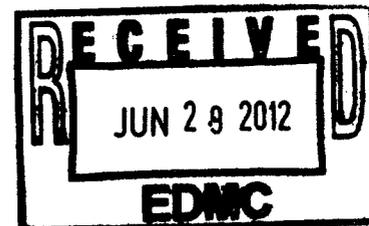




Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

12-DEP-0008

APR 02 2012



Mr. C. O'Conner
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Regional Counsel
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Mr. O'Conner:

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION'S (NOAA'S) SIGNING
OF THE HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL (HNRTC)
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is responding to NOAA's January 11, 2012, signing of the HNRTC MOA which was discussed at the January 15, 2012, HNRTC meeting. As a signatory to the original MOA, and consistent with this express requirement that any amendments be agreed to by the Trustees, this letter serves as DOE's approval, contingent upon agreement of the other signatory Trustees, to amend the MOA to include NOAA as a formal HNRTC member. DOE appreciates NOAA's contributions to the HNRTC in the past and welcomes NOAA as voting member on the Council.

If you have any questions, you may contact me, or your staff may contact Janis L. Ward, of my staff, on (509) 376-2495.

Sincerely,



Matt McCormick
Manager

cc: K. Niles, ODOE
P. Zehm, Ecology
S. Harris, CTUIR
P. Rigdon, YN
B. Baptiste, NPT
K. Benkert, US FWS