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Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Site Office
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JUL 25 2003

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APPROVAL OF THE CRESP "AMCHITKA INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT SCIENCE PLAN"

The Department of Energy is in receipt of approval letters from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association (APIA), and the U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the "*Amchitka Independent Assessment Science Plan*" (Plan) dated June 24, 2003.

While each of the approval letters included a number of caveats or requests that this office may or may not be able to address, we feel that the approval letters are written in good faith. The elements of the Plan, as prioritized and agreed to in the May 1 - 2, 2003, meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the subsequent conference call of June 20, 2003, have been addressed and included in the Plan dated June 24, 2003, and listed in our approval letter of July 3, 2003, (enclosed). As a result, the remaining \$1,850,000 has been released so that work can begin immediately.

The Plan fulfills an element agreed to in the June 2002 Letter of Intent (LOI) signed by the Department of Energy and the State of Alaska, and the Performance Management Plan (PMP) for the Amchitka Island Site, copies of both are enclosed. This office has agreed to fund the Science Plan \$2 million in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and that money has been released. Additionally, this office has committed to an additional \$1 million in FY 2004 and \$100,000 in FY 2005, subject to available funding.

We expect that CRESP will work diligently within the parameters established by the Plan, the LOI, the PMP, and this letter to ensure that products are completed efficiently, that they will be provided to the DOE and stakeholders in a timely manner and the work will be completed so that the scheduled closure and stewardship activities can be completed by the end of the federal FY 2005, as identified in the LOI. We further expect that all products will be produced in a manner that ensures high quality and that all work will be conducted in accordance with safety, environmental, and security requirements of this agency. Should any of the parties (DOE, ADEC, A/PIA, FWS or CRESP) find that changes to the priorities or schedules are necessary, CRESP must evaluate those changes and if they feel they are warranted, they will notify all

parties of the need and rationale for the change. If the change impacts the established priorities, all parties must approve the changes in writing. If the change requires additional funding CRESP will obtain funding prior to implementing any such change.

We look forward to working with you, as well as with the ADEC, A/PIA, and the FWS as you move forward to implement the Plan. The DOE Nevada Site Office Project Manager for the Amchitka Project is Monica L. Sanchez and the Task Manager is Peter Sanders. They can be reached at (702) 295-0160 and (702) 295-1037 respectively.



Carl P. Gertz
Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management

ERD:RCW-212

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encl:

M. W. Frei, DOE/HQ (EM-30) FORS
J. C. Lehr, DOE/HQ (EM 34) Cloverleaf
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