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From: Lutz, Karen [Karen_Lutz@RL.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2007 10:56 AM
To: HANFORD-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: DOE: Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) to conduct review
Attachments: CRESPOSOW8-07.pdf

Assistant Secretary Jim Rispoli has tasked the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) with helping DOE by evaluating DOE's processes for Tribal and public participation and risk communication used to communicate our assessment of the effect of Hanford contamination on the health of the Columbia River. Specifically, CRESP will review how the public participates in the ongoing CERCLA risk assessments and help DOE identify areas for improving communication and public participation. The assessment will cover both the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment and DOE's environmental and public protection monitoring of the Columbia River. CRESP plans to interview employees, regulatory agencies, Tribal governments, and stakeholder organizations to get a sense of perceptions about the current and future health of the Columbia River. The CRESP review is funded by EM's Office of Science and Technology. For more information about CRESP visit their website at <http://www.cresp.org/>.

Please call Karen Lutz, DOE Richland Operations Office at (509)376-4766, if you have any questions.

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Proposed Scope Statement for CRES P

The Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRES P) will assist the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in evaluating public participation and risk communication processes that DOE uses to communicate its assessment of the effect of Hanford contamination on the health of the Columbia River. This will be a two-phase effort that initially will focus on a review of the participatory processes used in key areas of interest, and on on-going risk assessments in accordance with CERCLA requirements. This will help DOE to identify strengths and areas for improvement of both communication and dialogue. The Hanford assessments of particular relevance include especially the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment and the DOE's environmental and public protection monitoring of the Columbia River. The scope of the second phase will be defined as an outcome of the first phase.

Key areas of interest for both phases include, but are not limited to:

1. Tribal concerns regarding salmon
2. River Corridor Risk assessment process
3. River health and Hanford overall

Specific areas to be scoped in CRES P phase one evaluations include:

- Examining the concerns of regulators, stakeholders, and Tribal Nations, regarding the current and future health of the Columbia River.
- Examining the processes and procedures used by DOE to obtain public participation in CERCLA environmental risk assessments and monitoring for public protection along the River.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of DOE's methods used to involve and communicate assessments with regulators, Tribes, other stakeholders and the public.

Initial methods will include meetings by CRES P representatives with DOE and tribal leaders and environmental officers to frame the questions. Initial meetings will be followed by more in-depth meetings with a range of tribal representatives to explore concerns and perceptions identified in the initial meetings. Framing of tribal concerns will lead to further discussions with tribal members of DOE's risk assessments, including methodologies, assumptions, results, and future direction.

The schedule will partly depend upon the initial meetings with DOE and tribal leaders, but we expect to begin the process in late July and early August. Frequent meetings with DOE will refine questions and follow up issues of particular concern for CERCLA.

To initiate this assessment, DOE Richland Operations (RL) and Office of River Protection (ORP) and contractors will provide CRES P a list of resource trustees, relevant tribal officials, and the status of the current risk assessments and communication efforts. CRES P will conduct a series of internal and external interviews and meetings in the Fall. It is expected that as the initial phase is completed, a second phase of work will be agreed between CRES P, RL and DOE HQ. The nature and scope of that second phase is expected to have emerged and provide the basis for a well-defined project with the schedules, cost estimates and work product.