

**APPENDIX B**

**BLANKET BIOLOGICAL REVIEW FOR THE TANK FARM FACILITIES**

This page intentionally left blank.

## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the  
U.S. Department of Energy

May 14, 2003

Mr. William T. Dixon  
CH2MHill Hanford Group, Inc.  
P. O. Box 1500, MSIN R1-51  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Dixon:

BLANKET BIOLOGICAL REVIEW FOR THE TANK FARM FACILITIES, 200 East AND  
200 West Areas, #2003-200-037.

### Project Description:

- This blanket biological review covers all routine maintenance, operations, and characterization activities within the defined boundaries of the Tank Farms in 200 East and 200 West Areas as well as project W-523 excavations and other project work within these boundaries (see attached map for area of coverage). However this review does not apply to the demolition of buildings. This letter may be used as a reference for NEPA CX checklists and for support of excavation permits within the area of coverage.

### Survey Objectives:

- To determine the occurrence in the subject area of plant and animal species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), candidates for such protection, and species listed as threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, or monitor by the state of Washington, and species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,
- To evaluate the potential impacts of disturbance on priority habitats and protected plant and animal species identified in the survey.

### Survey Methods:

- Pedestrian and ocular reconnaissance of the tank farm areas was conducted by C. A. Duberstein and N. A. Cadoret on 2 and 13 May, 2003.
- Priority habitats and species of concern are documented as such in the following: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (1993, 1994), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (1994), and for migratory birds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1985). Lists of animal and plant species considered Endangered, Threatened,

902 Battelle Boulevard • P.O. Box 999 • Richland, WA 99352

Mr. W. T. Dixon  
2003-200-037  
Page 2 of 6

Proposed, or Candidate by the USFWS are maintained at 50 CFR 17.11 and 50 CFR 17.12.

**Survey Results:**

- The areas included in this blanket review are highly disturbed with virtually no vegetation.

The following migratory bird activity was noted within the **200 East** project areas:

- **2237-E:** A barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nest in a wooden roof corner on the east side.
- **242-A:** Three inactive cliff swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) nests on the north side.
- **242-B:** A house finch perched on a power pole on the southwest side, and a nest of an undetermined bird species behind a motor on the south side.
- **244-AR:** A Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) on the north side.
- **2707-AR:** An active house finch nest above an east side entrance.
- **272-AW:** An active western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) nest on the loading dock crane on north end.
- **MO-266:** One inactive Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in landscaped junipers on the west side.
- **MO-267:** One inactive Brewer's blackbird in landscaped junipers on the east side.
- **MO-439:** A western kingbird nest below a wooden roof on the east side.

The following migratory bird activity was noted within the **200 West** project areas:

- **241-SX-401:** An active barn swallow nest in a below-grade stairwell on the south side.
- **241-SX-402:** An active Say's phoebe nest in a below-grade stairwell on the south side.
- **242-S:** Two barn swallow nests above the SWP Lobby entrance on the south side and a common raven (*Corvus corax*) nest on an external platform on the south side.

Mr. W. T. Dixon  
2003-200-037  
Page 3 of 6

- **242-T:** A house finch (*Caprodacus mexicanus*) nest in a motor housing on the east side and a Say's phoebe singing from a pipe.
- **244-TX Survey Booth:** A house finch (*Caprodacus mexicanus*) nest on an inside light.
- **244-U-2904:** An inactive barn swallow nest under a southwest eave.
- **2707-SX:** An inactive barn swallow nest within the flammables bottle dock on the south side, a house finch nest under a wooden roof on the east side, and 2 more house finch nests within the corners of a Connex container adjacent the north side.
- **2724-TX:** An active house finch nest in a telephone box on the east side.
- **272-S:** An active western kingbird nest on a northeast side heat pump pipe support.
- **MO-295:** A house finch nest in a corner below the east side eave.
- **MO-296:** A house finch was flushed from under the stairs on the south side.
- Species observed that are not covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act include European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock doves (*Columba livia*), and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*).

#### Considerations and Recommendations:

- No plant and animal species protected under the ESA, candidates for such protection, or species listed by the Washington State government were observed.
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it illegal to take, capture, or kill, as applicable, any migratory bird, or any part, nest or egg of such. To assure compliance with the MBTA, we recommend that any alterations to building exteriors or other outdoor structures be performed outside of the normal breeding season (i.e. between August and March).
- Several migratory bird species had yet to arrive on the Hanford site or had not initiated nesting at the time of the field survey. Therefore some nesting activity was likely missed. Site workers should inspect all outdoor areas prior to disturbance and request support from the PNNL Ecological Compliance Assessment staff if any bird nests may be damaged by routine characterization, maintenance or operations activities.

Mr. W. T. Dixon  
2003-200-037  
Page 4 of 6

- No adverse impacts to species or habitats of concern are expected to occur from the maintenance, operation, or characterization activities at 200 East & West tank farms and associated support facilities.
- This Ecological Compliance Review is valid until 30 April 2004.

Sincerely,

*Cony Dehner for:*

Michael R. Sackschewsky  
Project Manager  
Ecological Compliance Assessment Project  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

LB:mrs

CC: Donald Carrell R1-51  
Phillip Miller R1-51  
Grady Willingham R1-51

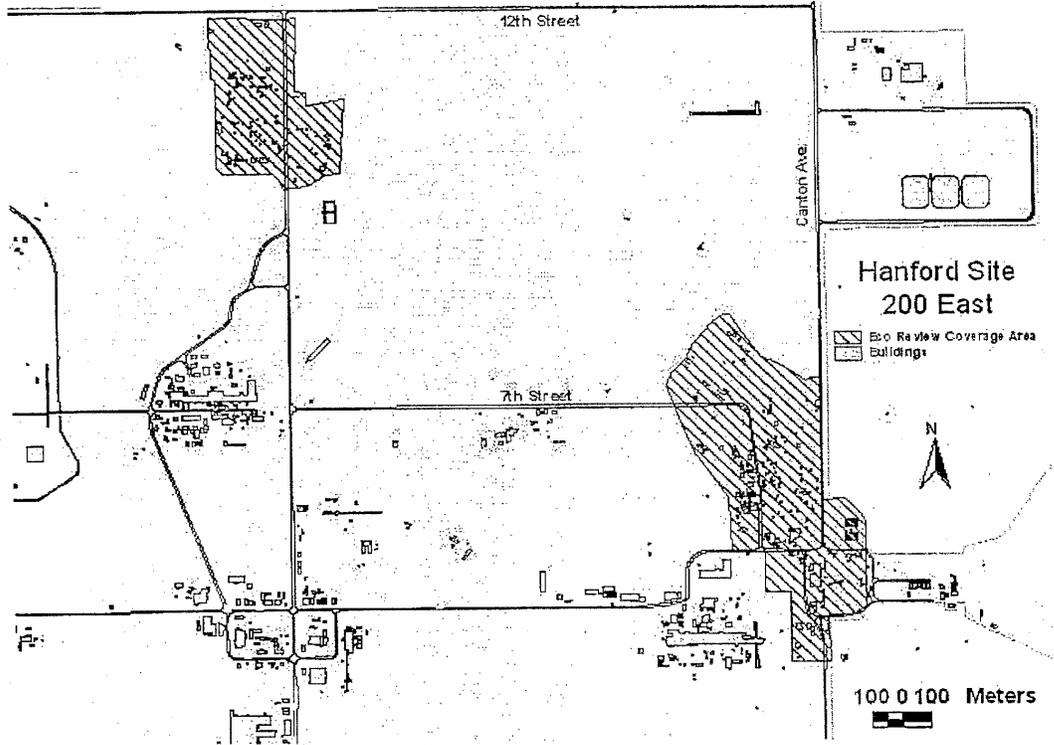
bcc: KF Clouse, FHI N1-25  
PF Dunigan, RL A5-58  
DC Ward, RL A2-15  
KR Welsch, FHI N1-25  
Environmental Portal A3-01  
ECAP / File / LB

Patrick Sobotta  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540-0365

#### REFERENCES

- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1985. Revised List of Migratory Birds; Final Rule. 50 FR 13708 (April 5, 1985).
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1993. Priority Habitats and Species. pp. 22.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1994. Species of Special Concern in Washington. (April 1994).
- Washington Department of Natural Resources. 1994. Endangered, Threatened & Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington. (January 1994).

Mr. W. T. Dixon  
2003-200-037  
Page 5 of 6



Mr. W. T. Dixon  
2003-200-037  
Page 6 of 6

