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11-24-82

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Mr. Stanley Speaks
Area Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 3785
Portland, OR 97208

WM Record File
101.4

WM Project WM-10
Docket No.

PDR ☒
LPDR ☒

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(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Dear Mr. Speaks:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) expects to begin shortly a comprehensive review of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) plans and activities to characterize a site for a possible high-level waste repository on the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Washington. This review begins with DOE's submittal of a Site Characterization Report (SCR) describing its planned investigations for Hanford. Under our 10 CFR 60 repository licensing rule, NRC is notifying the public and certain State, local, and Indian tribal officials that NRC staff has received this document and has begun to review it. As you know, there are several Indian tribes in the general vicinity of Hanford, and we would like your advice on our initial plans for tribal liaison.

The 10 CFR 60 procedures contain provisions for participation by the potentially affected Indian tribes and States in certain aspects of our review. These procedures also require the NRC to make its staff available to consult with such tribes at their request to keep them informed of our views of the progress of site characterization and notify them of our meetings and consultations with DOE. NRC staff may also be made available upon request to cooperate with a potentially affected tribe in developing a proposal to participate. A copy of the procedural rule is enclosed for your reference.

From our conversations with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) staff and other sources, we are aware of six Indian tribes that may have an interest in the Hanford site review activities due to treaty or residual rights such as food and mineral gathering and fishing. These six tribes are the Yakimas, Colvilles, Umatillas, Spokanes, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs. We are notifying these tribes of our receipt of DOE's SCR, and offering to meet with them to explain the role of NRC in the site characterization process. We would appreciate you verifying this list and notifying us of any additional tribes in the area which you believe should be contacted.

*See previous concurrence page

OFC	:WMPI*	:WMPI*	:WMHT*	:Per telecon :OELD*	:Per Telecon :OSP*	:Per Telecon :OCA*	:WM
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In addition, we would like to know if any inter-tribal commissions or other multi-tribal bodies are likely to be affected by or have an interest in the Hanford proceedings. If so, please provide us with any information you may have about such organizations.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any further questions, please contact Rob MacDougall or Cathy Russell at (301) 427-4590. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Robert E. Browning

 John B. Martin, Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
10 CFR 60 procedural rule

cc w/o encl:
George Farris, BIA
Randy Scott, OIA

*See previous concurrence page

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