



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
 2355 Kachemak Bay Drive, Suite 101
 Homer, Alaska 99603-8021

June 23, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

To:

Charles Powers
 Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation

Tom Chapple
 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Dimitri Philemenof
 Aluetian/Pribilof Islands Association

Runore Wycoff
 Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration-Nevada

Dear Mr. Powers and fellow Alaska Team Members,

Please find enclosed our signed concurrence on behalf of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge indicating our support of the goals and objectives of the Amchitka Independent Scientific Assessment Plan, as requested in your letter of May 30, 2003.

We believe that all of the tasks identified by the Alaska review team of ADEC, A/PIA, F&WS, and DOE are critical elements for understanding the potential risk of radionuclide release into the marine environment; and consequently, for achieving effective and responsible long-term stewardship of the nuclear test sites at Amchitka Island. We appreciate the team's efforts to incorporate a complete assessment of the marine environment that will include several ecological receptors of concern to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The radionuclide materials that remain buried underground at Amchitka Island are a legacy of the former Atomic Energy Commission, now the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration. While we recognize that the current funding limitations imposed upon the Nevada Office of the National Nuclear Security Administration will only support partial implementation of the Science Plan during 2003-2005, we strongly encourage the Department of Energy to actively pursue full funding through future budget allocations. We will also join our fellow Alaska team members in pursuing additional funds and cost-sharing opportunities among our organizations and within the scientific community to achieve full implementation of the Science Plan tasks.

We look forward to working with CRESA on the Science Plan tasks and moving ahead with the Alaska team to develop and implement long-term stewardship.

Sincerely,

Greg Siekaniec
 Refuge Manager

Suggested Statement by the Four Parties whose Agreement and Approval
Are Specified in the Letter of Intent for Amchitka Island:

On behalf of Fish & Wildlife Service, we agree and accept that the *Amchitka Independent Scientific Assessment Plan* developed by the Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation and dated May 28 is, in fact, a plan which if competently carried out would, in our view, establish a framework for a scientific assessment that would provide a basis for the long-term stewardship associated with the substructure and its relationship to the surrounding marine environment at Amchitka Island. This statement of agreement and acceptance does not indicate our acceptance of every word or approach defined in the *Plan*. Nor does the *Plan*, in and of itself, provide the basis for determining what are the funding priorities of (this agency). The plan does, in fact, however, indicate tasks that are projected to cost \$3.1 M to be supported under the DOE Cleanup Reform Initiative of which the Letter of Intent for Amchitka Island is a part. Even if no other funds were forthcoming to support the *Science Plan*, these tasks should be carried out by CRESA since these tasks and activities themselves would provide useful empirical and other information that would, among other goals, reduce risk uncertainties and add model verification useful in the assessment needed to support a long-term stewardship plan. In addition, we are agreed that support for the broad plan would enable a broader and more complete assessment.

Gregory E. Sestanic
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
6/11/2003