



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID G. HUIZENGA
SENIOR ADVISOR
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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EVALUATION WITH STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

FROM: DAVID M. KLAUS 
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
FOR MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

SUBJECT: Hanford Site-Wide Risk Review Project

The purpose of this memo is to request the conduct of a Hanford site-wide evaluation of human health, nuclear safety, environmental and cultural resource risks (Risk Review Project). The goal of the Risk Review Project is to identify and characterize potential risks and impacts to the public, workers, and the environment at the Hanford Site and to inform the efficient use of Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) resources. The project shall be independently led by the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP) and shall involve the active cooperation and participation of senior management at DOE-EM, DOE-Office of River Protection (ORP) and DOE-Richland (RL) as well as by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Washington Departments of Ecology and Health as participants in a Core Team to be established as part of the execution of the project. Additionally, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will provide assistance in a supporting role to CRESP during the Project.

The purpose of the Risk Review Project is to review existing information and to develop a summary level catalogue of risks and impacts to the environment and to rate or bin those risks and impacts according to the magnitude of potential risks to the members of the public, workers, and to the environment. The Risk Review Project should take into consideration: current and potential future impacts to human health (public and workers), land and river ecology, nuclear safety, natural resources, and cultural resources. This effort is to focus on risks associated with cleanup work that is currently on-going and remaining at the Hanford Site, and therefore recommendations should be prospective in nature. On-going and future cleanup work to be considered includes tank waste treatment and tank closure; soils, vadose zone and groundwater remediation; facility decommissioning; on-site near-surface disposal; and on-site risks from transuranic and high level wastes projected for off-site disposition for which formal regulatory completion of the remedy or corrective action has not been achieved. The review should place Hanford environmental and nuclear safety hazards and risks in context with currently designated future uses of the Hanford site and nearby land uses and activities that have a potential to impact risks, natural resources, and cultural resources. Additional context should be provided on impacts to on-site and nearby economic resources.



The participation of EPA Region 10 and EPA Headquarters and Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Washington Department of Health (Health) is an important component of the Risk Review Project. Toward that end, please ensure that EPA, Ecology and Health are provided the opportunity to have representation on the Core Team, which will be established to oversee the development of risk characterization metrics and templates for determining risk ratings, the analysis and integration of rating results and to develop conclusions and recommendations regarding the risks and impacts evaluated. Additionally, please consult with appropriate tribal nations and give other stakeholders and agencies an opportunity to provide input during the execution of the Risk Review Project.

To help ensure efficient completion of the Project, I am directing the following:

1. EM, ORP, and RL will make the necessary staff and resources available to assist CRESP in conducting the review in a timely manner. This includes active senior management participation on the Core Team; and
2. EM, ORP, and RL will provide CRESP with all appropriate written reports, investigations, reviews, maps, charts, surveys, summaries or other communications or documents and access to electronic databases that CRESP may request as needed for the Risk Review Project. Documentation and electronic data may include mapping or other geographic information system data and overlays.

CRESP is responsible for scheduling meetings and/or teleconferences as needed, with cooperation from RL, ORP and EM. CRESP is to carry out the Risk Review Project based on the following schedule:

1. Within 2 months, initiate Core Team meetings to be held in Richland, WA;
2. Within 9 months, provide for review a set of approximately half of the draft summaries and specific evaluations to be completed and an interim progress report; and
3. Within 18 months, provide a draft final report.

A more detailed schedule is to be developed and updated quarterly. Quarterly progress summaries are to be provided by CRESP as well as progress briefings, as requested.