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HOW PEIS Settlement Database Conference Call April 22, 1999, 8 a.m. PST

SUMMARY

PARTICIPATING

Mary Lou Blazek, Dirk Dunning, Oregon Office of Energy; Greg deBruler, Columbia River United; Andy Gordon, University of Washington; Max Power, WA Department of Ecology; Yvonne Sherman, U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL); Jim Trombold, Physicians for Social Responsibility; J. R. Wilkinson, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR); Jim Werner, DOE Office of Assistant Secretary of Energy; Christie Drew, Donna Prisbrey, Michael Kern, Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP);

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Jim Werner announced that the Federal Registry notice of the National Stakeholder Forum, June 3-4, in Columbia, MD was published today, in pages 19753-19754. Jim Werner explained that Columbia was selected to make best use of limited funds. It is close to Baltimore, MD and federal offices. It is an inexpensive train ride from the Baltimore airport, so no rental cars are needed. Further, the Baltimore airport is inexpensive to fly into, cheaper for most flights than to Denver, for example. He explained that Congress is keeping close tabs on this project and watching the funding carefully. Jim Werner explained that travel reimbursement applications are due by May 15, to Erik Feldman of the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), phone (202) 939-3823, email feldman@eli.org. Travel reimbursement information is also in the Federal Register notice.

Michael Kern expressed regret that the date conflicts with HOW #4 and a Hanford Advisory Board meeting. Jim Werner pointed out that there are around 20 advisory boards nationwide, meaning there are no dates available which don't conflict for someone. He said written comments could be submitted and that the PEIS settlement web site <http://www.em.doe.gov/settlement/index2.html> has a feedback mechanism. He also explained an idea for follow up stakeholder focus groups for technical input on operational features of the database. These would be smaller than the first national stakeholder forum and use any remaining travel money. Michael Kern explained that several HOW participants have this type of technical expertise. Participants asked to be included in the distribution of materials for the national stakeholder forum. Jim Werner will send the materials to Michael Kern, who will send copies to HOW participants.

Jim Werner explained that content for the database has been established in the settlement. He said many of the regional sites seem willing to bring data from behind their "firewalls" so the central database can link with them.

Jim Werner explained that in terms of what needs to be included, some people are seeing the settlement as a "ceiling" and others are seeing it as "floor." His job is to navigate this environment, making sure he first meets the legal requirements of the settlement. He is open to feedback and suggestions.

Jim Werner went over the draft agenda for the two-day forum, explaining that it was created in cooperation with the plaintiffs and is listed in the Federal Registry notice (see attached).

Conference call participants explored options with Jim Werner for those who cannot attend the forum. Jim Werner can make the background packet available to those who cannot attend so they can provide written comments. He will explore a video/audio link up for those who cannot attend, and this will also help alleviate travel expenses. He will also ensure that stakeholders who want to fund their own travel can coordinate hotel accommodations with ELI.

Conference call participants noted that background materials which are well written and "user friendly" are more likely to be read by stakeholders, so they will arrive at the forum educated in the issues involved.

Jim Werner said to contact him with questions and any comments or feedback. He is listed on the HOW Contact List. He also said to contact Matt Zenkovich, his staff member on the project, at (202) 586-4612. Background about the settlement and updated information about the database is available at www.em.doe.gov/settlement/.

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For questions or comments about this page, please send email to Yvonne_T_Sherman@rl.gov

URL: <http://www.hanford.gov/boards/openness/summary/042299ConfCall.html>

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