



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ECWS-10-005

TITLE: Supporting the Clean-up and Discontinued use of Hanford Nuclear Waste Dump

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Nuclear Site, located in southeastern Washington along the Columbia River, contains chemical and radioactive waste that has contaminated our people, water, air, and land; and

WHEREAS, DOE has released a Draft Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will guide the cleanup of radioactive and chemical waste for the next fifty years and whether to ship additional off-site nuclear waste through Indian Country to Hanford; and

WHEREAS, DOE is considering whether or not to clean up the contaminated soil and groundwater beneath leaking tanks; and

WHEREAS, DOE has decided *not* to propose cleanup of large trenches that contain radioactive waste that has been dumped for decades; and DOE's preferred alternative is to continue to ship nuclear waste from across the nation through Indian Country to Hanford making Hanford the nation's nuclear waste dump which will increase the exposure and cancer risks of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, there is a limited time for influencing DOE's decision and sharing our concerns by the deadline on March 19, 2010; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the discontinued use of Hanford as the nation's nuclear waste dump and the shipment of nuclear waste through Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the discontinued shipment of waste and choosing the most aggressive clean-up plan

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possible, with the goal of reaching 99.9%, making the entire area safe for traditional uses and the health of all people today and for future generations;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.