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DOE-RL / DIS

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

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT HRAEIS AND COMPREHENSIVE LAND  
USE PLAN FOR THE WAHLUKE SLOPE, HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION

I support the DOE preferred alternative but with the following amendments:

- Designate all public lands on the Wahluke slope, Hanford reach, its islands, the McGee ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge.
- Do not allow grazing on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.
- Restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing the cleanup on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.
- Issue a separate ROD for the areas above (in bullet one, and two).

Sage-steppe environment is disappearing fast. Additional farming in this area, particularly irrigated farming, may promote landslides and runoff of agricultural return flows into the reach thereby damaging spawning grounds. The area is also of prime recreational and cultural importance that would otherwise be damaged by farming. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

*Stephen J. Lijek*  
*Geana Lijek*

Stephen & Geana Lijek  
4510 Desert Drive  
Pasco, WA 99301

6/5/99