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*DOE*

## ***HANFORD COMPENSATES COUNTIES FOR LOST PROPERTY TAX REVENUES***

*Richland Operations Office Manager John Wagoner is presenting checks to the officials of Grant and Franklin counties at their respective County Court Houses on Friday, January 5, 1996, at 10:30 am and 3:00 pm respectively to compensate the counties for reductions in property tax revenues due to the Department of Energy's presence at the Hanford site. "I am pleased that the Department of Energy has been able to work closely with county officials to solve this community concern," Wagoner stated.*

*These discretionary payments are the culmination of agreements being signed by county officials and DOE officials on Friday. When the Federal government acquired the lands which constitute the Hanford site, these counties were no longer able to generate revenue from property taxes from the acquired lands that had been previously privately owned. Since the Federal government is constitutionally prohibited from paying state and local taxes, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 made provisions for making payments to local governments in lieu of property taxes.*

*On September 14, 1993, Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary approved certain changes in the Department's process for making these assistance payments to ensure equitable and consistent treatment for all qualified applicants.*

*"Hanford has worked closely with county officials and I am pleased to announce that Grant County is today receiving a check for \$4,775,693.33 and Franklin County is receiving a check for \$1,502,257.36," Wagoner stated. "I know that these payments will be put to good use in our communities."*

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