



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

12-AMRP-0157

OCT 10 2012

Mr. Michael A. Bussell
Office of Compliance and Enforcement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Mail Code OWW-135
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Mr. Bussell:

REMOVAL OF NORTH LOADOUT PIT EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this letter is to inform the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (RL) intends to proceed with plans for disposal of North Loadout Pit equipment per Condition 5 in EPA's February 12, 2007, letter.

EPA's letter documented approval under 40 CFR 761.61(c) of RL's request for a modification of the existing risk-based disposal approval to treat certain polychlorinated biphenyl remediation wastes from Hanford's K Basins. Specifically, the risk-based disposal approval provided for treatment of an estimated 6.3 cubic meters of North Loadout Pit sludge, filter sand, and the grouting of large diameter casks.

RL has now determined that the North Loadout Pit treatment system in the T Plant Canyon is no longer needed. Removal of the North Loadout Pit equipment from the canyon deck is necessary to allow access to remove the cover blocks to Cells 8R and 9L for cleanout in preparation for installation of new sludge storage equipment. The new equipment (liner/rack assemblies) is needed to accommodate safe storage of sludge that will be retrieved from the 105-K West Basin into sludge transport and storage containers. Cells 8R and 9L are believed to be the most cost effective cells to prepare for the timely receipt of sludge transport and storage containers from the 105-K West Basin. These cells are in addition to cells already available.

Removal of the North Loadout Pit equipment is planned for Fiscal Year 2013 with intent to dispose of the equipment, provided that it meets acceptance criteria, in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility on or before the end of Fiscal Year 2015. The North Loadout Pit equipment will be disconnected and removed from service in as few sections as is practicable and will be relocated for storage within the T Plant Canyon to facilitate cell cleanout for future receipt of sludge from 105-K West Basin. Storage may occur temporarily on the canyon deck or other location within the T Plant treatment, storage and disposal facility boundary until ready for disposal.

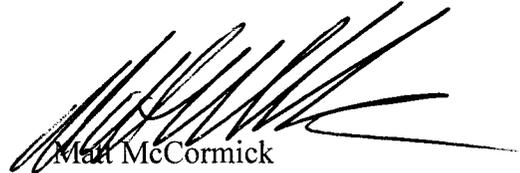
Mr. Michael A. Bussell
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-2-

OCT 10 2012

If you have questions contact me or your staff may contact Jonathan Dowell, Assistant Manager for the River and Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,



Matt McCormick
Manager

AMRP:MSC

cc: D. Bartus, EPA
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Administrative Record (T Plant)
Environmental Portal