows and the poor grazing out
25 there, frankly, is not worth it.

1 And so when I look at the Preferred
2 Alternative, I see that cloud hanging over the
3 middle of, the green patch. I like the green
4 patch. I don't like that cloud. And I cannot see
5 any reason, any scientific reason why there should
6 be grazing of all things allowed out there in this
7 preservation area.
8 The other thing that bothers me is that
9 white patch in the middle. We have industrial
10 parks here that aren't full. They're having
11 trouble. They need to be given preference. We
12 don't need an industrial park sitting in the middle
13 of this large open space, which is one of its
14 values. And I just don't see --
15 The principle of growth management is
16 to fill in high density, high usage areas, in high
17 density, high usage appropriate areas. It is not
18 appropriate to fragment and put a barrier out there
19 in the middle of this large area in the name of
20 industrial development.
21 Otherwise, I support the Preferred
22 Alternative. Thank you.
23 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.
24 The next commenter, Ray Rose.
25 RTR011 MR. ROSE: I am Ray Rose. Have

1 been a resident of this community for about 50 --
2 about 45 years now. And I have a pretty good
3 background on it.
4 I would like to thank the Department of
5 Energy for listening to us. I think that's
6 refreshing.
7 I very much feel like Jerry Turnbaugh.
8 He hit it right on the head about grazing, the
9 openness and all of that. But I also feel that
10 that Preferred Alternative, it looks good, but with
11 the reservations that Jerry brought up. I think we
12 do need to consolidate our industrial areas, and I
13 think they don't need to be out in the middle of
14 nowhere.
15 But one point I do want to make, I
16 don't think it's been emphasized too much so far,
17 and that's the Conservation Reserve Program that we
18 have in this country, where the farmers are paid
19 money to hold back and put their land back into a
20 natural state.
21 Well, here we have a conservation, a
22 CRP, that wouldn't cost anything. It's already
23 there. And we don't have to pay anybody for not
24 growing any crops. I think that's one thing that
25 does need to be emphasized, because this is for

1 nothing. We don't pay a nickel.
2 And one other thing I think was brought
3 up, it was about the local control. I think I have
4 my doubts. The idea of local control sounds great
5 to me. But I think we have a classic example of
6 local control right up in the Yakima River, and we
7 know what the Yakima River is like on the lower
8 third. It's a mess. And we've had local control
9 up and down that Yakima River.
10 So there you are. So that's about all
11 I have to say. I think everything else has been
12 said. But thank you very much for listening.
13 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Mike
14 Lilga.
15 RTR012 MR. LILGA: Thanks. Hi. I am Mike
16 Lilga. I just wanted to start off by thanking DOE
17 and all the people that helped prepare this EIS.
18 It was a tremendous amount of work. It took years
19 to accomplish, I know. But I think you've done a
20 great job in terms of putting together lots of
21 things for us to talk about tonight, some good
22 alternatives.
23 I'm speaking for myself tonight. And
24 when I look at the alternatives, I guess my
25 Preferred Alternative is somewhere between

1 Alternative One and Alternative Two.
2 My values say that we should be
3 preserving as much of the Hanford Site as possible
4 for the reasons that have been very eloquently
5 stated by other speakers. But this is the last of
6 the big areas of shrub-steppe habitat left in
7 Washington State. We need to do what we can to
8 preserve what we have by not developing it, but
9 also by maintaining the attacked nature. Let's not
10 fragment it further, again, which has been spoken
11 about early, by developments such as the May
12 junction, which is a big block right in the middle
13 of beautiful, expanse of shrub-steppe habitat.
14 In terms of some of the other
15 industrial areas, again, I tend to favor a
16 combination of Alternative One and Alternative Two,
17 which takes into account the needs stated by the
18 city of Richland in their urban growth areas that
19 they have put forward. There's plenty of land
20 there for economic development.
21 I tend to think that 300 Area should be
22 used for research and development rather than the
23 Preferred Alternative, which sets aside a humongous
24 area for undesignated future speculative use.
25 I think this land use plan needs to be

1 a little more definitive in terms of designating
2 expected land use rather than just saying, hey, we
3 need a third, you know, or a quarter of the Hanford
4 Site for some possible unforeseen future use.
5 I do support the preferred alternative
6 in that the Wahluke Slope, the entire Wahluke Slope
7 should be a national wildlife refuge. I do agree
8 with some of the previous speakers that would also
9 include in that designation Arid Lands Ecology
10 Reserve, the Columbia River islands, the Riverlands
11 area, the McGee Ranch.
12 And I also agree that the Record of
13 Decision should be -- a separate Record of Decision
14 should be written for those areas so we can get on
15 with protection without getting caught up in issues
16 associated with land use on the rest of the site.
17 Definitely we need to take grazing out
18 of the picture on the Hanford Site.
19 If you go with the Preferred
20 Alternative, the conservation mining and grazing
21 areas should be converted to conservation, mining
22 only. But in terms of mining, my Preferred
23 Alternative would limit mining only to those areas
24 that are actually necessary to provide the minerals
25 that are needed to support Hanford cleanup.

I'm not an expert on those needs, but my Preferred Alternative would not include mining on ALE as shown in the Preferred Alternative, if possible. For one thing, that area's right along the highway. One of the beauties of ALE is as you drive up highway 240, you look off towards ALE, there is this incredible, beautiful expanse of open space.

The Preferred Alternative proposes to put in a mine right in the middle of that beautiful scenic vista. I would encourage you not to do that. Look for alternate spots.

I know that's a sticky point. But I think we need to look at other locations.

I think we need to eliminate any possibility of agriculture at all anywhere on Hanford. And my reason doesn't have anything to do with how much agricultural land is available, it's the impact, the negative publicity I think of doing any kind of agriculture on Hanford. I really think that would be extremely detrimental to agriculture in Washington State to do that.

In any case, you will have more comments from me in writing. I've got lots more detailed comments, and I appreciate the effort

1 that's been put into this and the opportunity to
2 speak. Thanks.
3 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.
4 Dave Terentieff.
5 RTR013 MR. TERENTIEFF: Thank you for
6 holding this hearing tonight. I appreciate the
7 DOE's effort in this regard.
8 I want to comment that I was just
9 thrilled with the proposal by Secretary Richardson
10 here a couple months ago to preserve the Wahluke
11 Slope, and where I'm coming from, I'm just speaking
12 as an individual, I came to the Tri-Cities in 1955
13 with my family, like many people did, came to work
14 on the Hanford Project, and when I was growing up
15 and going to school here, well, our pastimes were
16 hunting and fishing around the project out in the
17 Area.
18 And as years went by, I discovered more
19 and more that the lands that were so nice to walk
20 across up here across the river were slowly being
21 posted. Frequently some of the most favorable --
22 you know, farmers, they are a pretty smart bunch of
23 people, and when they see a gold mine, they know
24 how to exploit that.
25 And farmers that have thousands of

ducks and geese landing on their land every year, they went and found organizations to lease the land, and you could hunt there if you joined an organization and paid to hunt on the leased land, and for the average soul who would just like to get in the car and drive out and look for a place to hunt and fish, well, those places were starting to disappear.

My bottom line, I would like to see the Wahluke Slope and the Columbia Reach remain in the public domain.

And as many of you know, the Columbia River in this area has always been wildlife refuge, or waterfowl refuse, and with the exception of a few public hunting areas, the ducks and geese are not molested out on the Columbia here. And I would like to see that continue.

It's wonderful that they have the sanctuary that they have, and I would like to see it continue in perpetuity. And if by coming here tonight and participating in this hearing, that can be made possible, well, I will be most happy.

Thank you for the forum.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Madeleine Brown.

RTR014

1 MS. BROWN: My husband says to give
2 them hell, but I really want to give the Department
3 of Energy congratulations.
4 I'm going to start with Tom Ferns. You
5 have been with us for seven years, or is it eight
6 now, and I wonder if this feels like you're
7 presenting your baby or if you are still in
8 birthing pains. Because it's been a long road.
9 I want to say, it's good to take
10 remedial action out of this and call it a land use
11 plan.
12 I'm wearing my support for the Hanford
13 Reach, more or less over my heart. I can support
14 the Department of Energy's Preferred Alternative,
15 and I think you did a good job. I do support the
16 Audubon Society's amendments. You've got to keep
17 grazing off the Reservation altogether.
18 Let's make that Wahluke Slope a
19 national wildlife refuge. I want to applaud the
20 Department of Energy and the leadership of
21 Secretary Richardson in making this a Preferred
22 Alternative. A few years ago you didn't even have
23 a Preferred Alternative. Well, you've got a good
24 one now because you're preserving the Reach and
25 you're preserving the Wahluke Slope, which in fact

1 does preserve the Reach, and this is very good.
2 The alternatives I can support are the
3 Preferred Alternative and Alternatives One and Two,
4 and what's good about them is their emphasis on
5 preservation and that magic orange dot for the
6 B-Reactor. That is important.
7 I'm going to take a historical
8 digression. I have heard a number of people thank
9 the Department of Energy for having this hearing.
10 It's a legal requirement of the National
11 Environmental Policy Act. And that's because of
12 Hanford, the legend, is that the great Scoop
13 Jackson, the Senator from Boeing, he put that law
14 in place because of the N-Reactor. Because he was
15 aware of the impact of all those single pass
16 reactors putting radiation into the river. Raising
17 the temperatures, zinc showing up in the shell fish
18 on the Oregon coast. And what would be the
19 environmental impact of putting one more reactor on
20 line? And saying, wait, federal government, you
21 must consider the environmental impacts of your
22 actions.
23 And now we have had N-Reactor not be a
24 single pass reactor. And in fact, permit the
25 generation of electricity that lighted a number of

1 homes and warmed a lot of babies' bedrooms, and we
2 have public hearings like this.
3 Well, that's a piece of Hanford's
4 history that we are on the verge of losing. We
5 must not lose Hanford's history.
6 Thanks, Gene Weiskoph, for expressing
7 it so eloquently, that we must remember the good,
8 the incredibly significant world changing role
9 Hanford had in making the planet what it is today.
10 And as we clean it up and as we turn
11 these areas green, well, actually they'll be brown
12 because it is a desert, but as we preserve it and
13 preserve these huge hunks of habitat, which you are
14 trying to do, we need to remember Hanford's
15 history, and that it all began, the nuclear age
16 began right here.
17 I want to state quite unequivocally, I
18 find the local alternative unacceptable. The
19 locals do not represent me, and I live in Richland,
20 Washington. They represent agriculture, and I do
21 not want to see Hanford farmed. I do not want to
22 see the salmon spawning lands covered up by silt
23 from the continuing sliding and sloughing of those
24 white bluffs. And nor do our neighbors to the
25 north.

We do have treaty obligations to restore our salmon runs, and protecting that Wahluke Slope is an important part of that.

I know you're going to go up to Mattawa and you're going to hear totally different things. And I would like the Department of Energy to remember the simple analogy of the goose that laid the golden egg. The environment is the goose. The locals want to kill it and get all the eggs out at once. That's enough.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Lyle Wilhelm.

RTR015 MR. WILHELM: I came to Richland in 1974, expecting to find statutes of Enrico Freamine and Albert Einstein in the park. Instead of that, I saw people who were kind of proud of what they -- the contribution they had made individually to the war effort, and the development of nuclear energy. But as a group, they would just rather not talk about it. I think that's a mistake.

I'm President of B-Reactor Museum Association. For several years we have been trying to convince the Department of Energy that we ought to have some monument of some kind that would preserve the historic -- the history of the area.

If you've not been to B-Reactor, I hope you will be able to visit there some day. It's a step back to 1943. It's the only place I know of that you can go back and wham, you're back there. Other than maybe visiting a tomb in Egypt. It's a rare, rare place.

Well, we're happy to see all the alternatives that include B-Reactor as a museum, and we support those.

Of the alternatives that look good to us, the Department of Energy Alternative One seems to be the most satisfactory.

We'd like to see some changes in it. It's kind of like the man said about his wife. I love her dearly and I wouldn't part with her for anything in the world, but I wish there were some things she'd change.

And that's the way the Alternative One is.

We'd like to see a dedicated corridor from the rest stop at Vernita bridge into B-Reactor so we can get people in there, and there's already a road in there. We'd like to see that improved.

And I'd also love to see B-Reactor become a museum in my lifetime. Just setting it

1 aside and saying, hey, this is it. We'll keep it
2 from deteriorating isn't enough for me.
3 I have canoed down the Reach several
4 times, and there's something almost eerie about a
5 canoe trip down the Reach. You can play Lewis &
6 Clark, play Indian, anything you want, because
7 there are very few structures you can see on that
8 upper end of the Reach, other than kind of the
9 ghost like remnants of the reactors.
10 And there's something pretty precious
11 about that. And I'd like to see it preserved for
12 the future, for my children and their children and
13 future generations, because in my lifetime the
14 population of the United States has doubled, more
15 than doubled. What's it going to be like when it
16 doubles again? There are not going to be very many
17 places set aside where you can stand in the middle
18 of it and not hear the rumble of cars.
19 You know, when the population doubles
20 again, it's going to be Southern California
21 everywhere.
22 So I think something like this is very
23 precious to set it aside as a block for ecological
24 reasons and for just plain old recreational
25 reasons.

1 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. I
2 particularly like that part about the man talking
3 about his wife, it struck home, because my wife
4 said the same thing to me the other day, but there
5 are some things I had better change.
6 Jack Young.
7 RTR016 MR. YOUNG: My name is Jack Young.
8 I am the statewide member at large of the
9 Washington Environmental Council. I testify
10 tonight on behalf of Washington Environmental
11 Council which is the state's largest single
12 environmental organization. It represents more
13 than nearly 200 environmental organizations
14 separately.
15 The Council wishes to commend Secretary
16 Richardson, the Department of Energy and the
17 Clinton Administration for the plan to protect the
18 Wahluke Slope and as part of the national wildlife
19 refuge. That single step would preserve much, if
20 not all, of the shrub-steppe ecosystem through
21 which the Hanford Reach flows to provide a unique
22 spawning and rearing habitat for wild Chinook,
23 summer steelhead, and critical migratory and
24 resting habitat for other salmonids.
25 The Council thus supports the Preferred

1 Alternative of the Hanford Remedial Action
2 Environmental Impact Statement, but with some
3 modifications and additions.
4 We urge that all of the following
5 Department of Energy lands be included as part of
6 the national wildlife refuge, the Wahluke Slope of
7 course, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee
8 Ranch, the Riverlands area, and the Columbia River
9 islands. We ask also for a ban on the entire
10 Hanford Site of all agricultural uses, of
11 commercial mining, of cattle and other grazing,
12 because each of these activities for private gain
13 will destroy native plants, animals, and disrupt
14 the general natural ecosystem, to the detriment of
15 the American public as a whole.
16 And because the Hanford Reach will
17 become part of the U.S. wild and scenic river
18 system, I trust in my lifetime, we ask for a ban on
19 all commercial developments in the lands now under
20 the Department of Energy control within a half mile
21 of the river's edge, within the proposed wild and
22 scenic Hanford Reach corridor. Thank you.
23 MR. JACKSON: Rick Leaumont. Rick
24 Leaumont.
25 We will move on to the next speaker and

1 perhaps come back. There were several people that
2 have indicated that they might like to speak but
3 weren't sure. And I have held those to last.
4 Is Mildred Walton present?
5 MS. WALTON: I am here but I
6 didn't indicate that I wanted to speak. Oh. I
7 might, yeah. But I won't.
8 MR. JACKSON: Would you like to say
9 anything tonight?
10 RTR017 MS. WALTON: I think in the
11 interest of posterity, we owe it to ourselves and
12 the future to save what we can.
13 I will go back to my childhood and my
14 early memories were of camping in California state
15 parks, and I have found out since then that there
16 were visionary people who went to bat to save
17 places like Big Basin and some of the wonderful
18 places that are protected.
19 They could have all been logged off and
20 we would have forgotten all about them by now.
21 But we have to do the same thing for
22 our future right. Right now we have that
23 opportunity.
24 And so that's what I think. I don't
25 have specific ideas. But just for our soul's sake.

1 MR. JACKSON: Well, with perhaps
2 the exception of one which I had individual hope
3 which what lot will arrive a little later, those
4 are the names of the folks that expressed an
5 interest in speaking beforehand.
6 We've heard I think some very
7 interesting and somewhat differing viewpoints.
8 After having a chance to listen to the
9 other folks making presentations, I'd like to open
10 it up now, if you haven't previously expressed an
11 interest to speak, we certainly still would like to
12 hear from any other members of the audience who
13 would like to step up to the microphone and give us
14 their ideas.
15 There is a small penalty to pay,
16 because you didn't register, you have to spell your
17 name for me if you do that, so the court reporter
18 can get it down.
19 Is there anyone else? Certainly, sir.
20 Come on up.
21 RTR018 MR. HAGEMAN: Yes. My name is Al
22 Hageman. And I have been in Pasco since 1960.
23 MR. JACKSON: Could you spell your
24 name for us.
25 MR. HAGEMAN: H-a-g-e-m-a-n. I

1 came up here from the Willamette Valley in Oregon,
2 and I like the drier climate, and seeing this area
3 change dramatically in the 40 years I have been
4 here.
5 I would like to echo Dr. Rose's
6 comments, and also Mr. Turnbaugh from Pasco. I
7 think they said everything that I would like to
8 say.
9 However, I might expound a little bit
10 on what Dr. Rose said in regards to the CRP, which
11 is the Conservation Reserve Program. And that's
12 the fact that I think the state of Washington has
13 about 750,000 acres where people have signed up for
14 that program. That is to set it aside from
15 production and make it more enhanced for wildlife,
16 upland game and so forth.
17 Well, I think that's a program that's
18 being paid for, and as Dr. Rose says, we have one
19 out here that's working just fine, let's continue
20 on with it.
21 The salmon spawning naturally is
22 something that I don't think man can recreate
23 nearly as successful as Mother Nature has done up
24 there. So let's leave that alone.
25 I'm in favor of the Preferred

1 Alternative Number One, and I think that it is
2 purely selfish reasoning on my part, but let's
3 leave it like it was when it was under the control
4 of the government for so many years.
5 That's what I feel like I would like to
6 see kept as status quo.
7 The man mentioned B-Reactor corridor,
8 museum corridor from Vernita.
9 I feel like when you open up more area
10 for the public to travel on, henceforth you're
11 going to have the garbage, and that's been proven
12 true on many an area, and the Niobrara River in
13 Nebraska, for example. It was clean and peaceful.
14 You let too many people in, make it too
15 accessible, and then you are going to suffer the
16 consequences with trash and litter and so forth.
17 But anyway, I would like to close by
18 saying that I echo Mr. Turnbaugh and Mr. Rose's
19 comments, if you recall those. Thank you.
20 MR. JACKSON: Sir, come on up.
21 RTR019 MR. LANDEEN: My name is Dan
22 Landeen. I work for the Nez Perce Tribe.
23 L-a-n-d-e-e-n. I'm here speaking for myself this
24 evening, even though I do represent the tribe.
25 It's interesting, a lot of you don't

1 realize, a lot of people have been saying they like
2 the Preferred Alternative Number One, with a few
3 minor modifications. If you do those minor
4 modifications, you have Alternative Number Two,
5 which is ours. So we're glad to see that.
6 I'm one of the few people that have
7 probably had the opportunity to either walk or
8 drive most of Hanford. I worked at Hanford in my
9 previous life for 16 years as a biologist out
10 there, know the area quite well. I would echo a
11 lot of the same comments that were made here this
12 evening.
13 It is a spectacular area, especially
14 this time of year.
15 I used to do ecological surveys for the
16 Site when there was going to be reconstruction
17 activities, and I always got a kick out of the
18 engineers that would call up and say, you're not
19 going to have to worry about this site because it's
20 only sagebrush.
21 And I would start to laugh and say,
22 little do you know.
23 But it's an area that should be
24 preserved.
25 I just might mention that the tribe has

1 the policy that they support the wild and scenic
2 designation under federal control. The tribe also
3 supports the proposal by Secretary Richardson to
4 have the Wahluke Slope and the surrounding areas,
5 McGee Ranch, Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as under
6 federal control also as a natural wildlife refuge.
7 But it's an area that needs to be saved.
8 Those of you that have had the
9 opportunity to fly over Eastern Washington, as some
10 have commented, it's really interesting to see all
11 the agricultural land, and all of a sudden, boom,
12 you have this undisturbed area.
13 Even though we always say it's
14 undisturbed, there's still a lot of things that are
15 happening at Hanford, like fire, and the invasion
16 of noxious weeds that still threaten that site. So
17 there are still some big battles that are fought
18 there. We lose a lot of acres due to that.
19 And some of these other alternatives
20 that would open that up to more high recreational
21 use and grazing and mining, me personally, I could
22 never support, and I guess I could speak for the
23 Tribe, they wouldn't support that either.
24 I am glad for the opportunity to be
25 here tonight. This was a long, arduous process, to

1 get these various alternatives out there, and I
2 appreciate the opportunity to be here. Thank you.
3 MR. JACKSON: Do we have anyone
4 else that would like to speak this evening? Come
5 on up, sir.
6 RTR020 MR. LINK: Steven Link, L-i-n-k.
7 I'm the head of the native plants society here
8 locally, and also head of the Noxious Weed Control
9 Board in Benton County.
10 I am representing myself here. And I
11 am in favor of saving the Reach, as has been
12 discussed.
13 I would also like to make a statement
14 about how it might be possible to help agriculture
15 feel good about this, whether agriculture is here
16 to listen about it or not I'm not sure. But I
17 would like to say that there is value in the
18 resource which is going to be saved in this plan,
19 and this value can be recognized, and it can be
20 imparted to agriculture.
21 The primary value is in the natural
22 resources of the site, particularly the native
23 plants. It is possible to collect seed and
24 reproduce our local vegetation, our native local
25 vegetation, for its value in restoring areas which

are disturbed currently in the surrounding areas. There's value in attempting to grow these plants for restoration purposes. There is a very strong market for this right now in the state of Washington. One example is the CRP program.

Well, the primary statement I want to make is that we should recognize that there is economic value in our natural resources, and how they are managed is an open question, but there are plenty of people that are doing this kind of stuff now, and it is something for agriculture to consider. There is lots of money in it. Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

Anyone else who would like to speak tonight? We have plenty of time. Anyone else?

Ma'am, come on up. Again, would you state your name and spell it.

RTR021 MS. WINTERS: My name is Rosy Winters, W-i-n-t-e-r-s, and I live in Kennewick. I am shaking. That's why I'm last, I guess.

I thought maybe you needed a farmer to speak. I'm a farmer who supports the Department of Energy's proposal.

I spent all my life on dairy farms,

1 except for the past few years, and I'm still
2 involved in owning and managing a couple of pieces
3 of farm land in the state, some in the Yakima
4 Valley. No, our farm didn't contribute to any of
5 the problems in the Yakima. Dairy farms of course
6 are notorious for being major polluters, and we're
7 working on that.
8 I'm also a member of the Benton
9 Conservation District Board. And we have a lot of
10 programs trying to help farmers convert their
11 irrigation systems in the Prosser area, Whitstran,
12 to more efficient systems that use less water and
13 keep soil sediments and pollutants on the farms so
14 they don't get into the river.
15 I grew up in Vancouver on a good sized
16 dairy farm where we used to graze our cattle in a
17 wetland pond. We stopped doing that years ago. My
18 farther is now gone.
19 My mother is 88, and she's turned into
20 a birder. She always loved the birds and nature
21 and wild flowers. But she didn't really probably
22 appreciate the birds until the huge migrations of
23 geese that used to eat up all my father's winter
24 green plantings headed north, and now that we don't
25 have cattle in those wetland ponds anymore, and by

1 the way she's 88 and still lives on that farm, she
2 has been enjoying a Herron rookery that has sprung
3 up on the old dairy there surrounding the wetland,
4 and we all have become major birders in the lower
5 River Road just west of Vancouver where my mom's
6 place is.
7 Currently I'm a city girl. But I
8 really do enjoy the wide open desert expanse, as
9 some of the speakers said tonight, floating the
10 Reach in canoes and kayaks. I've enjoyed that
11 privilege. Being able to walk across the ALE
12 lands, I've really enjoyed that.
13 I'm not a scientist, and I'm not, I
14 don't consider myself a major birder, but I do
15 enjoy being an amateur at it. And I would hate to
16 see all of the beautiful land in the ALE area
17 farmed.
18 I don't agree with the comment that was
19 made that we have enough farms, we have enough land
20 that is used in agriculture. With the exponential
21 growth in population, we are going to always need
22 more farm land. But we have to be very careful
23 about where we put it and how we open up new land
24 and how we irrigate.
25 The science is out there. The science

is known. There is money available to encourage opening land and matching funds for farms to convert to more efficient and conservation minded systems, and that is what is happening here in Benton County, even though a lot of people don't know that.

There are groups of people that are working very hard to conserve and to do a better job than we have done in the past. I thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

Anyone else that would like to speak this evening? Come on up.

RTR022 MR. FALETTI: My name is Duane Faletti. My mother never did get it right. It's F-a-l-e-t-t-i.

I basically favor the position that's been given before here, which is to preserve as much of the area as possible. There's no -- It makes no sense to have any mining beyond that needed for Hanford cleanup. Certainly no grazing. I've seen the area go from having quite a bit of sagebrush to basically none.

I left Illinois because it was 95 percent plowed to come to a countryside that is, except for the Hanford area, is pretty well that

way, it is either plowed or burnt over. And Hanford is about all that is left.

So I go for as much preservation as is practical.

I don't have much more to say, except that the Columbia River is the only part that's free-flowing, the part on the Reach, and to sit in the boat and have that boat coming downstream faster than a man can walk or even run, when you're in 20 feet of water, is something that an Illinois boy has a hard time grasping. Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Come up, sir.

RTR023 MR. DILLMAN: My name is Jim Dillman, D-i-l-l-m-a-n. I didn't come here intending to speak this evening. But my heart is throbbing, and I have to say something, and I don't know how to say it. I don't know how to tell you.

Maybe I should take off my human form and put on my butterfly form, and become a paries backari, the sagebrush white, and tell you that Mr. Dillman is a surveyor that worked with the nature conservancy on the Hanford Reservation, worked on the Yakima firing center, and now is working on Beasley Hills north of Quincy, surveying the insects, in particular the butterflies.

1 And one of the surveys I did last year
2 was in property we call MEEC, Mid-Columbia
3 Ecological Education Center, which is in the
4 Burbank slough area south of Pasco.
5 And what Mr. Dillman found was that
6 when he was on the Hanford Reservation, there are
7 lots of paries backari, lots of desert butterflies,
8 and other desert butterflies, because it's big,
9 because you say it's big, but we say it's tiny,
10 it's the last little bit we have left, because when
11 Mr. Dillman went down to the Burbank slough, which
12 is maybe half a mile wide, maybe a quarter of a
13 mile wide, and maybe three or four, five miles
14 long, he found very few desert white butterflies,
15 very few. It's just not big enough.
16 The Hanford Reservation is a place we
17 can be. The Yakima firing center is a place we can
18 be. And if you take away those habitats that are
19 large enough for us, we're gone, along with a
20 couple other butterflies that are white also. I
21 can't think of their names right now.
22 But what I am trying to tell you, we
23 need that big place. You people have the power to
24 save that big place for us. The little people out
25 here that are talking to you individually, they're

1 trying to save us. They're trying to save the
2 Mormon cricket that everybody wants to tromp every
3 year. They're trying to save them in a place in
4 this desert land that has been theirs, because God
5 gave it to them.
6 You have an obligation to the insects
7 and to the little voles and to the little mice and
8 all of the creatures, that when the ground is
9 plowed, they are suffocated to death. When the
10 plants are taken out, they starve to death. When
11 the plants are taken away, they have no food, they
12 have no wives or children.
13 They need this space, and you have got
14 to save it for them.
15 Humans, you don't have to develop
16 everything in the world in your life span. Leave
17 some of it for future generations. Leave some of
18 it for us. Thank you.
19 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.
20 Anyone else that would like to speak
21 tonight? By chance, is Rick Leaumont present yet?
22 Rick Leaumont?
23 Once again, anyone else that would like
24 to come? Come up, sir.
25 RTR024 MR. KREID: Maybe I can hold the

1 stage until Rick gets here. I'm Dennis Kreid from
2 Richland, K-r-e-i-d.
3 I want to say a couple things. First I
4 would like to support the alternative that the
5 Department of Energy has put forward, modified in
6 the ways that we have been hearing tonight, to
7 provide additional protections. Eliminate
8 agriculture, essentially.
9 I would also like to comment on local
10 control. That's something we have heard a lot from
11 our local politicians and from a lot of the local
12 people that would like to develop the river.
13 Because that's what local control is all about.
14 If you want local control, look at the
15 Yakima, look at the Umatilla, John Day, the
16 Palouse, and you look at the sediment load, they go
17 dry in the summertime, they are full of sewage and
18 agricultural waste.
19 So, if you want local control, then
20 vote for the local alternative. If you want a
21 river, let's go for the one that DOE and the Tribes
22 have been promoting. That's all.
23 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. Anyone
24 else that would like to speak?
25 RTR025 MS. CLARK: I am Paula Clark.

1 C-l-a-r-k. No "e".
2 And it's awfully hard to stand up here
3 and follow Mr. Dillman, I believe is his name, and
4 some of the other speakers.
5 And I don't have what I would like to
6 have with me right now, which is a poem that
7 resides on the wall in my office. I work out in
8 the middle of the Hanford Site. I travel there day
9 by day, just as Mr. Turnbaugh said, watching things
10 change daily. Just discovered some hot sage the
11 other day when I didn't know where any was. I
12 could see it from the car.
13 And I had the privilege of working on
14 the Hanford Site, and in particular with the Arid
15 Lands Ecology Reserve at the beginning of my career
16 here. And in conjunction with that, Dr. Bill
17 Ricard came into my office one day and brought me a
18 poem from a summer's intent -- summer student
19 rather, here on the Hanford Site. And that is the
20 piece that I wish that I had. And so I may include
21 it in my written comments, because it was very
22 instructive to me.
23 The girl's name was Sandra Shaad. She
24 came from Bellevue. From all that greenery over
25 there. And the poem that she wrote is a result of

her summer study here, was really quite remarkable.

And brings to mind that when we think about MEEC and with the size of it, it's wonderful, but we have a resource here that's much bigger that we also need to preserve, and to be able to open on occasion for children to come and see.

If we aren't able to show them what this is, they will not have the love for the country that people have now. There won't be people left to work for nature. And so I would urge you to preserve it.

I haven't studied all the alternatives in detail yet, but I will be providing written comments. Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Sir?

RTR026 MR. WATTS: My name is Dick Watts, W-a-t-t-s.

I would just like to speak as an individual and say that I also support DOE's Preferred Alternative, with the amendments that have been brought forward for additional preservation of the Hanford Site.

I did have the opportunity to work with the Park Service, representing the federation of

1 fly fishers, and participated in the survey of the
2 resources for the Reach. And having lived here for
3 quite a while and having had the opportunity to
4 spend a fair amount of time on the Reach itself, I
5 have a bad habit of fly fishing, and also spending
6 a fair amount of time flying over the reach, I've
7 had the opportunity to over a period of time really
8 appreciate the values that are there.
9 And I had a friend recently who retired
10 from Hanford and he was discussing the future of
11 the Reach, and the comment that he made to me is
12 that he said, you know, while the people here are
13 really fairly focused on the preservation of the
14 Reach, and that's very good, but there is also a
15 strong constituency that focuses on local control.
16 And the question that he brought to me
17 was that if you are able to say, what would you
18 like the Reach to look like in 75 years, when
19 you're not here, the question that you ask yourself
20 is, would you like local control and the quality
21 that we're experiencing in the Yakima River system
22 right now, lower Yakima River system, or would you
23 like to see the Reach at least in the state that it
24 is in today.
25 And for me that kind of focused the

1 issue kind of clearly, and not only selfishly am I
2 interested in preserving the Reach right now for
3 what I do, I think we all have a tremendous
4 obligation to those that will come after us to be
5 able to appreciate the things we have now. Thank
6 you.
7 MR. JACKSON: Thank you. I also
8 will put a reply on that, unfortunately I think
9 that is not what I think my wife said, perchance.
10 Rick Leaumont?
11 RTR027 MR. LEAUMONT: Thank you very
12 much. It's a pleasure to be here. I had a couple
13 of planes canceled on me and just barely got in the
14 door.
15 But I would like to say first of all
16 that I want to thank Secretary Richardson for
17 coming out here and touring the river and giving
18 his support to protecting the Wahluke Slope and
19 Hanford Reach and the ALE for wildlife habitat and
20 preservation.
21 The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon
22 Society supports the Preferred Alternative. Again,
23 we congratulate DOE for designating in the
24 Preferred Alternative as preservation the Wahluke
25 Slope, the McGee Ranch, the ALE, Gable Mountain and

1 the sand dunes.

2 We feel this area should be expanded to

3 include the Riverlands, the islands, and the level

4 2 and 4 habitat that are designated on page 4-80 in

5 the EIS, and the Washington Department of Fish and

6 Wildlife priority habitat which is designated on

7 page 4-53, and when we submit our written comments,

8 we will have a map showing that.

9 We would like the Final Report to

10 eliminate all grazing on conservation areas within

11 Hanford.

12 In the report it was said that grazing

13 is to be used to control noxious weeds. We don't

14 feel like grazing controls noxious weeds. We feel

15 like it destroys habitat and spreads these weeds.

16 We also --

17 It was also stated in the report that

18 grazing would control fire hazards. And we think

19 that the Department of Energy should reintroduce

20 fire, controlled fire, managed fire, as a way of

21 protecting the habitat against disruptive wild

22 fires.

23 Also we think it is very poor for

24 agriculture to introduce grazing on the Hanford

25 Reservation. We think there could be a consumer

1 rejection of Washington beef and lamb products if
2 the public realizes that these products are being
3 grown on a SuperFund site.
4 We think mining and conservation mining
5 areas should be narrowly restricted to only that
6 which is essential to complete cleanup and
7 remediation. And the research and development
8 areas should be confined to the Ligo V area on the
9 map and the FFTF.
10 We would also like to see the
11 industrial areas in the Preferred Alternative to be
12 reduced to those that were in Alternative One and
13 Two.
14 We would like to see recreational
15 facilities kept at low intensity, except at the
16 B-Reactor, which would be the museum. The way high
17 intensity recreation is defined in the EIS would
18 include destination resorts -- could include
19 destination resorts, golf courses, and these kind
20 of developments that are not really appropriate for
21 the Hanford Reach.
22 The issues that are dealt with in the
23 Environmental Impact Statement, particularly in the
24 central part of the Hanford Reservation, are
25 extremely complex, and it could take many months

1 and perhaps years to complete that.
2 On the other hand, the issues on the
3 Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, on the islands in
4 the Columbia River, the McGee Ranch, the
5 Riverlands, and ALE, are very simple and very
6 basic. These areas are not contaminated. And a
7 decision should be rendered on those very quickly.
8 So we are asking that the Secretary of
9 Energy issue a separate Record of Decision for the
10 Wahluke Slope, Hanford Reach and islands, McGee
11 Ranch, Riverlands and ALE.
12 In Chapter 6 the EIS talks about the
13 Site Planning Board. We would like to see this
14 expanded to include the Washington Department of
15 Ecology, the Washington Department of Fish and
16 Wildlife, and the National Marine Fisheries
17 Service. Adams County is listed on this board, and
18 we think they should be eliminated, because Adams
19 County, only about 600 acres of the Hanford
20 Reservation are in Adams County. We would not have
21 any objections to Adams County participating when
22 decisions were made on those 600 acres.
23 In paragraph 6.3.1 it talks about
24 overall policies of the land use planning. We
25 would like to see inserted as one of those policy

1 statements protection, preservation and enhancement
2 of the fish, wildlife and native plant resources
3 and their habitat.
4 The EIS also talks about a trail system
5 being constructed along the river. We are in favor
6 of a trail system, but we believe that it should be
7 very carefully sited so it avoids sensitive
8 wildlife habitat and native plants.
9 And, finally, in the Preferred
10 Alternative, there's an area set aside along the
11 highway on the ALE for mining. And we understand
12 that the type of gravel at that spot are very
13 necessary for constructing caps in cleanup. We
14 also understand there's another location near Horn
15 Rapids.
16 And we would ask that the ALE location
17 be used as a last resort, that if the materials in
18 Horn Rapids is suitable, they of course be used
19 first, and in all mining operations essential for
20 cleanup and remediation, that as these mining
21 operations are completed, that the land be
22 restored.
23 Thank you very much.
24 MR. JACKSON: Thanks. Anyone else
25 that would like to speak tonight? Anyone else?

1 Well, thank you all. I've got to say
2 that I have found the comments tonight from the
3 audience informative in all cases. I thought
4 moving in other cases. It's been a real
5 interesting process to listen to what you have to
6 offer.
7 It strikes me, I just want to share one
8 thing with you that my daughter occasionally asks
9 me, why do I do something, and I think if she would
10 have been here tonight and hear the kind of input
11 that you folks made, it would have been a real easy
12 answer.
13 We sincerely appreciate what you have
14 to tell us. Thank you very much.
15 We will remain here for a short period
16 of time. You should be aware that we can take
17 written comments. Once again I will remind you
18 that there are forms at the back table. So if you
19 found it just a little too uncomfortable but you
20 did want to say something tonight, give us your
21 comments in writing. Also contact Mr. Ferns. His
22 address, do you want the Post Office Box or --
23 MR. FERNS: Something.
24 MR. JACKSON: His office is Post
25 Office Box 550, mail stop HO-12, Richland,

1 Washington, 99352, and that's Tom Ferns. Thank you
2 again. We appreciate it.
3 (8:30 p.m.)
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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
County of Benton)

I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public for Washington; that at said time and place I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting and that the foregoing transcript consisting of 64 typewritten pages is a true and correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand at Kennewick, Washington, on this 22nd day of June, 1999.

William J. Bridges
CSR NO. BRIDGWJ548PO
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public for Washington
My commission expires: 11-1-99

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

June 2, 1999

7:00 p.m.

Wahluke High School

Mattawa, Washington

BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES
Certified Shorthand Reporters
P. O. Box 5999
Kennewick, Washington 99336
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MR. FERNS: My name is Tom Ferns and I am with the Department of Energy. I'm the National Environmental Policy Act Manager for the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan that you see before you.

We were invited here by Grant County early on in the process, and we committed to do that. And as such I would like to introduce our host and your host, Matt Morton from Grant County Planning.

MR. MORTON: Thank you, Tom. Thank you for coming this evening.

On behalf of Grant County I would like to welcome you to this evening's public testimony hearing.

This evening we do have Lloyd Piper from the Department of Energy. He is the Deputy Manager. And Barbara Williams over here to the left will be the moderator for this public hearing. At this point Lloyd has a couple words.

MR. PIPER: Thank you. Thanks, Matt. As Matt said, I'm the Deputy Manager for DOE, Richland. So I've had the opportunity to be involved with this process as it's gone forward

1 over the last several years, it seems like. I
2 guess it is years, as we have gone forward.
3 I appreciate everybody coming out
4 tonight to give us the benefit of your thoughts and
5 input on the Draft EIS and some of the Preferred
6 Alternatives and the other alternatives we are
7 going to be evaluating.
8 I do want to say I appreciate that we
9 had all three of the local counties involved as
10 cooperating agencies in the EIS, including Grant
11 County, as well as the City of Richland and other
12 people. So we've had a very cooperative process as
13 we've developed these alternatives and developed
14 the basic data and information for the material you
15 see before you in the Revised EIS.
16 Without further ado, I would like to
17 call on Tom Ferns again, the document manager, to
18 come up and make a few comments about where we are
19 and what we are doing.
20 MR. FERNS: What we have done, we
21 originally had a Draft EIS, we came to you about
22 two years ago. And one of the biggest complaints
23 that we left with was it was just DOE staffers like
24 myself and there was no one from DOE management
25 like Lloyd for you to talk to.

1 So this time we brought back somebody
2 who is important. This is Lloyd, and he will be
3 here to listen to everything you say. He does
4 actually talk to the Secretary, instead of me.
5 We developed the Draft EIS and we sent
6 it out and we got a lot of public comment on it.
7 And at the time we were essentially told, it's a
8 good idea to go back and do it again, bring in all
9 the cooperating agencies, and come up with some
10 land use alternatives. We don't really care so
11 much about your environmental restoration materials
12 that were in there, because that will be taken care
13 of by CERCLA or the comprehensive environmental
14 spots, liability act, which is the CERCLA process,
15 which is what we are doing for the cleanup on the
16 site.
17 They wanted that out of the EIS. They
18 really wanted to just talk about land use
19 planning.
20 So Lloyd agreed to do that. With the
21 courtesy of Lloyd, we are coming back here with the
22 cooperating agencies.
23 And the maps you see behind you are a
24 result of that process. The first one is No
25 Action. That's essentially how we are managing

1 things today and how we will manage it in the
2 future if we don't have this EIS in the Record of
3 Decision process.
4 The next one is the Preferred
5 Alternative, and that is how DOE prefers to manage
6 it in the future. We thought we would let you know
7 what our alternative is.
8 The next one over is a natural trustee,
9 Alternative One, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, they have
10 seemed to have taken ownership of the wildlife
11 refuge, which includes Big Crescent, which is all
12 of the Wahluke Slope, McGee Ranch, the Riverlands
13 area and the ALE Reserve.
14 Alternative Two was put together by the
15 Nez Perce Indian Nation.
16 And Alternative Three was the local
17 governments, which Grant County was a part of
18 developing Alternative Three, as was Franklin and
19 Benton and City of Richland.
20 And Alternative Four was given to us by
21 the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian
22 Nation. That's another alternative presented by
23 them.
24 What we have done is we have brought
25 these out, revised draft out, and you have until

1 June 7, which is next Monday, to give us your
2 comments officially. We are accepting comments
3 after that, but we don't have to accept them after
4 June 7. But we will try to accept as much as we
5 can, as we write this.
6 We are on a very tight schedule to try
7 to get this decision done by the early part of
8 November of this year. So we would like to get the
9 comments in as soon as possible so we can get them
10 to all the decision makers. That's why we're
11 here.
12 You know what our Preferred Alternative
13 was. Secretary Richardson announced it when he was
14 here a couple months ago, especially for the
15 Wahluke Slope portion.
16 If you will look at the Grant County
17 portion, that's really modeled after the Wahluke
18 2000 Plan that we were given to put in as input.
19 There's also a portion of Adams County,
20 and that's included in that.
21 We're here to listen to what you have
22 to say tonight. We'll take these back to the
23 decision makers, compile all of the comments that
24 we get.
25 We have another hearing tomorrow in

Spokane.

Right now I can tell you what I've heard, is I have about 150 letters supporting the Alternative One, the wildlife refuge, from all over the state of Washington, from Oregon, too, and I have one letter supporting Alternative Number Three. So we hope to get some different opinions here tonight.

Thank you all for coming. The first speaker will be as they have written down on the sign-up sheet. So Matt will start off.

MS. WILLIAMS: Let me give the guidelines.

MR. FERNS: Okay.

MS. WILLIAMS: We are going to try to keep things moving here, give everybody an opportunity to speak who wants to speak. So we figured about ten minutes a person. If there's time left over and you have more to say and haven't been able to say it, we'll try to get you up so you can.

If you're sitting in the audience and somebody hasn't said something that you think is very important, at the end if you don't want to register right now, at the end of the meeting we'll

1 try to get you in.

2 I will hold up a little sign if folks

3 look like they're going longer than that, just as a

4 courtesy, to make sure everybody gets on.

5 I've got a list here that's three pages

6 long right now. We're hoping to hear some varying

7 opinions.

8 Matt Morton is our first speaker, and

9 he will be telling us what he thinks.

10 RTM001 MR. MORTON: Again, on behalf of

11 Grant County I would like to welcome everybody to

12 the meeting. My name is Grant Morton. I am with

13 the Grant County Planning Department.

14 I am here in support for the county

15 constituents of Preferred Alternative Three which

16 is the plan that was developed through the

17 cooperation with the three counties and the City of

18 Richland, and I believe envisions what at least

19 from the information we received, the citizens of

20 Grant County would like to see for the future

21 management of the Reach.

22 I guess I would like to open up my

23 statement tonight with a quote. "We want to come

24 to terms with our past. We created a mess there.

25 We're cleaning it up. We want to pay back

1 Washington State and the local communities."
2 That was said by Bill Richardson, U.S.
3 Energy Secretary, just back in April.
4 I think the mission originally of this
5 land use plan, CLUP, was to present each plan with
6 a little bit of equal merit, take public testimony
7 at this point, and at the end base their decision
8 on the future management in somewhat part on these
9 different alternatives developed.
10 Unfortunately I think it was a little
11 egregious for Bill Richardson to come out shortly
12 after this was released and give such public
13 support to this plan, pretty much discounting all
14 the other plans right off the bat. I don't think
15 that showed great intention of the federal
16 leadership through the DOE that Congress charged
17 them with leading.
18 Part of the reason we are going through
19 this is under the DOE Order 430.1 the DOE is
20 required to dispose of excess lands.
21 A lot of these buffer lands that
22 surround the Hanford Site are going to be declared
23 excess; and, again, fall under one of these seven
24 management plans.
25 I do believe that the Grant County land

1 use plan is very practical, makes a lot of sense.
2 There has been a study done by Washington State
3 University on the amount of agriculture production
4 that would be generated if the Wahluke Slope is
5 returned to agriculture. And at 1993 prices we are
6 looking at $93 per annum for generation from
7 agriculture from jobs from industry created.
8 I don't think that the Department of
9 Energy's alternative of putting up a fence,
10 allowing limited or no access and calling it a
11 management, wildlife management or wildlife
12 preserve really fits the mission of land use. I
13 don't think it is a management plan in that
14 respect.
15 While I do respect the U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife Service, they are an underfunded agency in
17 my opinion and in charge of too many lands as it
18 is. I don't feel returning it to the U.S. Fish and
19 Wildlife Service again could be a feasible
20 management plan by simply fencing those lands off.
21 Grant County, the county's plan does
22 address environmental concerns, and I feel it does
23 have environmental stewardship, particularly for
24 the Reach and the areas on the Wahluke Slope which
25 I guess is a big concern at this point.

1 Again, the DOE has been charged with
2 returning these excess lands, making the best use
3 out of them.
4 At this point, from Grant County's
5 standpoint, that would be returning it to some of
6 the original, I guess you wouldn't return it to the
7 original owners, but returning it to the original
8 ownership, the constituents of Grant County. These
9 lands were taken from the people for the Manhattan
10 Project.
11 In short, we've seen what the
12 Department of Energy leadership role has been out
13 there for the past several years. We have a site
14 that at one point in time produced 25 percent of
15 the world's weapons grade plutonium. We have a
16 site by Bill Richardson's explanation, of his
17 words, one of the worst cleanup areas in the United
18 States, probably the worst in the nation for
19 environmental mismanagement, as far as reactors
20 go.
21 Again, if you have any other questions
22 on Grant County's position, feel free to contact me
23 at the Grant County Planning Department. And I
24 would encourage you, if you are in support of that
25 Preferred Alternative, if you would like to see the

management of these next 50 years of these lands returned to you and more importantly to your children down the road, this is our chance to have some local input on how these lands are going to be managed for future use.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Matt.

Deborah Moore.

RTM002 MS. MOORE: Hi. My name is Deborah Moore, and I am a Grant County Commissioner. And this is my district that I represent here in this Wahluke Slope area.

I'm here to support Alternative Number Three, and there are a number of reasons that I would like to share with you tonight.

I think any time you're looking at land, land use issues, it's always good to have a history of where you've been to help you make the decision about where you want to go in the future.

When I think about the history of this area, I think before the Department of Energy took over this land, a lot of this land was in agricultural production. There were families living here, families making a living on the land.

When the Department of Energy came in,

1 you can describe it using a lot of flowery language
2 and a lot of words, but basically the land was
3 confiscated.
4 Now, a lot of property owners were paid
5 a portion for their land. But they had to go to
6 court to get money for that land.
7 I think it's important that this land
8 be returned back to agriculture, to its original
9 use. This area is rural, it's economically
10 depressed.
11 In fact our Governor was here yesterday
12 to help dedicate a low income housing project,
13 because he realizes that we don't have a lot of
14 money here. And we don't have a lot of educational
15 opportunities for our kids because we don't have
16 the funds to do things that other school districts
17 can do because we don't have that land back in the
18 private sector generating revenues.
19 I support Alternative Number Three
20 because it provides money not only for the county,
21 which I think is important, but especially for the
22 school districts.
23 When I hear that the Department of
24 Energy basically wants to take the land and tie it
25 up and put it into wildlife habitat and basically

1 create a habitat for the fish and the little
2 creatures out here, to me that's very sad. Because
3 to me that says that wildlife and habitat are more
4 important than our children. And to me that's a
5 very sad commentary on our society, when we feel
6 that habitat and wildlife and little creatures are
7 more important than our children and educational
8 opportunities for our children.
9 I would urge you to support Alternative
10 Number Three, and that is to return the land back
11 to private landowners, allow it to be put into
12 production, and allow tax to be generated to help
13 support the county, to help support our schools, to
14 help support the education of our children, to me,
15 which is a greater priority than wildlife or
16 wildlife habitat.
17 Thank you.
18 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.
19 Tim Snead.
20 RTM003 MR. SNEAD: Well, I had one speech
21 made out and I've changed it now, so I am going to
22 ad lib.
23 It was brought up that you've got 150
24 letters in favor of the Preferred Alternative and
25 one letter favoring Alternative Three.

1 As a Commissioner, I'm elected by the
2 Grant County citizens. I represent 70,000 people
3 in this county. And we have debated this issue,
4 both politically from the Democrats and the
5 Republicans in Grant County. Being a Democrat, at
6 our convention, everybody was in favor of local
7 control at that convention, and it was voted on the
8 Democrat and the Republican side.
9 So I feel that one letter, but from me,
10 and representing Grant County, we have far more a
11 majority in favor of local control rather than
12 federal control and a wildlife refuge.
13 Also I wanted to mention that we've
14 debated this also in our Comprehensive Plan, we've
15 held public hearings on the Wahluke 2000 Plan. It
16 is by far totally accepted and supported by the
17 constituents in Grant County. And we prefer the
18 Alternative Three.
19 Thank you.
20 MS. WILLIAMS: Richard Leitz.
21 RTM004 MR. LEITZ: I'm also an elected
22 official of the local people. I'm a Port
23 Commissioner, Port of Mattawa. We represent all of
24 the area north of the river essentially that you
25 people have got marked out there, plus the tribal

1 grounds currently in production at this point in
2 time.
3 I guess I can state that I've also been
4 elected, based on my views, and we're not for
5 federal control. In the past our history has been
6 you are poor neighbors. We've got the Army on one
7 side, we have of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife
8 Service on the other side, and we have DOE south of
9 the river. We get no benefits out of any of that.
10 I am in favor of Alternative Number
11 Three for the simple reason it puts part of our tax
12 base back into our hands, it takes it out of DOE.
13 It is no tax base as far as they are concerned.
14 70 percent of the area of my taxing
15 district is owned by state and federal ground. It
16 generates nothing. Up until the past few years
17 we've got small PILT monies, but we don't like to
18 rely on those monies. That is just a form of
19 Welfare.
20 Give us the ground back, we will put it
21 into production and we will take care of it
22 ourselves. We really don't need federal help if
23 you will just leave us alone.
24 Grant County and the Wahluke Slope have
25 not benefited economically from the Hanford

1 Project. However, this same area has been unduly
2 burdened, related to loss of income and tax base
3 because of federal ownership.
4 If this area has been used and managed
5 for the benefit of the nation as a whole, the
6 burden should also be assumed by the nation as a
7 whole.
8 And we talk about PILT monies. We
9 would just as soon, if you people view that land as
10 priceless, we can put a value on it. You pay for
11 it as if it was in production for what we have got
12 currently now, and it's called lost opportunity.
13 It's an opportunity that was there in
14 1940 and it has been taken away from us. It's time
15 to give it back. The alternative of putting U. S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service as the managing entity
17 that have property is just totally unacceptable to
18 the local people.
19 Last year we tried to get some fourth
20 grade classes in there for Memorial Day Weekend.
21 We got ahold of Mr. Goeke and asked permission,
22 trying to go through the proper channels. Denied.
23 It literally took an act of Congress.
24 We had to get ahold Senator Murray's office,
25 Senator Gordon's office and Congressman Hastings'

office to get an act of Congress to force Mr. Goeke to give us the key to the gate to get in.

Basically I think one of his comments was, what do you think, you own that ground?

That kind of attitude shouldn't be tolerated in the U.S.

They sent us a key to get in the gate. It was the wrong key. Guess what? We had to cut the gate with a torch to get through. But we can go on and on.

Basically as far as a local elected official, once again, federal control, we're not for it. If you're going to excess the ground, give it back to the Bureau of Reclamation, let us develop it, let us pay our own way. We are not here for a handout.

I know there are a lot of people that believe in that, but we don't. If you give us the opportunity, we'll take care of it ourselves.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Richard.

Mike Conley.

RTM005 MR. CONLEY: It is kind of unique, I get to follow Richard. My name is Mike Conley. I work for the Grant County Port District Number 3,

1 Wahluke Slope is all in the boundaries of Port
2 District Number 3.
3 Department of Energy and its
4 predecessors have controlled that area, over 66,000
5 acres, since the early '40s, and we really haven't
6 received any economic benefit from the Manhattan
7 Project or the Hanford Reservation. Tri-Cities
8 have received it all.
9 And it looks to me that with Secretary
10 Richardson's announcement, that it's going to be
11 more of the same, that we're going to get nothing,
12 and this is going to be a playground for the
13 Tri-Cities.
14 We disagreed fully that U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife should manage this. We don't think they
16 listen to local input at all. And based on what
17 Richard said, they have been very uncooperative
18 with our needs.
19 The Governor of the state of Washington
20 is concerned about economic development in the
21 rural part of the state.
22 For us, farming a portion of the
23 Wahluke Slope is our future. And if you look at
24 this area, you'll see what kind of agricultural
25 economy we have. It is beautiful. We have lots of

1 orchards, lots of vineyards, lots of high intensity
2 crops. This ground is not any different than
3 what's out there.
4 We fully support the Wahluke 2000 Plan,
5 which is essentially Alternative Three. And it
6 calls for highest and best use for the slope.
7 Some of it should be wildlife habitat.
8 We don't argue that one bit. But to lock it all up
9 into a refuse is non-acceptable. We support Doc
10 Hastings' Bill Number 1031. It calls for the
11 National Academy of Science to study the area, an
12 impartial body that will be able to determine what
13 is this land best suited for.
14 We understand that PILT payments are
15 discretionary, and we do appreciate that we finally
16 did get some in 1996 after 50 years.
17 But we still really believe that the
18 development of the farmable land is the best
19 alternative on this slope. We want this property
20 to come back on the tax rolls to assist our local
21 economy.
22 But if things are cast in stone, and we
23 move forward on Secretary Richardson's
24 announcement, we need to readdress what the PILT
25 payments are based on. It's not near adequately

1 enough.

2 Currently the county has that property

3 assessed at about 50 million, but the developed

4 land in this area is currently assessed at a little

5 over 3,000 an acre, and if we only took half of

6 that 66,000 acres and assessed it at that $3,000,

7 it comes to double the 50 million that it's

8 currently, the PILT payment being based on. We

9 need to address that if that's going to stay in

10 place.

11 Grant County citizens have been on the

12 short end of the Hanford economic benefits for a

13 long time, and it's got to change.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mike.

16 William Miller.

17 RTM006 MR. MILLER: Hi. I am Bill

18 Miller. I'm the Superintendent of the Wahluke

19 School District. I represent 1300 children, their

20 parents and the taxpayers of this region.

21 In 1943 the children, the parents and

22 teachers of our district were given 30 to 90 days

23 to leave their homes and their property. They left

24 their friends, families, school and livelihoods

25 behind. The 66,650 odd acres of land remained.

1 The school was reorganized in 1952. In
2 the western most part of Wahluke School District.
3 The reestablishment of the school district has cost
4 the taxpayers a tremendous amount, a huge tax
5 burden to restart a school system.
6 We support the PILT payments. We think
7 they are valid and important to the success of
8 providing an equal educational opportunity for the
9 children of this region.
10 I would also like to ask on behalf of
11 the district that you guys review the Columbia
12 River treaty and what implications it has on this
13 land use policy. We have not had a good experience
14 with Fish and Wildlife. A general
15 disingenuousness.
16 By the way, we didn't cut the lock with
17 a torch. We were with a DOE official there, and we
18 cut it with a bolt cutter, with his permission.
19 And we just completed another extremely
20 successful reunion to our old school site, where we
21 have done a memorial service for all the people in
22 the county, all the soldiers who have passed away,
23 fighting for their country, and for the local
24 people who made the sacrifice for their country and
25 left their home land.

1 Now I'm going to put on a different
2 hat. I served for two years as a member of the
3 Tri-County Committee on the Hanford Reach. And so
4 I'm speaking from that position, not as the
5 Superintendent.
6 We worked very hard to put together a
7 plan that was just as wild and more scenic than the
8 federal government's proposal. And I believe we
9 accomplished it.
10 As a member of that committee, I'm not
11 speaking as a representative of that group, but we
12 think a lot of good common sense goes with local
13 involvement, local control. Then my last comments
14 are from myself as a citizen of this region. I
15 believe quite strongly in a solid buffer zone
16 protecting the river corridor.
17 I believe also that a fair market price
18 should be established on the land and the original
19 owners be contacted and be given an opportunity to
20 purchase that land if they can be found and if they
21 are interested.
22 If not, I believe the land should be
23 put up for public auction and that private industry
24 and whomever else might be interested can bid on
25 the land.

1 That would give the Audubon Society or
2 the Sierra Club or all groups interested to
3 purchase the land in a fair way, and then they
4 could continue to pay the taxes, because this
5 community is burdened by the use of that property.
6 And I thank you very much for listening
7 to these remarks.
8 MS. WILLIAMS: Thanks, Bill.
9 Jim Curdy.
10 RTM007 MR. CURDY: When I first started
11 out on this, I understood I was going to have just
12 three or four minutes to talk. So I have a
13 prepared statement which I am going to go through
14 to begin with, and then we will cover some of the
15 other items to fill out the time.
16 The 66,500 acres in Grant County, and
17 15,500 acres in Franklin and approximately 6,600
18 acres in Adams County are committed to the Columbia
19 Basin Reclamation Project and are currently
20 assessed at 138.60 per acre. This might change in
21 time. But this is for the 50 years to cover
22 construction costs of the Columbia Basin irrigation
23 project.
24 The operation costs are in addition,
25 and this is at $24 per acre per year for the water

1 to water the lands with, and it must be paid in
2 advance of getting the water. So each farmer has
3 to come up with that much money at the beginning of
4 the year to buy his water allotment. This isn't a
5 freebee.
6 And, you know, the County Commissioners
7 were elected as the controlling body not only in
8 Washington, but County Commissioners in every
9 county in the United States. This authority
10 extends in our area to the midpoint of the Columbia
11 River at low watermark, when the river is narrow,
12 that's where that line is at. And Grant County has
13 one of the largest shorelines in the whole state.
14 And it's the biggest one in this particular area
15 that we're talking about.
16 And then, you know, our elected County
17 Commissioners, through public utility districts,
18 through Congressional action, have control of the
19 river. They have control of the storage of the
20 water in Canada, through contractual agreements,
21 treaty rights, that all have been reaffirmed by the
22 Congress of the United States and the government of
23 Canada.
24 A few years back, 1994, I believe, was
25 the last reaffirmation of the treaty. All of the

1 agencies have been cooperating together in flood
2 control and the river levels, and each one has been
3 working for the good of all of us.
4 Since the water is going to run down to
5 the ocean regardless of what any one of us wants to
6 do or say or change, it's going to happen and end
7 up in the ocean. A good example of this is at the
8 last high water, with the flooding at Portland,
9 through the storage facilities in Canada, two and a
10 half feet of flood water was held back. It saved
11 the people in Portland, Oregon, millions of
12 dollars, had the water risen that additional two
13 and a half feet.
14 And this treaty that we are talking
15 about, it guaranties us all the water that we need
16 for the irrigation or mining or anything else. It
17 says in the treaty we can have all the water that
18 we need in its full drainage area for consumptive
19 purposes. And if you look at consumptive purposes,
20 I just related a couple of the items to you.
21 Municipal water supplies, all of the things that
22 you use water for.
23 The water when it's used, it runs back
24 into the river so it doesn't affect the amount of
25 money that Canada receives on this.

1 Now, since the Wildlife Service is
2 using this land out on the Wahluke Slope here in
3 this Hanford Area that we are talking about, it's
4 on a 30 day cancelable project, contract.
5 And, you know, they haven't done a
6 thing since they've had that contract, which
7 started in roughly I think it was '52 or some such
8 date in there.
9 They failed to fight the fires. The
10 Fire Department has had to go out and put out those
11 fires before it destroyed the farms in that area.
12 It burned off everything.
13 I can show you pictures of it. In fact
14 that satellite picture right there shows you one of
15 the fires on the south side of the river.
16 So you have to remember, when they say
17 the special growth out there, ladies and gentlemen,
18 it's a pile of weeds. That's all it is, is weeds.
19 There is hardly any wildlife out there. You know,
20 the plans for this area were a schooled development
21 in the area that where they took the land from the
22 school district, these maps of the town of Wahluke
23 lay out the whole school that was there. That's
24 when they gave 30 days' notice, get out of here, we
25 need it for the defense of our country. Which was

1 a very legitimate reason.

2 And the farmers and the people were

3 more than -- well, begrudgingly, let it go. But as

4 we have sat back and watched it, it was a very

5 necessary thing.

6 But now these reactors and this project

7 is kind of calming down and the reactors are being

8 torn down and dismantled, and the Department of

9 Energy has said we no longer need it.

10 Now, we have a written contract that

11 says when they no longer need it, that they will

12 return it to us for farms, for farming.

13 And in our Wahluke 2000 Plan, we've

14 said there's got to be some room there for some of

15 the Indian things, there's got to be room there for

16 the environmentalists, there's got to be room for

17 the kids to come over and twiddle their toes in the

18 mud on the riverbanks. All of these things are

19 important for us as individuals.

20 But you've got to remember, nothing

21 comes free. Somebody's got to pay the bill.

22 Now, if we aren't going to let the

23 productive areas in this area be put under

24 production, who's going to foot the bill? Do you

25 know who it is? You, each one of you will reach in

1 your pocket and shell out the money.
2 Another question that makes you think,
3 what makes the Department of Fisheries, or Wildlife
4 or whoever this group is, think that they can
5 override the Congress, our county governments,
6 plainly, as employees you've got to have
7 direction. Somebody's got to be directing them, do
8 these things, do these things. I don't think that
9 they do it on their own. Most of these guys are
10 nice people. But as Dr. Miller mentioned, they
11 weren't going to even let us go down and take the
12 children down to look at the river, look at the old
13 school site, just view it, in a bus, a school bus,
14 in areas where there were roads.
15 This land is part of the paying program
16 and the water use. We have this treaty with Canada
17 that controls the amount of water that is coming
18 down the river. If it wasn't that PUD
19 Commissioners could see ahead of time, that there
20 wasn't enough water in the river for power
21 generation, for fish, for the things that we need,
22 and they said, we've got to do something about it,
23 so they went up into Canada, they did some surveys
24 up there, and they found out that the Columbia ice
25 fields are sitting up there and they melt, and this

1 is the source of the Columbia.

2 And these Commissioners got together

3 and they said, we'll negotiate a contract, a treaty

4 with Canada, and so they built three big dams up

5 there. They let out bonds. They raised I believe

6 the figure was 314 million dollars worth of money

7 to build these three dams. And these dams were

8 built so they can catch that Columbia glacier water

9 and hold it until the right moment and then let it

10 come down the river.

11 If it wasn't for that water, the fish

12 population would be zilch. Because the water runs

13 off fast in the spring of the year, we're coming

14 into that season, and then in the summer the rivers

15 are very small, and then in the fall they widen up

16 again.

17 We need this land under production.

18 The population is growing. The need for food is

19 all over the world, you see it, they're calling us,

20 asking us for food.

21 We're going to do it. We're going to

22 supply it. But we need the land.

23 Certainly if these people persist in

24 the process of taking the land out of the Columbia

25 River reclamation project, they'll very badly

1 damage the financial system.
2 I feel that if they do this, that the
3 bonding funds will dry up. Every two weeks we get
4 these issues of the magazine that shows which
5 bonding company is supplying money to ports, school
6 districts, counties, hospital districts and
7 everything else. And if they can't rely on the
8 commitment of our governments and our groups on
9 making the repayment. For example, the Columbia
10 River project on the 314 million dollars, 205
11 million are due in the year 2000 and at 3.8 percent
12 interest. It's an enormous amount of money. And
13 if the people who issue those bonds, there were
14 about 12 major bonding companies, and there were
15 464 underwriters that each bought a package of
16 those bonds. If they can't be assured they're
17 going to have a return on their money -- by the
18 way, that money is from the state treasurer, the
19 county treasurer, from your bank's savings
20 accounts, every one of them have an interest in
21 that money and the repayment.
22 The conclusions are going to be that
23 you are going to have to come up with the money.
24 Unless you're willing to help things go, help the
25 wheels keep turning in the way they've been. And

ladies and gentlemen, it's up to you and me. We're the ones that can make the difference. And if you aren't willing to go out and make a difference, be counted, stand up for the things that are right, the things that we know are good.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jim.

Carl Van Hoff.

RTM008 MR. VAN HOFF: I am Carl Van Hoff. I am representing the Washington Public Power Supply System, which today became known as Energy Northwest. And unlike the speakers who have been before me, I'm going to shift the emphasis to the south side of the Reservation, not this northern portion.

The Supply System leases about 2,000 acres of land on the Hanford Reservation on a 99 year lease. I'm going to point that area out on the map here. It's this little white parcel on this green map. That parcel was to house three power reactors.

I want to describe what we have there and our interests and cover our concerns and then offer a few general observations.

In the leasehold we have WNP-2, which

1 is an operating nuclear power plant, commercial
2 power plant. It's about 1200 megawatts. It's
3 about 5 percent of the energy consumed in the
4 Northwest, about 10 percent what the Bonneville
5 Power Administration sells to Public Utility
6 Districts and other concerns in the Northwest.
7 This is regulated. It's licensed by
8 the state and federal agencies that are chartered
9 to look after the health and safety of the public.
10 We are regulated with regulators on the premises
11 every day.
12 Your book talked about, the EIS, talked
13 about the environmental impacts of many things that
14 went on in the Hanford Reservation.
15 I think the record is a little
16 inadequate and incomplete.
17 I'd like to spend a minute talking
18 about some of the environmental benefits of WNP-2.
19 The Nuclear Energy Institute a couple weeks ago
20 released this document, which I will be including
21 with our comment letter. It talks about meeting
22 the electrical needs of energy -- or of the country
23 without producing greenhouse gases. And that's one
24 of the things that nuclear power is very good at.
25 It goes through and shows state by state the

1 reactors that are there, but more explicitly for
2 this effort it details the number of tons of
3 greenhouse gases that are not produced while we are
4 producing electricity. As a benefit for very much
5 the local area but the state as well. It comes
6 from this activity continuing there.
7 Our concern and our request is that
8 when you make land use decisions for the next 50
9 years, that those decisions continue to allow us to
10 enjoy the rights of our lease and to continue to
11 use WNP-2 for power production.
12 The other part of that leasehold was
13 for two other projects, projects 1 and 4. Those
14 projects have each been terminated. And they are
15 in various stages of being disassembled.
16 What makes those projects valuable is
17 the infrastructure that is there. There are office
18 buildings, there are high bay buildings with high
19 ceilings like warehouses that can be used for
20 commercial production. And those buildings tend to
21 be in pretty short supply in the Tri-City area.
22 And the term that we talk about is economic reuse.
23 These jobs -- or these facilities are important
24 because companies want to come into the area, want
25 to locate here, and they are jobs which generally

1 have nothing to do with the cleanup of the Hanford
2 Reservation. These are jobs that are needed to
3 take the place of the cleanup jobs that will
4 eventually go away, and will help the transition to
5 an economy that looks more like the economy in most
6 of the rest of the parts of the state.
7 Our concern here is that whatever
8 option you pick, that it allow for the economic
9 reuse of those facilities at WNP-1 and 4, and in
10 the area south of there, down towards the 300
11 Area.
12 Future observations now. I think the
13 Preferred Alternative is the one that is presented
14 with the most balance, and the fewest extremes. I
15 was impressed with the amount of balance that was
16 in it. I think it can accomplish a number of
17 purposes and a number of competing interests,
18 without the exclusion of other critical
19 activities.
20 We are comfortable with several of the
21 other alternatives. I have concerns about a couple
22 of them. I think they lack some of the balance
23 that the Preferred Alternative has.
24 I also want to thank Tom for the
25 treatment of the Supply System's facilities and our

activities in the EIS. I thought it was pretty even handed and pretty accurate, and felt like we got a pretty fair shake on that.

I look forward to working with you as you work through the rest of the process.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Carl.

Lauri Dayton.

RTM009 MR. DAYTON: Thank you. I don't really have any pre-prepared notes, but I am the vice-chair of the Wahluke School District. And as such, we are an affected party by whatever the deliberations turn out to be here.

Our position, of course, is that we would like to see the area in question returned per Alternative Three, or something close thereby, to the tax base. As has been previously noted by other speakers here, we have an adverse economic impact because a substantial portion of our school district is not presently in the tax base.

The other comment about the PILT, is that it is discretionary, from what I understand. It is renewable. It is not something that we can count on program funds for to set up programs. It is an iffy thing year by year, if we get it, and we

1 have so far. Then we get it I believe in October
2 or November, and we can't count from year to year
3 on setting up programs, which of course continuity
4 is very important to the school district to develop
5 its programs.
6 The second part of this I want to speak
7 as just a local citizen, looking at the maps, and
8 having read a summary some time ago of the
9 alternatives.
10 One of the things that strikes me,
11 having dealt with the Army about ten years ago on
12 the west side of the river, wanting to come on the
13 east side of the river, is there's a lot of
14 decisions make from afar. A lot of distant
15 interests, who from our perspective feels like
16 those decisions are made, if not in a vacuum, then
17 a sterile atmosphere, as many of us who do write
18 reports from time to time know how that goes.
19 And I want to comment that some of us
20 local people are very directly affected, not just
21 by the financial implications of what you do, but
22 by the lifestyle and environment that we live in.
23 For example, since I live here, I can
24 point out many eagle nesting areas, I can show you
25 12 or 14 different types of birds that exist on my

1 orchard, and there seems to be an assumption, with
2 all these maps here that are mostly green, that
3 there's a disposition towards incompatibility with
4 wildlife and environment having to do with the
5 level of development that's contemplated within the
6 next 50 years here on the slope.
7 And I would like to challenge that
8 assumption. Because it seems to be a basic operari
9 condition of five or six of these versions here.
10 The last thing I would like to point
11 out is that if you look at these maps, and, can
12 anybody in the back see anything but green of one
13 shade or another?
14 What I am trying to point out here is
15 there's an orangish brown sort of area called
16 recreation that shows up in Alternative Three, and
17 a little bit I believe in the Preferred
18 Alternative.
19 50 years is a long time for
20 development. We've seen a lot of recreational
21 development from one end of this river to the
22 other, from one end of this state to the other. I
23 think we're closing in on that is probably not a
24 very good idea. The time frame is too long. We
25 have fishermen using that river for recreation. We

have people just existing and enjoying it for recreation now. In the next 50 years I believe that to become a truly public asset, the public has to have access to it.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Lauri.

Lois Thiede.

RTM010 MS. THIEDE: Good evening. My name is Lois Thiede. I'm a local resident.

It's interesting to be speaking on this side because for many years, as some of you knew, I helped arrange these kind of meetings.

Because of that, I'm a very strong advocate of public involvement. I think public involvement means that you seek to ferret out and bring together diverse and sometimes opposing views about a decision, and find a way, find a way to make a solution that some way incorporates all of those views, all of those interests.

Especially as a government agency, DOE needs to find solutions that really incorporate all interests, not just a few.

So it's distressing for me to see that in the Preferred Alternative you have not done that. You have not considered the needs of this

1 community. It is the people of Mattawa and the
2 surrounding area that is most affected by the north
3 section of Hanford, the Wahluke Slope. It's not
4 the people in Seattle. It's not the people from
5 Portland; Washington, D.C.; the Tri-Cities; or
6 anywhere else where those 150 letters come from
7 that are most affected by that.
8 And I think in public involvement you
9 need to speak and you need to incorporate the
10 interests of the most affected people.
11 We want multiple uses for the Wahluke
12 Slope. That's what we've said before. We'll say
13 it again. You're hearing it again.
14 So, do we like your alternative? Of
15 course not. You haven't listened. You haven't
16 really incorporated those comments. In my opinion,
17 you haven't accomplished true public involvement.
18 We don't want all the Wahluke Slope to be a
19 wildlife refuge. The area is not a pristine
20 habitat. Much of it was formerly used for farming
21 and grazing, and we want some of it available for
22 similar purposes.
23 Every year the people who are
24 descendents of people who were forced out of the
25 Hanford White Bluffs area return for a reunion.

1 They have many sympathizers, because they were
2 quickly and uncaringly forced off of their farms
3 and homes.
4 I was amazed to read that Secretary
5 Richardson felt that designating the Wahluke Slope
6 as a wildlife refuge was some kind of compensation
7 for the people who had lost so much in those days.
8 It's not compensation at all. It's
9 just taking the land away from the local people
10 again and giving it again to a government agency.
11 DOE has the opportunity to right some
12 of those wrongs that were done in the '40s. But
13 the Preferred Alternative does not do that.
14 A just and fair compensation would be
15 to restore some opportunity to use the land in a
16 practical, productive, beneficial manner.
17 As others have said, Mattawa has been
18 in the news lately a lot, in the last couple of
19 years. It's not because we're a rich, effluent
20 community that needs a large playground in our back
21 yard. We have been in the news because we are a
22 very poor and distressed area. A high proportion
23 of our population is Hispanic, including a large
24 influx of seasonal and migrant workers. I don't
25 think any of them have shown up tonight. They

1 simply want to earn a living, have a decent place
2 for their families to live, a good education for
3 their children, and in some cases, opportunities to
4 start and own their own businesses.
5 There's a policy of the U.S. Government
6 called environmental justice, where decisions
7 cannot be made unfairly, dealing with the
8 economically depressed. I think our community fits
9 that description, where you have to look at
10 environmental justice.
11 Unfortunately the Preferred Alternative
12 does nothing to help this area. Making the Wahluke
13 Slope a wildlife refuge totally negates the
14 practical and economic opportunities for this
15 area. That's sad. Because DOE could really help
16 this area by giving it the same opportunities for
17 economic development that go to Benton and Franklin
18 Counties.
19 There's a lot of space in the Wahluke
20 Slope. This isn't an all or nothing proposition.
21 We are not asking that only our interests be
22 considered and some groups don't. We are not
23 asking that the entire Hanford Site be turned over
24 for agriculture or economic development.
25 But on the other hand, we're never

1 going to be happy, having our interests totally
2 ignored. I think that you've made some good first
3 steps in acknowledging that we are an affected
4 public with a legitimate right to our interests.
5 You've also begun to look at our interests with
6 Alternative Three. But there's still a long ways
7 to go. We still need to make our interests part of
8 the Preferred Alternative. Only then can you claim
9 a true public involvement success.
10 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Lois.
11 Mike Thiede.
12 RTM011 MR. THIEDE: It is hard to follow
13 something my wife put together, which I think was
14 real responsible.
15 I just wanted to add a few more things
16 to one item. There's a dozen items I could talk
17 about. One in particular I would like to address.
18 I'm not for the Preferred Alternative which leaves
19 the Wahluke under federal control. The interests
20 of Grant County, and particularly Mattawa, are not
21 considered under this alternative.
22 And to give a little background. I
23 worked at Hanford in the Environmental Science
24 Department at Battelle for some 18 years before
25 becoming a full-time orchardist, and my expertise

1 was in risk assessment, and I have a degree in
2 wildlife biology and biological sciences. I grew
3 up in Richland, and I moved to Mattawa about 20
4 years ago.
5 Having permanently left Hanford a few
6 years ago, I am continuing use of my technical
7 expertise to look for potential new economic
8 developments for this area which would add to the
9 diversity of our orchard operation.
10 I know what resources are available to
11 new start-up businesses in Benton County, and there
12 is also perceived perception by most officials that
13 I have spoken to that Hanford benefits to new
14 business are only for Benton County and Franklin
15 Counties.
16 Well, Grant County is mostly ignored.
17 The transfer of buildings and property to north
18 Richland, to businesses and university personnel is
19 evidence of this. The ignorance of the federal
20 government in the land use proposals for the
21 Wahluke further show no quality of treatment by the
22 government of poor and economically distressed
23 counties such as Grant County and the residents of
24 Mattawa.
25 I strongly urge you to change your

1 Preferred Alternative to include economic
2 opportunities for Grant County. Number three
3 probably is closest to that, but I don't like any
4 of them. It needs some revisions.
5 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mike.
6 Jack Yorgesen.
7 RTM012 MR. YORGESEN: I appreciate the
8 Department of Energy coming to Mattawa. I know
9 they wouldn't particularly look forward to it
10 because they know what's out here, that we are
11 citizens that put in our input, and it's like
12 kangaroo court. It's already been decided.
13 Richardson already came out and said what they want
14 and what they're going to get.
15 And I feel this isn't a public comment
16 for that reason. The alternative has already been
17 decided. We are commenting on alternatives which
18 it has already been decided is not a public comment
19 type idea.
20 The other thing I would like to talk
21 about is talk about the land being pristine in the
22 area here, this area right there.
23 In 1967 I cleared some sagebrush. I
24 doubt you could tell it was cleared today. There
25 was daylight farming supposed to come into that

1 area. We cleared the sagebrush in anticipation of
2 that. The Bureau of Reclamation decided to declare
3 it a red zone and traded us for land out here in
4 Mattawa. Caused us to move out here. Everybody
5 said, well, it's been totally disturbed.
6 I doubt if you could find that area I
7 cleared in 1967, 30 years ago. It wasn't 1940 when
8 it was taken away, or '43.
9 Approximately three and a half million
10 dollars every day is spent on Hanford cleanup. How
11 much is spent in Grant County? Any? How much --
12 There's an economic letter put out by Department of
13 Energy of how the economic development, how they're
14 helping the Tri-Cities. How much has been spent
15 north of the river, being helped north of the river
16 where a quarter of the land is? I asked one person
17 on the Hanford Advisory Board. He said none. It's
18 a known fact. Not spending any north of the
19 river.
20 I don't feel it's been done very fairly
21 or even looked at. It burns off periodically. We
22 go by there and there's fires there and the Federal
23 Fire Department don't seem to be able to put them
24 out. It's the local Fire Departments that put them
25 out.

1 I would speak in preference of
2 Alternative Number Three, even though Secretary
3 Richardson has already recommended the Preferred
4 Alternative. And I think I would support a bill to
5 study it, to have an unbiased study to see what it
6 really should be used for.
7 I do appreciate DOE getting out here to
8 listen to Mattawa, where it's closest to the
9 people. We live closer than any of you guys. I
10 drive to the Tri-Cities most every day, drive
11 across the Hanford Reach, but I've been down on the
12 river, too, on this side. We have irrigation
13 facilities go through there. We seldom talk about
14 them. The lake is down there, a manmade lake for
15 irrigation. Great habitat for fish and wildlife.
16 But it's not mentioned too much.
17 I appreciate your coming here. Thanks.
18 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jack.
19 James Harmon.
20 RTM013 MR. HARMON: Yeah. I'm a local
21 resident here, and every day we lose, I don't
22 remember the exact amount, but it's thousands of
23 acres of land that's put into like five acre tracts
24 for housing, and the rich people from the cities,
25 they move out into the rural areas because the

1 land's cheap and they can build a $250,000 house
2 and come, commute for the weekends, and maybe when
3 they retire, live there, like around Ellensburg.
4 Well, if that land around here, we
5 can't count on a bunch of Seattlelites coming over
6 and buying five acre pieces and building $250,000
7 houses on it.
8 Likewise if we had a whole bunch of
9 them, we could be yard boys and our wives could get
10 jobs as maids and stuff like that for them, and it
11 would be helpful to the economy.
12 But they have a big decision, our local
13 economy. It would be far better to take some of
14 that land that's being lost every day and take some
15 of the land back that was promised that we would
16 get back and put back into production.
17 They say we're only a few months away
18 from starvation in the world. We're going to have,
19 what is it, six billion people here in the world
20 before very long.
21 It takes years to get farms back into
22 good production. So why not start now and get this
23 land, you know, working for the people, for the
24 world.
25 And that's about all I have to say.

1 Production of the land I think is where you've got
2 to go.
3 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, James.
4 Mark Ulrich.
5 RTM014 MR. ULRICH: I'm just one of the
6 locals around here that farms. I've lived here for
7 18 years. I used to live right next to the red
8 zone on a farm.
9 As I look at the six proposals that are
10 here, the only one that I see that's in all of the
11 interests of all of the groups that I have heard
12 speak, whether it be at this meeting or the
13 meetings they had in the intermediate school two
14 summers ago, is Alternative Three. It gives
15 everybody a chance to be happy. Maybe not
16 completely happy. But what agreement is ever going
17 to make everybody completely happy? That's the
18 only one that takes into account everybody's
19 interest.
20 Thank you.
21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thanks, Mark.
22 Glenn Leeland.
23 RTM015 MR. LEELAND: I'm Glenn Leeland
24 with the Port of Mattawa, farmer in the area since
25 graduating from college in '74.

A neighbor of mine helped draw up the Wahluke 2000 Plan, and it's, you know, a lot that's in Number Three. It addresses a number of issues. I don't know, I would have put the river boundary back a mile instead of a quarter mile.

One thing I think that needs to be addressed is the White Bluffs, and Doc Hastings' plan addresses that. A study to see what we can do. Nobody wants to see White Bluffs end up in the middle of the Columbia River. And I think that's one thing that wasn't addressed very much, is what, you know, the farmers, the Columbia River is their lifeblood, and when they take the Governor down the river and say, this needs to be a wild and scenic river, or whatever title you are going to hang on it, but, you know, they don't take people around to the area where there might be a mouse for a mile or two. That's the only wildlife there is out there, except for a few beetles.

I don't know what kind of wildlife you are looking for. If you put it in the preferred plan or whatever plan it goes in, it's going to lock that up forever, and we need the land for food production. I think it's going to be a pretty sad state of affairs to try to get it out.

I support doing nothing, No Action Plan, if they don't go through with Plan Three, because I think that would be a better alternative, because no other plan is going to pay the taxes. Those taxes our community needs real bad. We have 80 percent Hispanic children. Nobody's addressed that in here. 80 percent of the kids in the school are Hispanic. And the people are paying the taxes for those schools, part of it's the PILT, but before PILT was here, they were still going to school, and they were having a hell of a time. They were the lowest of the grade scale on how those kids were doing. It's always, you know, -- it's a tough road to hoe and they need some help, and they need some tax dollars. And if this land was back on the tax roll, maybe it isn't all for farming, but there is a large chunk of it that should be, and what shouldn't be, should be studied, not just throwing it, oh, to wildlife refuge for mice and beetles. I don't think that's right.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Glenn.

LeRoy Allison.

RTM 16 MR. ALLISON: All right. I will

1 give two viewpoints here, one as an elected
2 official, I think Commissioner Snead mentioned,
3 touched on it really well, and that is when elected
4 officials stand here, they don't just represent one
5 voice, they represent a lot of voices.
6 And the comparison to 150 letters
7 versus one letter doesn't hold water, when you look
8 at people that have run for election and got 50
9 percent plus one vote, so there's at least in the
10 70,000 vote count, that's 35,000 votes standing
11 before you, at least.
12 And as Commissioner Snead mentioned,
13 the debates, I think the Republican Party it was
14 unanimous, the Democratic Party had one or two
15 people that were iffy in terms of local control.
16 I'd like to say thank you, Lloyd, first
17 of all, for being here. I'm really appreciative
18 that you're here. I know you're listening. I hope
19 you're hearing.
20 One of the other things that I wanted
21 to touch on that was mentioned already by Mr.
22 Leitz, and that was the people here don't want
23 entitlements. PILT can come or go. In fact we had
24 to go back to D.C. this year, there's legislation
25 that sets up PILT, but it has to be funded on a

1 biannual basis, and somehow this next biennium, '99
2 through 2001, it was left out of the budgeting
3 process, the dollars for your schools, for your
4 fire districts, for your port districts for Grant
5 County and Grant County roads was left out of
6 the '99 to 2001, and we had to go back and argue
7 for that again. We hope it did some good.
8 But as Mr. Leitz said, we don't want
9 entitlements. We want opportunity. That's what
10 the people of the Columbia Basin came here for.
11 Many of them, military people that came back, some
12 of them military people that had families like Walt
13 Grishop that was moved out during the time,
14 the '40s, when he came back, he had no farm, no
15 family residence to come back to. His family had
16 been moved off.
17 Ultimately, as a County Commissioner, I
18 had better say this up-front, Alternative Three is
19 our Preferred Alternative. However, there's one
20 thing that I would like to point out from a County
21 Commissioner standpoint, and that is the subliminal
22 message, and I will walk over to this map, and I
23 don't know if I should take this with me or not,
24 but I will try, the subliminal message here, if we
25 were going to be truthful, in these maps, that

would be the only real green spot on these maps (indicating).

That brown area. What we would see eight to ten months of the year in these areas are yellow and burnt brown, with a few black spots where those fires occur, like in 1993 when we had, what, 13,000 acres burn before we could put it out. And then we had to fight for two years to get funding to help pay for local people who footed the bill to put that out.

While I'm over here, the local people, the people of this state and the people of this nation, know and understand diversity. Like nowhere else in the world, as far as I'm concerned, from my personal viewpoint. If you look at these maps, there are six alternatives. Which one says diversity? Which one offers the most diversity, the most opportunity? It's the one with the most colors on it.

A couple points that I did want to point out that are buried in some of the documents, and I say buried, because I still haven't found one of them. In 1957, Jim Curdy mentioned that there was an agreement between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation that those

1 properties north of the river, especially the ones
2 that were identified as irrigable lands, part of
3 the Columbia Basin Project, would come back. He
4 mentioned it before the meeting, Jim Curdy did, as
5 a promise from the Atomic Energy Commission. It
6 was a promise, that was going to come back.
7 Now we've had a difference of opinion
8 in terms of the administration. In 1994 the River
9 Corridor EIS had a Congressional mandate to study
10 one-quarter mile on either side of the river, up
11 and down that corridor. Lo and behold that year
12 and a half, two year process turned into a
13 recommendation that not only included that
14 corridor, but said, oh, by the way, let's take the
15 rest of the 90,000 acres on the north side of the
16 river.
17 There's a legality question there,
18 because the mandate from and direction from
19 Congress said a quarter mile was the study area.
20 What came back included 90,000 acres on the north
21 side of the river, illegally.
22 Stepping away from the Commissioner's
23 position, to a citizen of this nation position, a
24 Hanford downwinder, a kid who was born, a hospital
25 wasn't good enough in Moses Lake, I was born in

Ritzville, but I have lived since 1952 in Warden, east of Moses Lake. In the early to mid '50s I remember playing, too young to work, had to be five or seven or whatever, my brothers and sisters were to do the farm work, so as a kid, we would play. Our folks didn't have babysitters. We would play in those fields when the rest of the family was working. Late '50s, probably about '57 to '61, sometime in there, that time frame. I remember helicopters flying over.

Years later, after going through mid school, at that time it was seventh and eighth grade, and having a thyroid problem and having to take pills, years after that, I found out what those helicopters were doing. I found out when my uncle in the Tri-Cities ended up with cancer. I found out when my mom ended up with gallbladder cancer.

I fully understand the impact of the Hanford Site. And on behalf of myself and all of those people like Walt Grishop, we would like to come home. Please look and include Alternative Number Three, portions of Alternative Number Three back into the Preferred Alternative.

Thank you.

1 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, LeRoy.
2 We have had an add-on. Terry Brewer.
3 RTM017 MR. BREWER: When I signed up, she
4 said I was 13th, I think. I think that meant I was
5 on the 13th page. So it's tough to speak something
6 new and relevant after all of these fine folks have
7 made so many eloquent and meaningful comments about
8 their beliefs, their opinions, their studies, their
9 cares and desires for our future.
10 I'm proud to be a citizen of the United
11 States. I'm proud to be a citizen of the state of
12 Washington and Grant County. I'm mostly proud
13 because of our heritage. We're governed by the
14 people, for the people. I think that has a lot to
15 say about us as people, what we're about. We
16 understand that sometimes we need to elect
17 officials and they go to the government office and
18 make decisions on our behalf. And we have the
19 right to re-elect or to put someone else in their
20 place as citizens, if we see things going the wrong
21 direction.
22 What we don't always have the right to
23 do is name the department heads, the staff, the
24 people that are out there in the trenches making
25 the decisions and doing the work, setting policies

1 that sometimes do govern our lives.
2 But in a forum like tonight we have a
3 chance to speak our piece, and I am pleased that
4 you are here tonight. I trust that somebody in
5 your department has read what I've said before,
6 because I've appeared before the microphone here
7 and sent in written commentary before.
8 I will announce to you that I am Terry
9 Brewer. I am a representative of Grant County
10 Economic Development Council, and that is not a
11 government organization. We are a private not for
12 profit organization. I'm pleased that we're funded
13 in part by government. Over 150 members support
14 this organization so that we can do the work we do
15 to enhance the economic development opportunities
16 throughout Grant County. Primarily our interests
17 are industry.
18 Well, farming's an industry. It is for
19 sure the biggest industry in the south end of Grant
20 County, and will be forever in my opinion. It's a
21 darn important industry. We all are old enough to
22 recognize the changes in land use in our country in
23 our lifetime. Viable land is taken out of
24 production in the United States every year, far too
25 much. We can't really do anything about it. Our

population continues to grow. Society changes and land is taken out of production.

We're fortunate to be educated and well advanced scientifically enough to enhance the production on the remaining acres to continue to feed ourselves and much of the underprivileged part of the world.

The point, I guess, to cut things short here, we don't very often see the opportunity to put more land into ag production. It just does not exist. Once in a while someone might be able to reclaim some brown field, but usually we are all too afraid to grow food on it. So it might just be grassland.

But we have opportunity to put some land back into production that was taken. It was once productive land, owned by private citizens. It was taken. We have the opportunity for our government to listen to the desires of the people in this area who wish to see it put back to what I prefer, my organization would prefer Alternative Plan Three, a multi-use plan. Some of that land going back into real production. We get it off the federal dole on those few years when we are lucky enough, I hate acronyms, I usually don't know what

1 they mean, payment in lieu of taxes. We don't want
2 to be on the dole, and we sure can't count on that,
3 as we've heard from elected officials here.
4 The school district, they've got to
5 guarantee bond payments for 20 years. It's hard to
6 do that when you're having payments in lieu of
7 taxes for two years at a time.
8 But on the other hand, if the land is
9 put back into private ownership, productive uses,
10 the property taxes will go a long ways to support
11 the school district, the local fire district, local
12 jurisdictions that count on the tax revenue to make
13 things better for all the citizens.
14 In my case, it's all about jobs.
15 Economic development in Grant County is for the
16 purpose of enhancing economic opportunities here so
17 that local citizens can have opportunities for
18 jobs.
19 Those of us who live here today that
20 are of working age and choose to work, and our
21 families in the future, those young generations
22 coming up so they don't have to go off to Seattle
23 or some other urban area to find a job, we hope
24 that we can have enough productive activities going
25 on in our communities so that they can have jobs

here, and we have darn well been shorted by the federal programs that are putting money into the cleanup and the rehabilitation of the Hanford site.

I don't wish to take anything away from my friends in the Tri-Cities who are doing economic development work, but with the little pot of money that's in the millions, and I do nothing, to do the work that we do here, where there's pretty good, large percentage of federal owned land here, and it was taken, it's an opportunity lost, I couldn't begin to compound the numbers on the opportunity that's been lost in the past 50 some years, but I can pray and trust that you will make the right decision to put some of this back into production for our future.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: That concludes our registered commenters.

I want to point out that we have these forms. I know you've heard about them before, if you've gone by the registration table.

If there's somebody who's not here tonight that you know has a feeling on this issue and would like to write on the forms, feel free to

take them home. Comments close on June 7th. If there's no one who wants to speak now who is not registered or someone who wants to continue speaking from before, please step up and just state your name for our reporter who is writing down our comments tonight.

Thank you.

RTM018 MR. TETRO: My name is Dick Tetro. I live at Desert Aire. I have been a property owner of Desert Aire for 25 years. And for 50 years I've been familiar with this area. I lived in the Tri-Cities for 25 years.

And I really feel that we need to kind of revisit this whole process perhaps, retake a look at the whole situation, because I'm just kind of an observer, I'm a layman, I'm not a professional in any respect, but it appears to me that we have a number of diverse interests here and a number of diverse areas in this Wahluke area that should be looked at from all perspectives. And I think that you need to maybe go back to ground zero and start over.

I realize you've got a time frame that's probably not going to permit that. It appears like this Preferred Alternative may be cut

in stone. I hope not. I think that we need a compromise here that addresses all of the areas, which would include the scenic river area, the wildlife, the Indians, the various Tribes, as well as the economic interests as far as the farming and Wahluke Slope.

I just feel that it really needs to kind of stop and you need to go back and revisit some of this, spend a little time at it, try to get our new secretary of DOE to slow down a bit and take another look at it, if that's possible.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Anybody else? All right. Jim.

RTM019 MR. CURDY: I would like to be registered for being in favor of Number Three. I believe that in my talk that I didn't say that. My name is Jim Curdy. I've been in the area for many years. And spoke on different subjects here in reference to this land development.

And when I came here about 40 some years ago, there wasn't anything here. I came because of the dams, the building of the dams. And if you will notice as you go up the river, there was no trees in this part of the river, because the

river was fast flowing. And they never developed along the river edge until after the dams were in and the water was slowed down. And then the trees have gradually been growing along there.

But this is truly a desert area that we live in here, and it's fantastic. If you live in the area, I'm telling you, you just watch the way things grow and the flowers and everything in the springtime. It just makes you proud of the fact that you live in an area like this, and you work hard, and when you see what our schools have done. You see, we started out here, we had 173 people in this town. And now you look at it, there's an enormous amount. There's a great Spanish population, and we brought them in here because we need them to harvest the crops. We need people. And the country needs food. And the things that you have been talking about here. If we don't get some land that's back into agriculture, so much of it's going out, come on, guys, be for Number Three, let's give everybody a good opportunity.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jim. Sure. Come on up.

RTM020 MS. LEITZ: My name is Liz Leitz.

1 Thanks very much for this opportunity to speak
2 night. I'm here on behalf of myself and my family
3 that lives here in the Mattawa community. I didn't
4 speak as a registered speaker because I, like
5 Mr. Yorgesen, feel that the decision has been
6 made. But like Mr. Curdy says, you know, if you're
7 not willing to do anything about it, don't
8 complain. And I believe in that strongly.
9 I have several things to say. I'll
10 start off with a few comments first. I am not
11 pleased and I am not happy in how the decision in
12 this process is being made. I'm an advocate of
13 public involvement and public interest being heard,
14 and I think that that has not taken place in this
15 process.
16 I just was reading an article recently
17 in the newspaper, and it was quoting Congressman
18 Inslee who by no accident does no longer represent
19 us here, and he says that he feels that it is the
20 role of the federal government to decide the fate
21 of the Wahluke Slope.
22 And our current sitting Congressman
23 replied, to suggest that only people outside the
24 area can make this decision on the future of the
25 land use of the Wahluke Slope is very

1 short-sighted.

2 And I think people understand that the

3 people in Mattawa do not appreciate short-

4 sightedness.

5 I want to address the lack of letters

6 in support that you say that you have received on

7 behalf of Alternative Three. Again, back to the

8 public involvement and public support. The people

9 feel that the decision has been made without their

10 involvement. The perception of the public is that

11 you are ineffective and that the decision has

12 already been made. Therefore, why say anything?

13 Which is exactly why I am saying something.

14 The Wahluke 2000 Plan is very

15 practical. That ground out there is not pristine

16 as people have mentioned. Read an article that

17 stated that really only 15 percent of the ground

18 out there can be considered pristine. I think it's

19 also very sad that some of our community members

20 that spent hours and hours of their own personal

21 time developing and assisting in the Wahluke 2000

22 Plan, many of which are not here this evening, I

23 think that's sad.

24 Those people have been beaten down.

25 They have not been listened to. Therefore, why

1 come and face it again?
2 I appreciate the effort that all those
3 individuals put in, their time and their knowledge,
4 on my behalf, on my children's behalf.
5 I would like the opportunity to take my
6 kids down there. You know, everybody in Seattle
7 and Tri-Cities and Yakima wants the opportunity to
8 take their kids down there. Why can't I have that
9 same opportunity?
10 Coming home the other day, there was so
11 many people from the west side taking advantage of
12 all the opportunities here, they were stuck,
13 stopped dead on I-90 from Easton to Ellensburg.
14 You know, everybody loves for them, for
15 everybody to publicly own this ground out here so
16 they can come and use it and play on it. But we
17 have to leave because it's so accessible to them,
18 yet not us.
19 I don't think that's fair. I don't
20 think that's right, as Mr. Curdy mentioned.
21 Pursuant to Section 168 of the Atomic Energy Act an
22 agreement was reached between affected counties and
23 the Department of Energy in December of '96.
24 That agreement provides for the payment
25 in lieu of taxes, the PILT funds. The contractual

1 agreement states that the Department, and I will
2 quote, use its best efforts and take all actions
3 necessary to assure the appropriations of such
4 funds by the Congress, these are our elected
5 officials, giving the funds to the department, to
6 be used as in lieu of tax dollars.
7 The DOE budget, as it was mentioned by
8 Mr. Allison, did not include those PILT funds this
9 year. Through correspondence, they are
10 re-evaluating their budget, and we ask, I ask, the
11 benefit of all the taxing districts in our
12 community here, that service not only the residents
13 here but the ground that is held by nonresidents, I
14 would ask that that be re-evaluated, that those
15 program dollars be considered as landlord costs,
16 not independent of the funding level of the
17 programs Hanford currently receives.
18 I want to stress again that this is
19 considered a playground for others, it's a
20 wonderful playground, but we all have to pick it up
21 when we leave. The attitude, I'm afraid again, the
22 public involvement sector, is clearly represented
23 in the short two or three page summary that I was
24 provided on this meeting tonight, and the
25 description of the Alternative Three plan, it

1 states that that plan was developed by individual
2 government groups.
3 I think that's terrible. These people
4 work together, not to be considered individual
5 public groups. This was a consortium that the
6 government is so hot on talking about, consortiums
7 now between public and private entities. This was
8 a true grassroots consortium of public and private
9 entities that put together this plan. It was not
10 an individual group come together and just saying,
11 no, we this and we that and we this. They came
12 together, they compromised, they came up a plan
13 that addressed everybody's interests.
14 That attitude is also reflected in the
15 fact that Mattawa had to, or thank you to the Grant
16 County Commissioners for requesting that you
17 actually come to the Wahluke Slope to have a
18 hearing about the Wahluke Slope. Thank you,
19 Commissioners, for requesting that. Again, I do
20 appreciate you coming here now. I hope it's not
21 too late. Alternative Three addresses our concerns
22 best on the Wahluke Slope.
23 Thank you.
24 MS. WILLIAMS: Do we have anybody
25 else?

RTM021 MR. MARTINEZ: Mike Martinez is my name. I would like to just tell a story about my family. My father was an immigrant from Spain. He landed at White Bluffs. And along come the war in 1941 and they started the Manhattan Project, and they said, well, we need this ground, why don't you guys move away.

Which is all fine. My father did the right thing. Gave the property away. He moved to Sunnyside. And I was just a glean in daddy's eyes that day. So we lived over there for quite a while.

And then he decided to move back, buy some range land in Moxee. In 1954 the United States Government comes along and says, Mr. Martinez, we would like to have part of your range for the firing center.

Well, dad did the right thing again. He gave up the ground.

Then here recently, in the last few years, we defeated the Army in their acquisition of our river right-of-way. We didn't win. They lost. It cost us a whole bunch of money.

But I would like to say, in closing, that I would like to see us use Alternative Number

1 Three. Let the government do the right thing. Let
2 the people have the ground back.
3 Thank you.
4 MS. WILLIAMS: Anybody else? It
5 looks like we have hit the end of the line here.
6 Comments are due June 7th. All of them will be
7 considered, whether oral or written. And we thank
8 you for your attendance. We have had some very
9 emotional comments and some well put comments,
10 things that we have heard before and are hearing
11 now again for a second time. Thank you.
12
13 (8:45 p.m.)
14
15 * * *
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25

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
County of Benton)

I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public for Washington; that at said time and place I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting and that the foregoing transcript consisting of 71 typewritten pages is a true and correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand at Kennewick, Washington, on this 22nd day of June, 1999.

William J. Bridges
CSR NO. BRIDGWJ548PO
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public for Washington
My commission expires: 11-1-99

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REVISED DRAFT HANFORD REMEDIAL ACTION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

June 3, 1999

7:00 p.m.

Ridpath Hotel

Spokane, Washington

BRIDGES & ASSOCIATES
Certified Shorthand Reporters
P. O. Box 5999
Kennewick, Washington 99336
(509) 735-2400 - (800) 358-2345

1 MR. FERNS: My name is Tom Ferns,
2 and I am with the Department of Energy, and I'm the
3 National Environmental Policy Act document manager
4 for this Environmental Impact Statement. And we
5 have several of our cooperating agencies'
6 representatives here today. I will point them
7 out.
8 We have Cliff Ligons here from BLM. We
9 have Darren Arrasmith from Benton County Planning
10 Department. We have Dave. Where did Dave go?
11 Oh. Dave Goekey from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service. We have Jeff Haas from the U. S. Fish and
13 Wildlife Service. And we have Jay Jakabowsky from
14 the BLM.
15 A lot of these people worked on this
16 EIS. I'm glad to see they are all here, too. We
17 have Matt Morton from Grant County back over
18 there. We are glad to see that the cooperating
19 agencies have showed up, and I hope everybody had a
20 chance to talk and get most of your questions
21 answered.
22 The public comment period for this EIS
23 does end on the 7th, which is Monday, and we'd like
24 to get as much comment as we could.
25 What we're going to do, we're going to

1 go directly into the public comment period of this
2 hearing, and Liz Williams, she has been keeping a
3 record of who wants to speak, correct, Liz? And
4 she will give it to Barbara Williamson, who is also
5 from DOE. And I am glad you came here tonight.
6 Barbara, do you want to start this off?
7 MS. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh. We have a
8 pretty good list here of people who want to speak,
9 and for that reason we're going to ask that you
10 hold your comments to ten minutes. I'll be
11 watching the time clock and give you a high sign if
12 it looks like it's getting close and we need to you
13 conclude. That way everybody will have a chance to
14 to say what they need to say.
15 At the end if there's time left over,
16 we'll let people who feel that they must say
17 something after hearing the comments, to make those
18 comments at that time.
19 Again, we will ask you to hold it for
20 five minutes for the later comment time.
21 As you know, and I think as has been
22 told to many folks here, the comment period has run
23 from April 23rd to June 7th.
24 June 7th is right around the corner.
25 If you have something written and you would like to

1 hand it in, use the little hand in mail folders, or
2 your own letter. All comments, whether oral or
3 written, will be considered in making a final
4 determination and a Record of Decision on this EIS,
5 or Environmental Impact Statement.
6 So let's get started with Jim
7 Pritchard, you're first. Jim Pritchard.
8 RTS001 MR. PRITCHARD: I strongly favor
9 Alternative Three from local government.
10 The main reason is given our world
11 population, human population and the increase in
12 human population that we're expecting, we're going
13 to run out of land for food production. We don't
14 even like to think about that right now too much.
15 I think a lot of people don't, because we've got
16 plenty of surpluses. But this time is going to
17 come. And not too distant future at the rate human
18 population is increasing.
19 The Wahluke Slope contains land
20 particularly well suited for irrigated agricultural
21 production. We cannot allow these lands to be, the
22 total to be tied up in wildlife refuge. We need
23 them for food production.
24 Use of sprinkler irrigation should
25 protect the White Bluffs from slumping.

1 The study of this problem that's
2 proposed in Congressman Hastings' legislation
3 should provide any needed practices and
4 procedures.
5 And secondly, my reason for favoring
6 Number Three, and I preface that by saying I am a
7 retired federal employee, I have a lot of good
8 feelings toward the federal folks, and I even know
9 some of them that are in this room, and we know
10 that those who are here on the local level have a
11 lot of good expertise, and we appreciate their
12 input that they've had, particularly in working
13 with the salmon and the salmon habitat down below
14 Priest Rapids Dam on the Hanford Reach.
15 But I particularly don't favor the
16 federal control of the Hanford Reach, particularly
17 through the wild and scenic rivers designation.
18 This act provides too much opportunity for
19 increaseD restrictive federal control.
20 Local government can and should and
21 will protect the Reach because the vast majority of
22 us want it protected. But we've had too much
23 experience with well intended decisions made from
24 the federal level that lacked the real knowledge of
25 what works in the particular situation.

1 The Hanford Reach is being protected at
2 the present time, and with the cooperation of
3 local, state and federal agencies.
4 Now, our Growth Management Act in this
5 state requires protection of sensitive areas such
6 as -- that are important to wildlife and habitat,
7 steep slopes and wetlands. This would include the
8 Reach.
9 I've indicated that I oppose this wild
10 and scenic river designation for the Reach because
11 the laws that designate, the designation gives no
12 assurance that the designated area will be managed
13 to meet the existing and future local needs.
14 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the
15 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
16 give the federal Government broad authority for
17 local, state and federal lands and water management
18 decisions, that the Reach were designated wild and
19 scenic river, the federal downstream, federal
20 waters protected upstream, downstream and on
21 tributaries.
22 Whoops. I skipped something. Sorry.
23 If the Reach is designated as wild and
24 scenic, the federal government would have the final
25 say over water rights, federal water projects

upstream and downstream and on tributaries, recreational use and economic activity, even miles away from the river. This could even affect folks right here in Spokane.

I believe that Alternative Three is better because the authority for the Reach is shared between local, state and federal agencies with responsibility for the river. I believe that this sharing of authority will lead to better cooperation among managing agencies, recreational use, more reflective of what local citizens desire, and ensure that the Reach is managed to meet local and federal needs.

Under Alternative Three local government and citizens will have more say in the management and the protection of the Reach.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has a single narrow focus and under wild and scenic rivers, they would be the ones that would be in charge. This could be very dangerous to the regional and local economies.

This would not be in the interest of the people of the Northwest or the nation. The Columbia Gorge Scenic Area Act and the Hells Canyon are good examples of what can happen with federal

control.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Charles Fisk.

RTS002 MR. FISK: Good evening. I'm speaking on my own behalf as a private citizen tonight. But I'm also the conservation chair of the Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club, which is an organization of some 240 members.

I'm not authorized to speak for the club at this time, but pending its board meeting will submit our recommendations before the deadline.

As a personal matter, then, my concerns are primarily of the recreational use of the Hanford Reach by canoe and perhaps also by hiking trails.

Both individually and as a club, we're concerned with the access to the river, the possibility of low intensity campsites, and also primarily the preservation of the native flora and fauna that make paddling such a real pleasure.

The proposed Alternative Two comes closest I guess to the ideal of our concerns in terms of maximum preservation of the values. But it can be improved, I believe.

1 And speaking from some of the material
2 that I've gathered, I'd like to advocate that the
3 designation of all of the lands within the Arid
4 Lands Ecology Reserve, the Wahluke Slope, the McGee
5 Ranch, the national refuse overlane by the Hanford
6 Reach recreational wild and scenic rivers all be
7 contained into one functioning unit, managed
8 probably best by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
9 Service. Some 176,000 total acreage.
10 I would like to see the separate Record
11 of Decision without delay in the areas that are
12 listed above.
13 And for us, grazing and mining are
14 incompatible with both the scenic and the land
15 integrity. We're particularly concerned with
16 residential development, or development near the
17 Vernita Bridge. We've already seen degradation of
18 the skyline and the areas around our own treasured
19 little Spokane River.
20 So essentially we would seek the
21 integrity of particularly the White Bluffs area.
22 I had the very good fortune of going
23 down with a scout troop back last year, and we used
24 Kennewick as our base. So I'm sure that all of the
25 cities in the vicinity, Pasco and Richland, even

1 Odessa, will benefit from recreational uses of the
2 river.
3 So we need no grazing or mining or
4 incompatible activities that would work towards
5 degradation of the area. Essentially we wouldn't
6 see -- or we would see grazing and such, if it were
7 permitted development as being detrimental to the
8 natural wildlife, flora and fauna.
9 So, speaking from that aspect, I
10 appreciate the chance to register my comments.
11 Thank you.
12 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Charles.
13 Harold Heacock.
14 RTS003 MR. HEACOCK: Thank you. I am
15 Harold Heacock, from the Tri-City area, and
16 speaking as one of the citizens that would be most
17 affected by future land use decisions in the
18 Hanford Site.
19 First, I think in terms of the Hanford
20 Reach, which is not really a subject of this EIS,
21 and land use plan was unanimous, almost nearly
22 unanimous between all parties, factions, the Reach
23 must be protected and preserved.
24 Secondly, then, the issue is what's the
25 best use for the remainder of the site. This leads

1 you to a couple conclusions.

2 First is that the county proposal for

3 farming on the Wahluke Slope area is simply

4 unacceptable for potential for damaging the Reach

5 in the White Bluffs area. That is a treasure that

6 must be maintained and protected. And it's already

7 showing some degradation from farming of adjacent

8 areas.

9 Secondly, then you look at the

10 remainder of the site.

11 Well, let me say one other thing, since

12 it has been mentioned by other speakers.

13 My personal preference would be Fish

14 and Wildlife Service management, in preference to

15 the National Park Service, in that the Fish and

16 Wildlife Service does provide for the utilization

17 of the site under reasonable controls.

18 Now, looking at the balance of the

19 site, the Preferred Alternative which provides

20 protection for both the north slope, the ALE and

21 most of the site is from the local community point

22 of view by far the Preferred Alternative. It

23 provides adequate land on the site for industrial

24 development, it provides for protection of those

25 areas that need to be protected, it provides for

1 land utilization for cleanup of the site, and the
2 resources necessary for that.
3 Therefore, I'm strongly in support of
4 the Preferred Alternative.
5 Likewise, I cannot support the tribal
6 proposals which in effect would tie up essentially
7 all land on the site and prevent any utilization of
8 what is a national resource that is vital to the
9 vitality of the Tri-City area economy.
10 Thank you.
11 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. We have
12 chairs up front if folks want to sit down. Lots of
13 room over here on the side, over on the left. We
14 will take a little brake here.
15 (Pause in the proceedings).
16 MS. WILLIAMS: Gerry Pollet, you
17 are next.
18 RTS004 MR. POLLET: I am going to pass out
19 some of these guides. I don't know if I have
20 enough left. It may help people follow along with
21 our comments. And I need to use the overhead
22 here.
23 I'm Gerry Pollet and I am representing
24 Heart of America Northwest, and as many of you
25 know, we're a citizens group that focuses on

1 cleanup of Hanford, and we endorse the alternative
2 proposed by the Nez Perce Nation because we believe
3 very strongly that any other alternative at this
4 time proposes to open up the Hanford Site to uses
5 that will expose the public to significant
6 exposures and destroy important tribal protected
7 treaty rights and cultural resources
8 We need to put this in a little bit of
9 perspective to start with, and not view this EIS in
10 isolation from other Department of Energy
11 activities.
12 This is a map of the Hanford Site from
13 the preliminary draft of this Environmental Impact
14 Statement. And it shows incremental lifetime
15 cancer risks in the year 2029 from usage along the
16 Columbia River at eight hours a day, seven days a
17 year of exposure. Get that? Eight hours a day,
18 seven days a year, 56 hours a year.
19 And what it shows here is that the very
20 darkest areas have an incremental cancer risk,
21 people exposed at that level 56 hours a year of
22 greater than one in a hundred.
23 And this is very important to bear in
24 mind when we start talking about the Department of
25 Energy's Preferred Alternative and how it would

1 open up the site for expanded public exposure prior
2 to remediation; and the Department's plan to have a
3 Land Use Board essentially that excludes the
4 cleanup regulators whose job it is to protect the
5 public from the residual contamination at Hanford,
6 and just leave that job of deciding on land uses to
7 the Department of Energy and the, I would say,
8 self-interested local governments who have an
9 interest in economic development as espoused in
10 Alternative Three.
11 So, you look at the base line risks.
12 Another perspective on the risk here that people
13 need to take into account is this is just one area
14 along the Columbia River, this happens to be a
15 chromium plume map, you're talking about discharges
16 into the Columbia River from groundwater along the
17 river shorelines that are hundreds of times the
18 drinking water standard for certain radionuclides
19 and chemicals. Chromium levels, about 25 times
20 here what is known to harm the development of
21 juvenile salmon.
22 Harold Heacock made a statement which
23 was everyone wants to preserve the Reach. And I
24 think rhetorically, everyone wants to preserve the
25 Reach.

1 I'm not sure that the current steward
2 had any intention of preserving the Reach, however,
3 given that the Department of Energy's record is
4 that they have contaminated the Reach.
5 This is another map. This is the one
6 where I like to take to folks who are canoeing,
7 kayaking, fishing or boating, rafting down the
8 Reach. Don't stop for long anywhere near the 100 N
9 Area. That's the N-Reactor area. These are gamma
10 radiation levels in the vicinity of the N-Reactor.
11 This is an older map, but you still
12 have very significant levels that stretch all the
13 way across the river.
14 Now, the Department of Energy says
15 these things aren't important in terms of this EIS
16 because we don't allow people to go where no man
17 should go. But in fact as many people who are here
18 tonight know, people do access the islands, the
19 shorelines, and have exposure throughout the year,
20 and especially during fishing season in the
21 summer.
22 The Department of Energy in their
23 preliminary draft of this EIS had a Preferred
24 Alternative for restricted future land use. Now,
25 they've withdrawn this.

1 I just want to be very clear. But this
2 was their original Preferred Alternative. That
3 restricted future use of the Hanford Reach to 56
4 hours a year and said that's all we have to
5 remediate to. We don't have to clean up to any
6 higher degree than just to allow you access 56
7 hours a year.
8 Now, for all of you, that's maybe a
9 rather frightening thought, but I don't see anyone
10 here from the three affected Indian nations
11 tonight. To them it is a slap in the face in terms
12 of the right, security of Treaties of 1855 to live
13 along and fish at usual and accustomed fishing
14 grounds.
15 That right does not have a little
16 asterisk next to it that says, subject to the
17 Department of Energy or local government saying
18 that you will only be there 56 hours a year.
19 I am going to skip ahead a little bit.
20 Now, at 56 hours a year, as I said earlier, you had
21 an estimation of cancer risk of greater than one in
22 a hundred.
23 Now, the Department of Energy is
24 subject to regulation by EPA and Ecology for
25 cleaning up along the Columbia River. The

1 Department of Energy in its wisdom in the budget it
2 just sent for fiscal year 2001 to its headquarters
3 in Washington, D.C., is proposing to eliminate all
4 cleanup activity along the Columbia River in the
5 year 2001, in violation of the Hanford cleanup
6 agreement.
7 Now, it is very important that when you
8 look at the Department of Energy's land use map and
9 its Preferred Alternative, and I'm just going to
10 use this map as a point of comparison, you look at
11 their map and you see that they are proposing
12 opening up a huge swath of land to development and
13 public access.
14 What are we talking about in terms of
15 human exposure? The Department of Energy says we
16 will rely on institutional controls to keep people
17 out of unremediated areas.
18 But the Department of Energy has
19 already proven that their institutional controls
20 failed to keep people out today of areas of high
21 risk.
22 So long as the Department of Energy
23 proposes to open up land for development prior to
24 full remediation, we are going to have people
25 exposed to extremely high risks.

1 Now, in the 300 Area the Department,
2 which is down here, which is highly contaminated,
3 has some of the most dangerous industrial
4 facilities in this country in terms of potential
5 release of chemicals or radiation, including a
6 building that still has two million curies of
7 dispersible plutonium in radiation whose walls will
8 not withstand the design basis earthquake, right in
9 here, and their proposal in the land use plan is to
10 say we're going to open this area up for economic
11 development and reuse immediately, essentially.
12 Without regard to the fact that the
13 institutional controls do not exist to prevent
14 those members of the public, that's the workers who
15 go in there, from being exposed to levels that are
16 not acceptable in terms of carcinogen and toxic
17 exposure risks under federal and state laws.
18 The Department of Energy's plan says,
19 well, we'll make these decisions in consultation
20 with our Land Use Board, but the regulators who are
21 the only ones who have an interest in making sure
22 that there is not an inadvertent exposure to the
23 unremediated groundwater soil sites air exposure,
24 other facilities, they won't be on that board.
25 We think that is a horrible mistake.

1 That ultimately we have to recognize that EPA and
2 Ecology need to have control over who accesses
3 anything in here. There are unremediated,
4 uninvestigated waste sites, including some serious
5 burial grounds in here that aren't even mentioned
6 in this product.
7 The Department of Energy proposes to of
8 course use in their vision, they will open up the
9 FFTF Reactor as part of the new mission of Hanford
10 to have economic development which is something
11 this region overwhelmingly opposes and needs to be
12 removed from this plan. Any reopening of the FFTF
13 Reactor will harm Hanford cleanup by producing more
14 wastes. It has already diverted a hundred million
15 dollars in your cleanup funds and it needs to be
16 pulled from their plan.
17 What is bothersome is that the entire
18 EIS is based upon the assumption that a mission of
19 Hanford today in violation of the federal
20 authorization for the funds being used, that the
21 mission of Hanford is economic development and not
22 cleanup. Cleanup needs to be the primary mission
23 of Hanford.
24 Economic development is a spin-off, if
25 it is done right, and it is a diversion and harmful

1 to cleanup when it is done in the manner proposed.
2 And it is harmful to human health when it is done
3 in the manner proposed, opening up areas like the
4 300 Area to members of the public to be places
5 where they would go unbadged and be exposed to
6 significant sources of contamination and
7 significant hazards.
8 Finally, this EIS really, truly fails
9 to address the treaty rights throughout the site.
10 All these lands are ceded lands with reserved
11 rights of the three affected Indian nations. And
12 saying that we will use this area for economic
13 development, this area for research and
14 development, which is just another nickname in the
15 proposal for industrial development, and mining
16 throughout the site, is nothing more than saying we
17 intend to abrogate the treaty rights that are
18 preserved under the treaties of 1855.
19 Those treaty rights and Constitutional
20 law and federal statutes require that the first
21 priority for any transfer of lands goes to be
22 offered to the Bureau of Indian Affairs if it is
23 not to remain withdrawn from public use as wildlife
24 refuge or national park or under the War Act under
25 which Hanford was originally or the Atomic Energy

1 Act created.

2 So, in conclusion, we want people to

3 take a look, as you look at this, this is, the

4 Department of Energy in a separate document putting

5 out their human exposure model for future

6 residential use along the Reach.

7 And we say, people, look at this and

8 say, what is the matter with their planning? What

9 is fundamentally wrong here? Okay. Who's in the

10 basement in their model? Is it your child's

11 bedroom? They are the most susceptible

12 population.

13 What happens to the area here if you

14 haven't dug it up, what is the exposure? How come

15 these people have no exposure to the groundwater

16 seeping into the Columbia River? How come these

17 people are assumed to eat 1/60th the amount of fish

18 that we estimate -- well, we require under state

19 law for any other cleanup to assume a person eats.

20 Under the Department of Energy's plan,

21 these people have the amount of exposure to the

22 soil that we presume for a commercial gas station

23 cleanup site where they've had a leaking

24 underground storage tank in Washington State under

25 our state SuperFund law.

1 This is the type of model and planning
2 that the Department of Energy says is going to be
3 adequate to protect people under their Preferred
4 Alternative, that the two go hand in hand with this
5 EIS, and that this is their model for how they will
6 protect the public from exposure.
7 And as you can see, in fact in their
8 model they do not even take into account any
9 exposure to the groundwater seeping into the
10 Columbia River.
11 Why would someone live along the
12 Hanford Reach? Probably because they're attracted
13 to live there because of the Columbia River. But
14 they take no, give no exposure credit to exposure
15 to the fish and the groundwater.
16 For those reasons, we just want to
17 conclude by saying, we believe it is vital that in
18 recognition of Native American treaty rights, that
19 we support and we encourage the Department of
20 Energy to adopt the proposal put forth by the Nez
21 Perce Nation, and to not open the site up to what
22 they call industrial uses prior to complete
23 remediation to unrestricted use. Thank you.
24 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Gerald.
25 Donald Newhall.

1 MR. NEWHALL: I wasn't listed to
2 speak. I'm sorry.
3 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh. Okay. That's
4 fine. We can go on to Bill Jones. Or Johns.
5 RTS005 MR. JOHNS: I am basically for
6 Alternative Three because it provides for economic
7 development and still protects the Columbia River.
8 I think that locally is the best way to handle that
9 site.
10 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Bill.
11 Nathaniel Hammon.
12 RTS006 MR. HAMMON: Thank you for allowing
13 me the opportunity to speak tonight.
14 I'm not going to stand up here and try
15 to read a prepared statement verbatim while
16 confusing both you and myself.
17 I have found it quite interesting that
18 the gentleman from the Department of Energy is
19 proposing to manage the land, to manage the
20 environment, and that's not his job.
21 I feel that the Department of Fish and
22 Wildlife Service is better qualified to handle this
23 role than anyone else, with the exception of
24 possibly the Bureau of Land Management. We can use
25 the land more efficiently while providing for

1 economic development.
2 Cleanup is economic development. And
3 it's for the long-term. We can use that for the
4 rest of our lives, for the rest of time. If we
5 destroy that area, or leave it alone to be
6 destroyed now by the waste that has been deposited
7 there, how is that going to support our existence
8 on this planet?
9 We need to remediate the area and clean
10 it up. We have not mentioned a whole lot, I
11 haven't heard a whole lot, with the exception of
12 the gentleman who spoke before me, who did a very
13 thorough job, and I was impressed.
14 I mean, this is all moot. We are a
15 bunch of white people here discussing how we are
16 going to use this land that is by treaty. I mean,
17 it is documented, it is, Native Americans have
18 rights to this land, and we are sitting here, a
19 bunch of white people discussing what we are going
20 to do with it.
21 That doesn't seem right to me. Thank
22 you again for the opportunity to speak.
23 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you somebody.
24 Steve Bradburn.
25 RTS007 MR. Bradburn: I am Steve

1 Bradburn. I'd like to thank the Department of
2 Energy for the opportunity to be here tonight and
3 to speak.
4 I think it's important to remember
5 where the Columbia River starts. It doesn't start
6 in Washington State. It starts up in the center
7 part of British Columbia, flows through Washington
8 and down into Oregon. It isn't a regional or even
9 a state of Washington issue. It's much bigger than
10 that.
11 This run of salmon that's left in the
12 Hanford Reach belongs to every one of us on this
13 planet. It's the last viable run of salmon on the
14 Columbia River, which at one time had many such
15 runs of salmon. We must do everything in our power
16 to protect and preserve these fish.
17 In this regard we must protect all of
18 the Wahluke Slope, no farming or irrigation,
19 period. We can't afford any more sloughing of soil
20 into the river as this damages the reeds that the
21 fish spawn in.
22 We may have to remove some of the
23 development that already has occurred in the
24 vicinity of the Reach. And in that case those
25 people should be paid back for what they have

1 invested in that operation already. Farm somewhere
2 else but not here.
3 The taxpayers of the United States have
4 subsidized the Columbia Basin Project for years.
5 Enough is enough. No more agriculture subsidized,
6 nor should there be any allowed, to damage the
7 Wahluke Slope.
8 Set aside the entire 90,000 acres in a
9 national wildlife refuge. Also include in this
10 refuse the islands of the entire 51 mile Hanford
11 Reach which should be set aside as wild and scenic
12 river, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology
13 Reserve, making a total of 176,000 acres set aside,
14 no agriculture.
15 Our first priority must be to save the
16 Hanford Reach and the fish that live there. No
17 compromises.
18 We have made many mistakes on both the
19 Columbia and Snake Rivers. Dams without fish
20 ladders, too many dams, barges, hatcheries,
21 drawdowns, dam modifications, etc.
22 Let's not make a mistake here. No more
23 studies. Just a big refuse to preserve what little
24 is left for future generations. Thanks.
25 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Steve.

Bart Haggin.

RTS008 MR. HAGGIN: Yes. I would just like to say that I support Alternative Two, with some modifications, and wild and scenic rivers designation. And I think that it's important to think about this area as not an area that belongs to the Tri-Cities community. This is an area that belongs to everybody. People on the West Coast and on the East Coast.

I think it's time that we start thinking about the common good of everyone and not just the economic interests of a few. SO, I think that the important thing to think about here is preservation of as much land as possible, and support for that and the saving of the salmon as part of the equation. Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Bart. Harvey Morrison.

RTS009 MR. MORRISON: My name is Harvey Morrison. I live in Spokane. And I thank the Department of Energy for giving us the opportunity to speak here tonight.

I first visited the Hanford Reach as a geology college student back in the early 1960s. And I was amazed at that time about the vastness

1 and unique beauty of the place that I really didn't
2 know existed. I also didn't know about the
3 dangers. But that was a long time ago.
4 At that time I wasn't largely impressed
5 by flowing, big flowing rivers, because we had, I
6 mean, I knew the Hanford Reach, I was very familiar
7 with the Snake River in the state of Washington at
8 that time.
9 Big flowing rivers were just taken for
10 granted. It was just a short dozen years later
11 that the wild Snake River was no more.
12 It wasn't until the 1980s that I
13 returned to the Hanford Reach and I wasn't there
14 looking for prehistoric bones, but I was looking
15 for Chinook and steelhead.
16 I've learned to treasure this area, not
17 for just the fish but for the natural beauty and
18 other wildlife that can be found there. In spite
19 of the eye sore relics of the nuclear reservation,
20 this is a truly remarkable area that must be
21 protected for its ecological, historical, and
22 cultural value.
23 Like other wilderness areas, the Reach
24 deserves protection so future generations can
25 experience the small part of the region that

1 remains as it was when it was explored by Lewis &
2 Clark.
3 I support the DOE's Alternative Two
4 with certain changes. And urge the strongest and
5 best possible protection -- I will put my glasses
6 on. I'm sorry -- of all the natural and sensitive
7 lands weren't the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.
8 I urge DOE to include within the
9 national wildlife refuge all of the public lands of
10 the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, especially
11 the islands, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands
12 Ecology Reserve.
13 Furthermore, and I can't stress this
14 more than the gentleman who spoke a few speakers
15 ago, I urge DOE to apply all known and available
16 technology to expedite the cleanup of the Hanford
17 Reservation, with particular attention to the
18 threat of the contaminated surface and
19 groundwater.
20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
21 on behalf of the fish and the future generations.
22 The fish have proven to be very self-reliant. If
23 we allow them access to productive habitat, they
24 don't need much else there us. The Hanford Reach
25 has good productive habitat and it must be

1 preserved.

2 I recently had the opportunity to

3 discuss the Hanford Reach with Senator Larry Craig

4 from Idaho. Although we differed on how the Reach

5 should be protected, he summarized the basic need

6 very well when he said we need to protect the

7 gravel.

8 The only sure way to protect the gravel

9 is to preserve the 90,000 adjacent acres as

10 undisturbed wildlife habitat.

11 Furthermore, in response to the issue

12 of local control, the Hanford Reach salmon are a

13 national resource. They are critical to fishermen,

14 both native, commercial and sports, from both the

15 United States and Canada, and the fish are a key to

16 meeting many of our treaty and legal obligations of

17 the United States Government.

18 I simply have no confidence in the

19 local control in can manage and protect this fish.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Harvey.

22 John Bentley.

23 RTS010 MR. BENTLEY: My name is John

24 Bentley. I reside just on the other side of the

25 Stateline in Post Falls.

1 I notice that the plea for local
2 control has a nice ring to it. I would like to
3 remind those who advocate local control what it's
4 bought us.
5 To give you an example of two river
6 systems over in Idaho that I'm very, very familiar
7 with, one is the upper St. Joe, as compared to the
8 Coeur d'Alene river system. As many of you know,
9 the St. Joe has the protection of the Wild and
10 Scenic Rivers Act. It is considered very much an
11 unentered system. Otherwise, geologically and
12 watershed-wise, it's not too dissimilar to the
13 Coeur d'Alene system.
14 But the Coeur d'Alene system does not
15 enjoy the same protection. It is too close to the
16 market. It was too convenient to the mills. And
17 it was too tempting to go in there and exploit it.
18 It has never, never had one ounce of protection.
19 To give you an example, in one
20 environmental assessment, they surveyed, fisheries
21 biologists, eight miles of a couple of little side
22 tributary streams, Cascade and the Ornie Rubble
23 Cabin. In that eight miles they found two fish.
24 That's all the better they could do.
25 The Coeur d'Alene system today is

1 probably one of the most abused tragic messes for
2 watershed that you've ever seen. Primarily because
3 we yielded to local control.
4 The federal protection, and I realize
5 very often it is a pain in the neck, and we do have
6 some problems with federal bureaucracy, none the
7 less it has afforded the upper St. Joe immensely
8 greater protection, far better fishery, far better
9 habitat.
10 To give you another example, the local
11 control has bought us a Lower Snake River that is
12 absolutely a mess. We have taken by implementing a
13 navigation system and an economic system that
14 benefits a very narrow part of the demography,
15 completely destroyed or almost destroyed all of the
16 wild stocks of salmon that's in the process, and we
17 know the big fight there. So I take a dim view of
18 the local control. I think it's very dangerous.
19 I would support the Preferred
20 Alternative for the Hanford Reach. I would
21 advocate that we do not open up the 90,000 acres
22 north of the river to agriculture. We already have
23 learned our lesson. We should know better. I
24 would not advocate opening up the Reach or the
25 Hanford Area to grazing.

We have enough grazing administration problems right now with public lands. I see nothing to benefit the public at large by opening that area to grazing, nor do we need it.

And lastly I would not open it up to mining. Again, I think that is equally absurd.

So, with a couple of modifications to the Preferred Alternative, I would say give it all the protection you can possibly get. And thank you for the opportunity to address you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, John. Buell Hollister.

RTS011 MR. HOLLISTER: Well, I repeat the thanks for the opportunity to speak today.

I just want to counter a statement that was made I think by the first speaker, talking about the need for agricultural land. We lose about 8,000 acres a day from development of prime agricultural land. I don't think there's any merit to that point. That's one of our problems, is local control allows that through their planning and zoning ordinances.

So what we have to do is to preserve the functioning agricultural land we have instead of covering it over with asphalt and houses.

1 I don't have a lot of detailed
2 information to dispel here. I just have a gut
3 instinct about this issue.
4 As it was pointed out, we have a deep
5 obligation to the Indian Tribes. We haven't done
6 very well by them. It was Mark Twain who said the
7 only thing we ever gave the Indians we didn't take
8 back was syphilis.
9 So we have an obligation, a treaty
10 obligation to maintain with the tribe.
11 We have seen what opening up land for
12 agricultural use has done to it. It was indicated
13 that sprinkling system offered some security.
14 But you always have erosion problems
15 when you start tilling soil. So I think that that
16 whole 90,000 acres should be exempt or precluded
17 from any kind of agricultural activity. In fact I
18 don't think anything should be done to develop any
19 of this area. It should be preserved.
20 We have very few unspoiled areas in our
21 river reaches. We are notorious for spoiling our
22 rivers. We have used them historically as garbage
23 dumps, and here we have a river that's, you know,
24 jeopardized by radioactive contamination. That's
25 bad enough.

I think we have an obligation to clean up the please that we have created there and safe what's left for Mother Nature and for the enjoyment of the public. Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Buhl. Frank Yuse.

RTS012 MR. YUSE: Thank you. I'm Frank Yuse. I'm President of the Senior Legislative Coalition of Eastern Washington, which is a group that's very concerned about protection of the environment and cleanup of Hanford. But I'm here to speak on my own behalf.

The six alternatives proposed for the Hanford Site are interesting. Some recommend business development. Some recreation. Still some opt for environment, cultural protection.

I start with the history of this land, it's past uses, and I will judge the options accordingly.

In my judgment in order to evaluate the several plans, it is vital to look backwards before Hanford became a nuclear complex and to say how this area was used by humans, fish, and wildlife.

The Columbia River before the many dams was a free-flowing stream abounding in salmon.

1 Today the so-called Hanford Reach is the only 50
2 mile free-flowing stream of the Columbia River
3 where salmon spawn in great numbers. Therefore,
4 Senator Murray and Representative Dix's proposal to
5 protect the Reach is essential in any overall
6 plan.
7 The surrounding area east of the Reach,
8 the Wahluke and White Bluff regions, contains
9 significant historical, cultural and religious
10 sites for our Native Americans, long before the war
11 required this land as a security buffer zone.
12 More than 100 archaeological sites,
13 including villages, campsites, hunting grounds, and
14 cemeteries, have been located there. Petrographs
15 and fossils of mastodon, bison, camel, are buried
16 in the White Bluffs.
17 The Wahluke Slope must be preserved
18 therefore, as a national wildlife refuge. The
19 whole Hanford Reach must be placed in the hands of
20 our federal government, not in the hands of
21 farmers, ranchers, miners, developers, even our
22 state.
23 This land belongs to all Americans,
24 natives and immigrants, and so should be returned
25 to the pristine state as a legacy to future

1 generations and for esthetic appreciation by us
2 today.
3 I favor Alternative Four, although
4 Alternative Two is fine, sponsored by the
5 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. I
6 would add to it, though, the Murray/Dix proposal
7 and a wildlife designation by the federal
8 Government and the Northwest Power Planning
9 Council.
10 I assume, therefore, that the Tri-Party
11 cleanup will be included. Thank you for this
12 opportunity to participate in this democratic
13 process of peace and the future.
14 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Frank.
15 LeRoy Eadie.
16 RTS013 MR. EADIE: Good evening. My name
17 is LeRoy Eadie, and I do also, as was mentioned
18 before, appreciate the opportunity to speak.
19 To be up front right away, with some
20 minor alterations, I definitely prefer Alternative
21 Two myself personally.
22 I think much has been said tonight
23 about the treaty rights, and I will say that right
24 up front. We need to honor our treaty rights, and
25 there is no bearing from that at all. It is pretty

absurd that we are even talking about land uses in this site. And I think that's been covered earlier. It's just the whole idea is absolutely absurd, given the contamination of this whole area.

Yet the contamination has given us an opportunity, which I think is interesting, contaminated the site, but it is still in fairly pristine condition, and I think we should take advantage of that opportunity.

And in all honesty, local control scares the hell out of me, and I think that's been said here tonight as well, but all we have to do is look around landscape and see where local control has got us. It hasn't got us very much.

We could talk about economic development, but whose economic development? Is it the Tri-Cities economic development? Is it the people right around this site's development? Or is it the Native American's economic development or my economic development or my children's children's children's economic development?

Let's be very careful when we talk about whose economic development. I think that's very important.

Grazing. That's absolutely absurd. That's already been covered. Why would we have anything that anybody was ever going to eat or have anything associated with walking around on this land.

Several of us were hiking around in Hells Canyon this week and we saw what grazing has done to the land, and even in a low impact, it's pretty horrendous.

Mining. Well, if there's some need for using some of the site to deal with some of the environmental conditions, then be it. But there's no way that anybody could justify the massive expansive areas that are on any of these alternatives for mining. That is just absolutely absurd.

Ag lands. I just don't know what else to say there. That's absolutely absurd. I probably could have not even spoke. I could have said absurd three or four times. This should be in federal control flat out. There should be no local control of this at all.

And I think if you look further down the road, we need to be looking a hundred years down the road. We may not be able to use this site

1 even if you preserve it for quite some time, as has
2 been made clear tonight. But we've got to think
3 about seven generations out, that's flat the way it
4 is. Thank you.
5 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, LeRoy.
6 Laura Smith.
7 RTS014 MS. SMITH: Hi. My name is Laura
8 Smith. I represent the Nature Conservancy of
9 Washington.
10 The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit
11 member organization, and we have 34,000 household
12 members in the state of Washington that support our
13 work to identify and protect the best remaining
14 habitats for native species that we have. And we
15 have done a lot of work, just to give you a little
16 bit of background, for our interest in the Hanford
17 Site.
18 In 1992 we entered into a Memorandum of
19 Agreement with the Department of Energy to conduct
20 on-the-ground inventories on the Hanford Site, and
21 we have done that for four years in the field, on
22 the Wahluke Slope, on the ALE Reserve, and in
23 central Hanford.
24 We haven't delivered our final report
25 yet. It's at the printer right now.

1 And so one of the things we'd like to
2 ask is that the results of the final report be
3 incorporated into any land use decisions.
4 But what we found out there confirms
5 what all of us believe. The Hanford Site is truly
6 a remarkable natural legacy. The number of native
7 species, plants, animals, native plant communities
8 that occur on the Hanford side, the diversity and
9 the scale of this functioning ecosystem is
10 something that doesn't exist throughout the entire
11 Columbia plateau, running through a number of
12 Northwest states down through Oregon, Nevada and
13 Idaho.
14 When you look at it on that scale, the
15 Hanford Site pops out as one of very few completely
16 irreplaceable ecological sites that's essential to
17 ensuring the survival of the number of quite a few
18 shrub-steppe species, as well as the aquatic
19 species of the Hanford Reach.
20 So, based on that, based on our
21 knowledge of the site, and the context, we feel
22 that the Hanford Site deserves the best management
23 that can be given for the native species and
24 ecosystems. And we believe the federal government
25 and the Fish and Wildlife Service in particular is

1 the most well equipped to provide that management
2 expertise and the resources to get the job done.
3 We support Fish and Wildlife refuse
4 status for the whole area surrounding this crescent
5 around the Hanford Site, including the Wahluke
6 Slope, the Riverlands, McGee Ranch, the Columbia
7 River islands, the Hanford Reach, and the ALE
8 Reserve.
9 In addition, we've found a number of
10 other important sites in central Hanford which the
11 information hasn't been incorporated yet, as I have
12 said. But it would show that additional corridors
13 through this area in particular should be part of
14 any core reserve area.
15 On the rest of the Hanford Site there's
16 a mosaic of important habitats and species that
17 occur all throughout.
18 And really no land use decisions should
19 be made on a broad scale. I mean, really getting
20 the expertise of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the
21 Tribes, the Bureau of Land Management, looking
22 closely at the landscape, including looking at the
23 cultural resources, but all the ecological
24 resources as well, for the placement of any
25 activity or the removal of any soil that needs to

1 be done during cleanup.

2 So, what we would recommend, just I

3 guess in summary, is a Record of Decision for the

4 land surrounding Hanford and putting them in refuse

5 status with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

6 then a separate planning process for central

7 Hanford, really a lot more study needs to be done

8 and a lot more detailed analysis needs to be done

9 before these kinds of broad scale decisions can be

10 made.

11 So, we have appreciated working with

12 the Department of Energy and being able to do the

13 inventories out there. It's really yielded some

14 remarkable findings for science, quite a few new

15 species, including two whole new plant species that

16 were never known to science before, a number of

17 insect species, and several variety of plant

18 insects, too, that are new to science.

19 So, it's a great place, and I hope we

20 can protect it for future generations. Thank you.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Laura.

22 Rae Hafer.

23 RTS015 MS. HAFER: Thank you for holding

24 these public hearings. My name is Rae Hafer, and I

25 am from Pullman, Washington. And for the detailed

1 reasons, given by Laura Smith, and for previous
2 speakers, I support the Preferred Alternative plan.
3 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Rae.
4 Jerry -- or Jim Berry.
5 RTS016 MR. BERRY: Thank you. I am Jim
6 Berry, Spokane. For all of the reasons that the
7 former speakers have given, we must have
8 Alternative Two, and Senator Murray's Bill for the
9 wild and scenic river. Thank you.
10 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jim.
11 Paul Lindholdt.
12 RTS017 MR. LINDHOLDT: For the record, my
13 name is Paul Lindholdt. I am speaking on behalf
14 of two different organizations in Eastern
15 Washington. The organizations are the Upper
16 Columbia River Group of the Sierra Club, and
17 Eastern Environmental Student Group at Eastern
18 Washington University, which I serve as faculty
19 advisor. I'm also a professor.
20 Both groups I'm speaking on behalf of
21 which collectively represent some 1200 people in
22 this several county region agree that the Wahluke
23 Slope should be protected to the fullest extent
24 possible under the law as wild and scenic, as
25 Number Two, Number Four.

1 I want to digress for a second to
2 express some scepticism about the range of
3 alternatives here. It's like a potpourri, and
4 those of us who want it preserved can take our pick
5 from several of them, and those who want to develop
6 it and profit from it materially, have only one.
7 And so I'm just a little bit afraid of
8 a possible divide and conquer set of alternatives
9 here, where preservation could mean any one of four
10 different things according to our menu of choices.
11 The worst management plan would involve
12 returning those lands to county oversight, we
13 believe, to grazing and farming.
14 Privatization would heighten the risk
15 of eroding the White Bluffs and endangering the
16 Chinook salmon and other fish that spawn there.
17 The groups that I represent, like my
18 family and myself, use the Hanford Reach for
19 recreation and value it for wildlife habitat.
20 Nowhere else on the mainstem of the Columbia is the
21 ecological fabric so intact in our experience, as
22 hikers, paddlers, hunters, fishers.
23 For its endangered plants and white
24 pelicans, its Native American artifacts and sports
25 fishing, its grandeur as a paddle route and its

1 value for protecting endangered salmon, the Hanford
2 Reach of the Columbia River needs the Wahluke Slope
3 to be protected against development.
4 Thanks for the opportunity to comment
5 on this very important matter. This pivotal moment
6 I think in the future of American wild lands and
7 rivers.
8 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Paul.
9 Laura Ackerman.
10 RTS018 MS. ACKERMAN: My name is Laura
11 Ackerman. I am a resident of Spokane. And I
12 support Alternative Two, with the following
13 additions, and I'll be brief because several other
14 people have mentioned them.
15 And that's to designate all the lands
16 within the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the Wahluke
17 Slope, the Columbia River islands, the Riverlands,
18 and McGee Ranch and national wildlife refuge under
19 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And to issue a
20 separate Record of Decision without delay for all
21 those areas listed above. And to designate all
22 other conservation mining without grazing and
23 limiting mining to those areas necessary for
24 mineral materials in support of the Hanford
25 cleanup.

1 Eliminate the possibility of
2 agriculture. Including grazing on the Hanford
3 lands.
4 And also on a personal note, I grew up
5 in Grant County, and I have spent a lot of time in
6 that area, in the sagebrush step doing field work
7 and simply enjoying it, and the Hanford area is a
8 biological wonder, and it is a wonder that belongs
9 to all of us, near and far, people past, present
10 and future, and we have to preserve that area for
11 all of us, for the future people.
12 And I think that asking to preserve the
13 Hanford Reach is not much, considering how much of
14 the sagebrush step that we have lost.
15 And Harvy Morrison came up here earlier
16 and spoke on behalf of the fish. And I
17 wholeheartedly support that. But I want to speak
18 on behalf of the rattle snakes and the bull snakes
19 and the striped whip snake, and all the reptiles
20 and the amphibians. Save the Hanford Reach.
21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Laura.
22 Lisa Ramirez.
23 RTS019 MS. RAMIREZ: Thank you, Laura, for
24 speaking for the snakes. I am going to speak for
25 the Lands Council.

1 As an organization that seeks to
2 protect and restore the environment of the inland
3 Northwest, the Lands Council believes the future
4 management of the Hanford Reach is a critical part
5 of restoring Shrub-steppe habitat along the
6 Columbia River.
7 In addition the salmon recovery efforts
8 in the Columbia River basin in part must rely on
9 protection of the Columbia River along the
10 free-flowing stretch.
11 The Lands Council supports the DOE
12 Preferred Alternative but with the following
13 modifications.
14 All DOE managed lands in and
15 surrounding Hanford Reach should be protected as a
16 national wildlife refuge.
17 The following adjoining DOE lands
18 should be managed as a permanent national wildlife
19 refuse: The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, McGee
20 Ranch, the riverland areas, all DOE land on the
21 entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach and the
22 Columbia River islands.
23 This will provide a much needed large
24 continuous crescent of protected lands surrounding
25 central Hanford.

1 Expedite protection. The areas
2 mentioned are prime fish and wildlife habitat
3 uncontaminated by Hanford Operations and should not
4 wait for protection until the complex decisions
5 involving cleanup in the central Hanford Area are
6 made.
7 To expedite the final decision on
8 management of uncontaminated lands, DOE should
9 issue a separate Record of Decision for the areas I
10 just mentioned.
11 No agriculture, grazing, mining or
12 commercial development. To ensure long-term
13 protection for key native species and systems
14 located across the site including central Hanford
15 there should be no agriculture, commercial mining
16 or livestock grazing permitted.
17 High intensity recreation should also
18 be limited to development of a museum at the
19 B-Reactor, development such as destination resorts,
20 golf courses and commercial facilities should be
21 prohibited. Restrict all mining operations to
22 those essential to completing cleanup and
23 remediation of the the Hanford Reservation. Mining
24 areas should be transferred to the national
25 wildlife refuge complex as cleanup is completed and

1 certified.

2 Protect all other important lands at

3 Hanford. Because the Hanford is one of the last

4 places in Eastern Washington supporting large areas

5 of native shrub-step vegetation and related

6 wildlife, we strongly urge DOE to permanently

7 protect the ecologically significant lands at

8 Hanford, including those in central Hanford such as

9 Gable Mountain, Gable Butte, Hanford sand dunes,

10 and other important habitats.

11 And finally, recreation should be

12 limited to non-motorized educational trails and

13 sites.

14 The Lands Council supports the idea of

15 a trail but the trail should be located to avoid

16 sensitive wildlife habitat and native plant

17 communities. So thank you for allowing me to

18 speak.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Lisa.

20 Bonnie Mager.

21 RTS020 MS. MAGER: My name is Bonnie

22 Mager, and I work for the Washington Environmental

23 Council, but Jack DeYoung spoke eloquently for the

24 council at the Richland hearing, and I'm here to

25 speak for myself.

1 I support a stronger version of
2 Alternative Two that would include the Wahluke
3 Slope, the Hanford Reach islands, McGee Ranch,
4 Riverland area and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve
5 as a national wildlife refuge.
6 I believe that a separate Record of
7 Decision of all these areas should be put in place
8 now to protect the fish and the other wildlife that
9 depend on the limited area that is left.
10 For me the irony of Hanford is that it
11 gave us this opportunity to protect the Reach. I
12 feel strongly it would be all gone by now if it
13 weren't for that.
14 So I think it's just ludicrous to think
15 about developing it in any way and creating any
16 risk to it. It is the legacy, the healthful, the
17 good legacy that we have that resulted from
18 something that I think all of us, or most people
19 are very ashamed of and wish never had happened.
20 So to destroy that legacy, it would be
21 just like the last nail in the coffin, in my
22 opinion.
23 So I would like to urge you to again
24 support the Number Two strengthened version and to
25 protect the remanence and to give us something to

be proud of at Hanford. Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Bonnie. Gayle McClure. I don't know how she got here. No? Is that a mistake?

MS. LIZ WILLIAMS: Yes.

MS. WILLIAMS: I thought so. Greg Rupert.

RTS021 MR. RUPERT: I'm Greg Rupert from Spokane County. And I support the restoration of our salmon runs. I therefore oppose any effort to privatize any part of the Wahluke Slope or the Hanford Reservation.

Salmon are an international resource, and an essential component of our culture in the Northwest. Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Greg. Jeff Hedge.

RTS022 MR. HEDGE: Good evening. I'm Jeff Hedge, resident of Spokane. I'm also a physician and I'm current Spokane Chapter President of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

I'm supportive of Alternative Two. Some of the data that was presented earlier on contamination site, I have not reviewed the data recently but I think that certain areas are

1 unacceptable in terms of human exposure to that
2 area, and that would certainly prohibit multiple
3 use.
4 I think the cleanup needs to continue
5 in this area by DOE and maybe even private firms.
6 Washington Physicians for Social
7 Responsibility has been on record as being against
8 reactivating the Fast Flux Reactor at Hanford.
9 Two points just about local control.
10 Local control is inherently exploitative,
11 short-sighted and generally benefits only a few
12 economically.
13 Long-term recreational value has
14 significant economic value that benefits many.
15 In spite of the contamination in this
16 area, it's an ecosystem that still has a lot of
17 integrity to it, which is rare in the Northwest at
18 this time. And shrub-steppe community is as well
19 preserved there as anywhere. So I would support
20 Alternative Two.
21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jeff. At
22 this time I have run out of names on the list for
23 people who have registered. Is there anybody who's
24 compelled to speak? Step right up.
25 RT5023 MR. POWERS: I am Julian Powers,

1 Spokane. It is not possible for me to say anything
2 original. It's all been said. I would like to
3 just enumerate the things that have stood out for
4 me.
5 I think the Heart of America
6 description of the contamination, and the
7 contamination is there for a long time, beyond
8 anybody that's going to be living here.
9 So I think we really need to be worried
10 about that. And Jeff Hedge just mentioned that.
11 A second item is diversity. A lot of
12 scientists say the biggest environmental problem in
13 the world is the loss of biodiversity.
14 Look what we have on the Reach. That
15 has been described eloquently by the people,
16 including the nature conservancy lady. We cannot
17 get it back once we lose it. Biodiversity is
18 really important.
19 Local control, it sucks, because you
20 can buy a local County Commissioner pretty cheap.
21 I would like to echo what LeRoy Eadie said, absurd,
22 absurd, absurd. Thank you.
23 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, thank you.
24 Anybody else here?
25 RT5024 MR. FLORES: Hi. My name is

1 Lupito Flores.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You are not

3 going to read that, are you?

4 MR. FLORES: It is not the Bible.

5 I think the Department of Energy is getting the

6 picture. I just wanted to show you this. It's

7 1,000 individual endorsements in favor of

8 designating the Wahluke Slope as a national

9 wildlife refuge, and recreational wild and scenic

10 river for the Hanford Reach.

11 And we are going to be submitting this

12 for the record later. Thanks.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Lupito.

14 Anybody else? We've got an empty mike.

15 RTS025 MR: POLLET: I need to add so, for

16 Heart of America, I said we support Alternative

17 two, and I want to be real clear, we support

18 Alternative Two with additions, as noted by 20

19 speakers, and don't want it wrong in the record

20 that we didn't support the inclusion of the

21 islands.

22 When you talk about local control,

23 everyone's followed the issue of local control of

24 the islands and development of the islands

25 recently. That's what local control means.

1 Development of the islands.
2 Just, you know, can't get it any
3 clearer than that.
4 There's one other major issue which,
5 the Department of Energy and the county's proposal
6 for industrial development really does not do an
7 adequate job of considering the impact of
8 development and what kind of industrial development
9 are we talking about. They don't describe it
10 really.
11 And it could be very high impact, and
12 they don't describe the impact of it on even their
13 own Preferred Alternative in terms of the slope and
14 the river and the quarter mile along the river.
15 Under our state Growth Management Act,
16 something the counties and DOE is well aware, this
17 is it. We won't have another EIS when specific
18 development proposals come along in terms of those
19 impacts if they are, quote, consistent with this
20 one. And it makes it all the more imperative to
21 make sure that we do not have an EIS and Record of
22 Decision right now that supports opening up
23 industrial development through this area because it
24 has not adequately considered what are the impacts
25 on the Columbia River and the Hanford Reach.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Jerry.

RTS026 MR. DAVIS: Just for the record, my name is Chase Davis. I thank the DOE for keeping the process open. Certainly I always appreciate the opportunity to speak on important issues.

And I just, just a quick comment, I have never been to a public hearing where I heard so many things that I agreed with. I want to make sure that somebody calls me the next time something like this happens so I can be sure to come back out. So I thank everybody here.

MS. WILLIAMS: It's still open.

Well, we've heard from a lot of people tonight. I think this does conclude our meeting, unless there's someone else who's willing and waiting. And I thank you all for coming.

(8:30 p.m.)

* * *

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
County of Benton)

I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public for Washington; that at said time and place I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting and that the foregoing transcript consisting of 57 typewritten pages is a true and correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand at Kennewick, Washington, on this 22nd day of June, 1999.

William J. Bridges
CSR NO. BRIDGWJ548PO
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Notary Public for Washington
My commission expires: 11-1-99