



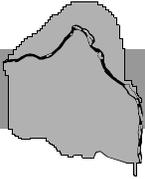
Protecting
The Columbia
River

Hanford Site

Groundwater/Vadose Zone Integration Project

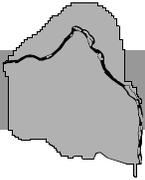
Groundwater/Vadose Zone Expert Panel - Meeting Closeout -

**Chairman Dr. Edgar Berkey
September 17, 1998**



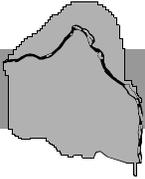
The introductory meeting has been valuable and the Panel is eager to proceed.

- The scope of the previous Panel has been expanded
- We applaud the start of the GW/VZ Integration Project
- It is urgent to establish appropriate level of priority
- We endorse the technical challenges that have been defined
- We appreciate the stakeholder interest and welcome further interaction
- Some sub-disciplinary issues are important; we expect to have sub-panels and consultants



Expert Panel Path Forward

- Some urgency to next Panel meeting
- We need to understand state-of-the-art knowledge on
 - Groundwater
 - Vadose Zone
 - River
 - Biota
- We need to understand and comment on the priority of filling knowledge gaps
- What is the critical path to meeting the 2003 TPA milestone on ability to mitigate leakage during tank sluicing?



Expert Panel Path Forward (continued)

- We are planning to review
 - Integration Project plans
 - Relevant supporting documents
 - Key project results
- We will communicate with others outside the project
 - Stakeholders
 - National Research Council
 - Others...