

# Risk Subpanel- April 30, 1999

Opening Remarks

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# Groundwater/Vadose Zone/ Columbia River Integration Project Expert Panel

- We have a bias for thoughtful action
- Many customers to serve
- Will operate: as group for larger issues  
sub-panels for specific topics
- One sub-panel: **Interactions with Stakeholders and Tribal Nations and Understanding Risk**

# Overall Comments (2-99)

- Integration project faces many obstacles to success. . . . Some controllable, some influenceable
- Project is breaking new ground. . . . Sometimes in places where there is a thick “Perma-frost”
- Risk Assessment
  - not yet integrated into project

# General Comments

1. Unwise to begin with our conception of risk  
Limited knowledge of 8 expert panel members
2. Incorporate early in process all views of what is  
**“at risk”**
3. Strive to resolve existing legacies without  
creating new legacies for future generations
4. Avoid the legacy of narrow or simplistic  
conception of risk
5. Inclusive of human, ecological, social, and  
economic health

# Questions

- How is the Integration Project defining what is “at risk”? What, if anything, is missing?
- What are the foundations for development of the “at risk” list?
- How are risks being estimated?
- What is needed to make assessments rigorous and comprehensive?
- What are the priority research and integration needs?