



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

12-EMD-0091

**AUG 8 2012**

Mr. D. D. Opalski, Director  
Office of Environmental Cleanup  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

Dear Mr. Opalski:

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA) PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE HANFORD INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE (IH) DATA EVALUATION TEAM REPORT ON ASBESTOS SAMPLES ASSOCIATED WITH DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP SAMPLING**

This letter is in response to comments received in the letter from D. D. Opalski, EPA, to M. S. McCormick, DOE, "EPA's Preliminary Analysis of the Hanford Industrial Hygiene Data Evaluation Team Report on Asbestos Samples Associated with Demolition Activities and Follow-up Sampling," dated June 29, 2012. In the letter, EPA identified several concerns regarding technical and regulatory aspects of the IH Report. The concerns expressed by EPA have prompted a closer look at the IH Report, to ensure that the purpose of and audience for the report are clear.

The U. S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE), in conjunction with the site contractors, convened a team of federal and contractor industrial hygienists from across the Hanford Site and a Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) safety representative to review asbestos exposure monitoring data. The IH Team reviewed personal and area/perimeter asbestos samples collected during demolition, clean-up, and follow-up sampling activities, and compared the results to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) occupational exposure limits. The review and the resulting IH Report concluded that there is no indication that Hanford workers were exposed to asbestos above OSHA's occupational exposure limits. The IH Report was not written to evaluate the effectiveness of final clean-up activities at Hanford. The IH Report provides interested workers with a specific evaluation of the sampling data collected during the demolition activities as it relates to occupational exposure limits, not environmental risk regulatory standards.

We appreciate the assistance that Ms. Wroble provided during the week of July 16, 2012, to DOE and contractor staff. We have shared the re-write of the IH Report with Ms. Wroble and have reposted the revised IH Report on the Hanford website.

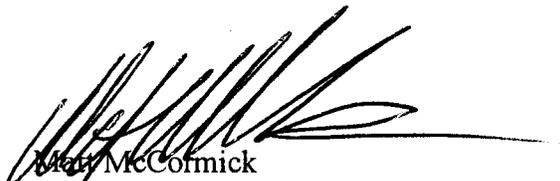
Mr. D. D. Opalski  
12-EMD-0091

-2-

AUG 8 2012

As per your request, the DOE contractor presentation given at a national waste management conference has been removed from the DOE website. If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Ray J. Corey, Assistant Manager for Safety and Environment, on (509) 376-0108.

Sincerely,



Matt McCormick  
Manager

EMD:SRW

cc: D. A. Faulk, EPA  
Environmental Portal, LMSI, AD-95  
Administrative Record, TSD:CWC