

LETTER OF INTENT for Amchitka Island

PURPOSE/VISION:

This Letter of Intent documents a commitment by the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) Environmental Management (EM) program to achieve closure and long-term stewardship for the Amchitka Island Site.

The Letter of Intent recognizes that the long-standing working relationship between ADEC and NNSA/NV EM has resulted in closure of the Project Chariot site, and the substantial completion of surface closure of the Amchitka Island site.

The Amchitka Island site is part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In addition, the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association (A/PIA) has cultural and subsistence interests both on the island and in the marine region surrounding Amchitka.

PRINCIPLES:

- NNSA/NV EM and its contractors will continue to ensure that all of their activities are conducted in accordance with Integrated Safety Management principles, compliant with applicable state and federal regulations, and are protective of human health and the environment. Closure of a small site, which includes the closure in place of the underground test sites at Amchitka and a reduction in risk uncertainty will be the primary focus of this activity.
- NNSA/NV EM will work with ADEC, A/PIA, USFWS, and other stakeholders to take all necessary steps to reach agreement on closure in place and stewardship requirements.
- ADEC will continue its long-standing partnership with the NNSA/NV EM program to ensure state regulator goals and objectives are met. ADEC will provide proactive, appropriately focused, and timely review and comment of all applicable documents.
- Closure and Stewardship activities for Amchitka Island will be focused on the following:
 - The Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) will develop a plan that will be agreed to and accepted by the ADEC, A/PIA, USF&W and DOE. The agreed upon CRESP sponsored plan will establish the framework for a scientific assessment providing a basis for long-term stewardship.
 - CRESP will be allowed to perform its activities independently.

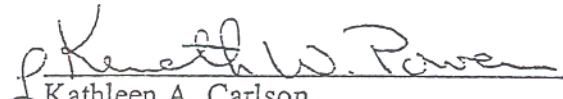
- The CRESPI independent assessment and DOE groundwater model verification will be completed by FY2005.
 - DOE's support of this assessment will be focused on the model verification and reduction of risk uncertainty aspects during this phase of the assessment.
 - CRESPI's Principal Investigator will keep DOE, ADEC, A/PIA, USF&W and other stakeholders regularly apprised of the status of the progress on the activities identified in the agreed upon plan through routine briefings.
 - DOE will complete the subsurface groundwater modeling and risk assessment in FY 2003 and will be providing the products/results to ADEC, A/PIA, and USF&W for review, and to CRESPI program for incorporation into its work.
 - A long-term stewardship plan will be reviewed every five years to ensure human health and the environment are adequately protected.
 - Establish an agreement with ADEC, A/PIA and USF&W on long-term stewardship of Amchitka Islands underground nuclear test sites that will enable closure in place to proceed, while verification of the models through proof of concept is completed.
 - NNSA/EM, ADEC, A/PIA and USF&W agree that closure in place is contingent upon the results of the actions required by this Letter of Intent. If land use changes significantly from the current conditions then the new land use activities will be evaluated to determine changes to human and ecological risk, DOE will work with stakeholders to determine a path forward.
- NNSA/NV EM will continue to support a stakeholder involvement program included in the existing AIPs (i.e., ADEC and A/PIA agreements) to ensure the public is appropriately involved in providing advice and recommendations regarding activities as stated in this letter of intent. To assist in this effort, the principal parties will act as an informal policy review group to discuss the assessment and work on reaching agreement on closure in place and long-term stewardship.
 - NNSA/NV EM, ADEC, A/PIA and USF&W will continue to evaluate opportunities to improve cost and schedule performance of agreement activities.
 - NNSA/NV EM considers this Letter of Intent, together with achievement of the items delineated above, to meet the objectives called for in the President's fiscal year 2003 budget request for sites to reach new agreements with state and federal regulators to reach closure in place and implement long-term stewardship.

We, the undersigned, are committed to work together to implement this letter of intent and to seek additional opportunities to achieve closure by reduction of risk uncertainty and establish a long-term stewardship program.



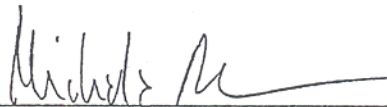
Carl P. Gertz, P.E.
Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management

5/31/02
Date



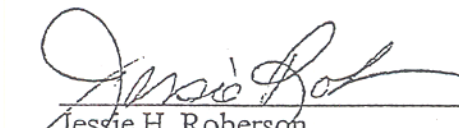
Kathleen A. Carlson
Manager

5/31/02
Date



Michele Brown, Commissioner
Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation

6/3/02
Date



Jessie H. Roberson
Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management

6/12/02
Date