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Administrator

April 19, 2002

Mr. Keith Klein
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A7-50
Richland, WA 99352

Dr. Harry Boston
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Tom Fitzsimmons
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Mr. John Iani
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Sirs:

Congratulations on reaching agreement to accelerate cleanup at the Hanford Site. We strongly support cleaning up Hanford sooner, as long as human health and environmental protection are not compromised. The accelerated cleanup also must be consistent with the Tri-Party Agreement and other applicable regulations.

We applaud your foresight in identifying areas for accelerated cleanup. Work accomplished through the Cleanup Constraints and Challenges Team (C3T) has certainly put Hanford in position to compete for funds available under the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) expedited cleanup program.

We are encouraged that DOE Headquarters has committed to seek \$433 million for Hanford from this account. These funds should allow the site to meet its legal obligations under the Tri-Party Agreement, plus conduct some additional work towards accelerating cleanup.

We understand that under the terms of the March 5 Letter of Intent, DOE will provide a draft work plan by May 1, detailing work that could be accomplished with extra funds beginning in Fiscal Year 2003. This work plan is to be finalized by August 1, with any resulting changes to the Tri-Party Agreement then negotiated as appropriate.

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Presumably, this work plan will include projects from among the 42 identified by the C3T. The public has not yet had an opportunity to fully evaluate each of these projects. As a result, we strongly urge you to make the draft work plan widely available to the public, and provide several opportunities for public comment on the draft work plan before it is finalized in August.

Sincerely,



Shelley Cimon, Chair

Cc: Senator Gordon Smith
Senator Ron Wyden
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Darlene Hooley
Representative Greg Walden
Representative David Wu
Jessie Roberson, U.S. Department of Energy
Todd Martin, Hanford Advisory Board
Leann Bleakney, Oregon State Senate Majority Office
Eric Carlson, Oregon Senate Democratic Leadership Office
Harvey Mathews, Oregon House Majority Office
Erica Jamin, Oregon House Democratic Office