


*Xavier/Tulane Universities Risk  
Communication Program*

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**NETL, October 2000**



# Outline of Presentation

- ◆ Recent Accomplishments
- ◆ Path Forward and Activities Planned for FY 01



# Public Reaction to Tritium Contamination

- Brookhaven National Lab
- News of above Drinking Water Standard level in Jan 1997
- Highest ever reported level was 651,000 pCu/L or 22 times DWS
- Hanford Reservation
- News of above Drinking Water Standard level in Nov 1999
- Highest reported level was 9 million pCu/L or 400 times DWS



# Risk Communication

- Audience is multi-ethnic and multi-racial
- Audience is multicultural
- Audience has varying levels of education
- Audience has varying relationships with DOE
- Important element for effective communication: **TRUST**



# Inventory of Public Concerns

- More than 5,500 documents from Jan 1989 to the present were collected and analyzed. Documents included newspaper articles, meeting minutes/ transcripts, letters, survey summaries, journal publications, comment/response documents, environmental impact statements, site plans, and other DOE documents and reports.
- Comments were abstracted and coded according to a standardized list of issues that was developed as part of the database. Analysis of issues is facilitated by use of the database.
- Database also contains information on the commentor's affiliation, date of comment, and source of comment to the extent known.
- Commentaries are analyzed using local events and milestones as a backdrop.



# Reports Published

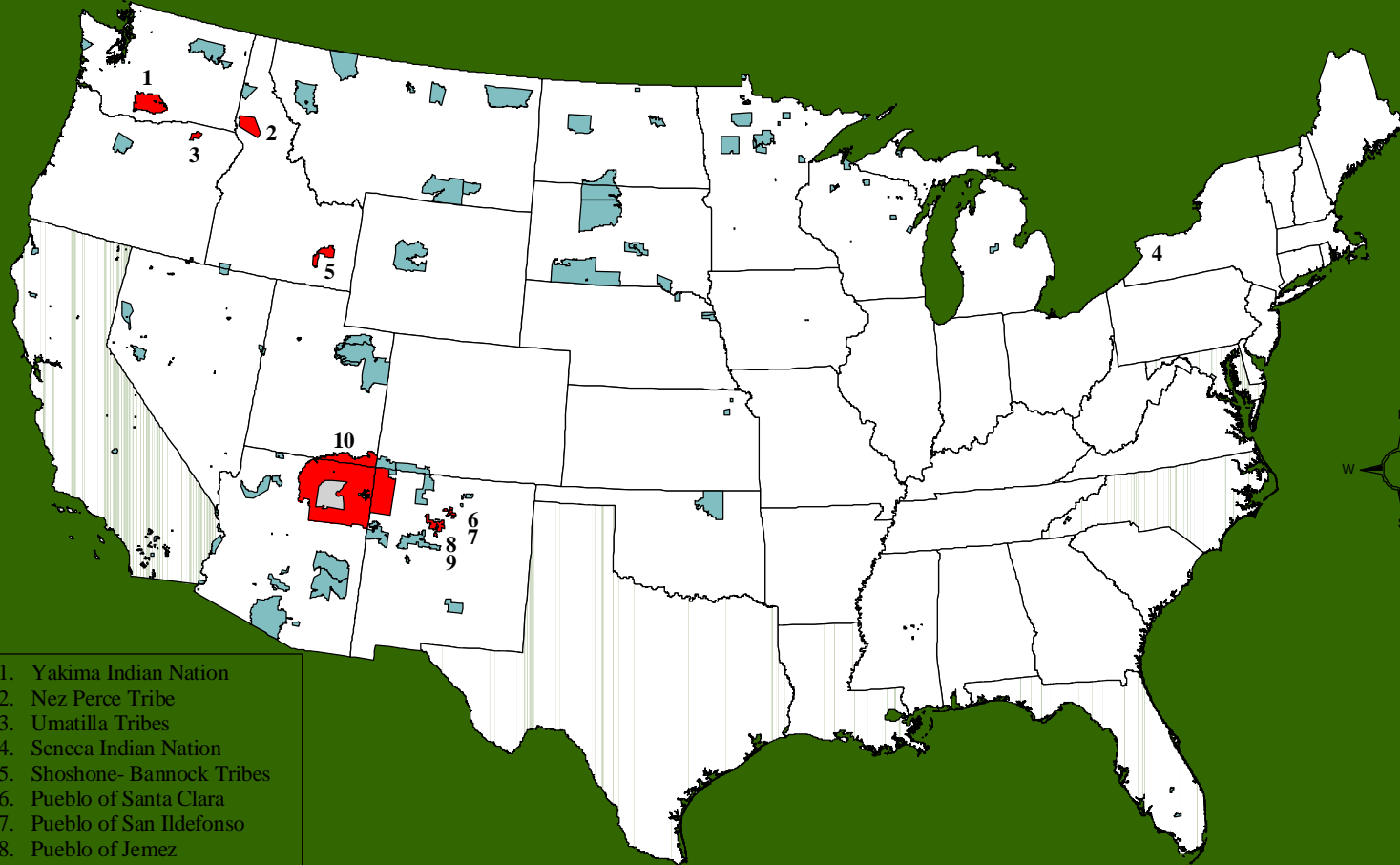
- ◆ A 6-volume report on public concerns at Hanford, INEEL, Rocky Flats, Fernald, Oak Ridge and Savannah River Site
- ◆ Proceedings of Tribal Risk Assessment Forums (3)



# Tribal Capacity Building: Tribal Oral Histories Project

- ◆ **Objective:** Gather oral histories from tribal elders and leaders on tribe's contribution to the nuclear weapons production and impact of DOE activities
- ◆ **Participating tribes:** Seneca, Cochiti, Jemez, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Navajo, Shoshone Bannock, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Yakama
- ◆ **Co-sponsoring Organizations:** NTEC and CERT
- ◆ **Accomplishments:**
  - Common set of equipment for tribes
  - Training on oral history gathering and video production
  - More than 100 interviews conducted
  - At least 4 edited video products

# Tribal Oral Histories Project



1. Yakima Indian Nation
2. Nez Perce Tribe
3. Umatilla Tribes
4. Seneca Indian Nation
5. Shoshone- Bannock Tribes
6. Pueblo of Santa Clara
7. Pueblo of San Ildefonso
8. Pueblo of Jemez
9. Pueblo of Cochiti
10. Navajo Nation

NETL Environmental Science and Technology Conference Oct 2000



# Northwest Indian Tribes' Ceded Lands

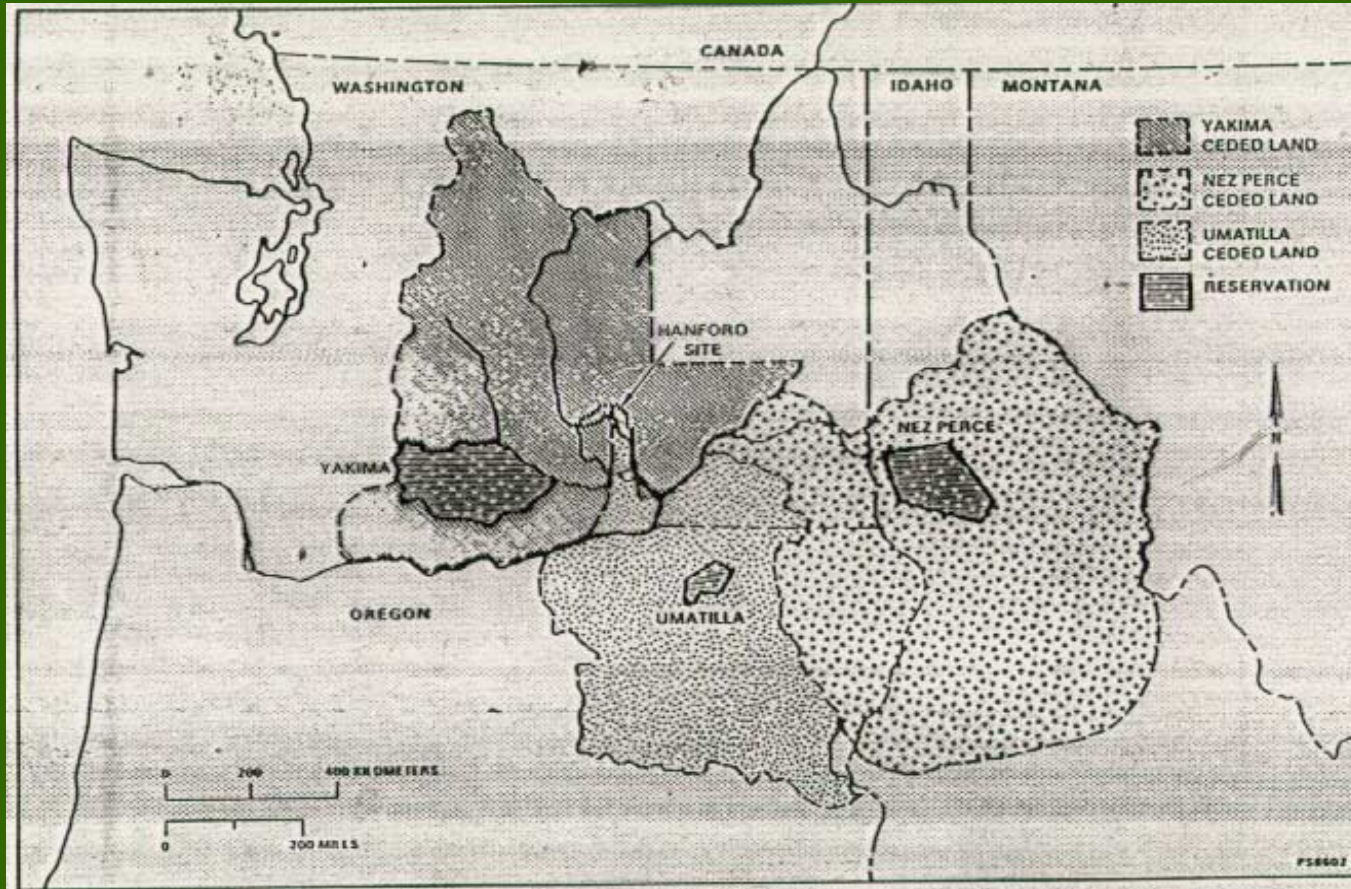


FIGURE D.4. Map Showing Indian-Ceded Lands in the Hanford Region. From "Indian Treaty Boundaries, Portland Area Jurisdiction." U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland Area Office, 1977.



# Tribal Radiological Emergency Preparation (TREP) Workshop

- Objective: Inform tribal government representatives about various emergency response concepts and provide fundamental emergency response training
- Co-sponsoring Organization: NCAI
- Participating tribes: Southwest and Nevada tribes primarily
- Status

Last event: April 1999 in Albuquerque, NM



# Information Technology Workshop

- **Objective:** Develop partnerships between educators and tribal environmental practitioners to encourage students to get involved in local environmental issues
- **Co-sponsoring Organization:** ITEP
- **Participants:** High school teachers and tribal environmental professionals in New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada
- **Status**

Last event: June 1999 in Flagstaff, AZ



# Risk Workshops at SRS

- **Objective:** To engage Black leaders in a dialogue on a number of critical risk issues at SRS
- **Co-sponsoring Organization:** Citizens for Environmental Justice
- **Participants:** African American and Hispanic community leaders
- **Status**

Dates: April (2), July (5)

Locations: Keysville, Savannah, Augusta counties



# Path Forward

- Stewardship Summit (7th Generation Conference) involving tribal environmental professionals, elders and educators is being planned. Possible themes to be explored include environmental resource management, environmental risk assessment practices, risk communications on reservations, economic impact of cleanup activities, transportation of waste and site closure
- Risk Assessment Tribal Forum to explore ways of improving the methodology to incorporate cultural risk



# Workshop Topics

- What measures should be put into place in a stewardship program to ensure that important concerns of various stakeholders are addressed?
- How can the economic impact of site closure be minimized?
- Under what circumstances is it better to leave contamination alone rather than expose workers to unnecessarily large risks?
- How does DOE defend a no-cleanup action to the public?
- How should the Department address the transfer of risk among generations?



# XAVIER

There are 105 Black Colleges in the US:

**One is Catholic**

There are 235 Catholic Colleges in the US:

**One is Black**

