



CONFEDERATED TRIBES
of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

P.O. Box 638
73239 Confederated Way
PENDLETON, OREGON 97801

Phone (541) 966-2400
Fax (541) 278-5380

H. ...

April 6, 2005

Paul H. Lohaus – Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555-0001

05 APR 15 PM 3:54

STP

Dear Mr. Lohaus,

We are enclosing several copies of a report commission by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on groundwater contamination at the B-BX-BY tank farms at Hanford, WA. The report describes the history of uranium contamination around this tank farm, and the well data clearly shows that this contamination has reached the ground water and is flowing towards the Columbia River. In the past, DOE Hanford has had discrepancies in their inventory of uranium and uncertainties over which source leaked, the tanks or the waste sites. Until recently DOE denied that any tank leakage has reached groundwater.

We are sending this to you because we understand that a DOE representative (Tony Knepp) will be meeting with your office very soon to gain your support for closing tanks in place rather than retrieving them as currently required by regulators and by risk analysis. You may be informed, as we were, that DOE has everything under control, and that they really didn't lose track of 10 tons of uranium -- it was simply an old accounting error that has been resolved. Our report shows otherwise.

We would appreciate your review of the document, and if others from your Commission also have time to review it, we would appreciate their feedback as well.

If you have any questions about the report, please feel free to call me at 541-966-2408. We can also put you in touch with the report's author, Dr. Stan Sobczyk, who now works for the Nez Perce Tribe. If you would like to contact him directly, his number is 208-843-7375, ext. 2337.

Sincerely,

Stuart Harris,
Director – Department of Science and Engineering

STP-006 Templates

RIDS1 SP02

SISP Review Complete