



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

11-DEP-0008

AUG 01 2011

Mr. R. Leaumont
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
9016 Sunset Trail
Pasco, Washington 99301

Mr. M. Lilga
Ridges to Rivers Open Space Network
PO Box 2232
Richland, Washington 99352

Addressees:

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN AUDUBON SOCIETY AND THE RIDGES TO RIVERS OPEN SPACE NETWORK ON THE TRI-CITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TRIDEC) REQUEST FOR TRANSFER UNDER 10 CFR 770 OF APPROXIMATELY 1,341 ACRES AT HANFORD

Thank you for your letter proposing an alternate approach to TRIDEC's request for ownership of 1,341 acres of Hanford land. Your commitment to the continued preservation of the unique ecology present here, and the betterment of our community, is admirable. I also appreciated hearing your perspective on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), and that you thought the Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group, which as you noted established the basis for the CLUP, was a "fair and open process."

Ultimately, we believe the community is in the best position to determine how to put to work excess Hanford lands planned for industrial use. As you noted in your letter, the City of Richland is one of the key parties on whose behalf the TRIDEC made the land transfer request to the U.S. Department of Energy as the local "Community Re-Use Organization (CRO)" in the Tri Cities. In fact, TRIDEC's request to us contains a letter from the Richland City Council, signed by Mayor John Fox, specifically supporting the proposal as written and saying it is part of the city's strategic plan.

If DOE does end up transferring land to TRIDEC, and if the City of Richland decides to endorse your proposed approach, there is nothing that precludes your approach from being implemented by TRIDEC and the City of Richland.

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I thank you again for your letter and am confident it has generated conversation and thought among many parties as we work together to think through Hanford's post-cleanup future.

If you have any questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Colleen French, Government Affairs Program Manager, on (509) 373-5985.

Sincerely,



Matt McCormick
Manager

DEP:CCF

cc: C. F. Adrian, TRIDEC
M. E. Benitz, Benton County
M. Cantwell, Senator
S. Chu, S-1
J. Fox, City of Richland
D. Hastings, Representative
D. G. Huizenga, EM-1
S. D. Keller, Port of Benton
P. Murray, Senator