



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 26, 2000

RECEIVED

OCT 02 2000

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION
NRO

The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles:

This is in response to your July 12, 2000, letter in which you encourage the Department of Energy to develop a strong, independent environmental and human health assessment of the nuclear weapons test sites at Amchitka Island, Alaska. Specifically, you urged the Department to support an independent program that includes stakeholders such as the State of Alaska, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association (A/PIA), and the University of Alaska within the Department-funded Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation (CRESP).

We endorse the development of a strong, independent environmental and human health assessment of the nuclear weapons test sites at Amchitka Island, Alaska. The Department is aware that the University of Alaska, in partnership with the State of Alaska and the A/PIA, has recently prepared a proposal to CRESP to create a regional center in Alaska to assess the current and long-term human health and ecosystem impacts of the effects of the nuclear weapons testing program conducted on Amchitka Island from 1965 through 1971. We will work with the University of Alaska and CRESP to determine the optimum program to achieve our mutual objective of developing an independent environmental and human health assessment of the Amchitka Island nuclear weapons test sites.

The Department takes seriously its obligation to listen and respond to concerns raised by the State, native people, and other stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the State of Alaska to reach accord on issues and concerns related to Amchitka Island.



If you have further questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. John C. Angell, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Richardson

cc: Ms. Michele Brown, Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
~~Mr.~~ Douglas Dasher, Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
Mr. Robert Patrick, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association