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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
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08-AMCP-0144

APR 2 2008

Mr. G. Bohnee, Director
Environmental Restoration/
Waste Management Program
Nez Perce Tribe
P. O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Bohnee:

DEEP VADOSE ZONE TREATABILITY TEST PLAN FOR THE HANFORD CENTRAL PLATEAU, DOE/RL-2007-56, DRAFT A

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The purpose of this letter is to respond to the February 7, 2008, Nez Perce Tribe comments regarding the Deep Vadose Zone Treatability Test Plan for the Hanford Central Plateau DOE/RL-2007-56, Draft A (Test Plan). Comments provided by the Nez Perce Tribe along with comments from the other Tribes, State of Oregon, and the regulators have all been taken into consideration in revising Draft A. Additional comments and suggestions for the Test Plan were discussed during the February 19, 2008, Workshop at the Federal Building.

Revision 0 of the Test Plan was issued on March 31, 2008. The revised document includes two detailed test plans to evaluate possible in-situ remediation methods for Technetium 99 and Uranium. The Technetium 99 test will be a desiccation test in the BC Cribs Area and the Uranium test will be a gaseous reduction test in the B, BY, and BX Areas. As planned, the testing includes bench scale and modeling analysis prior to moving to the field. The schedule for these activities will provide additional opportunities for input and comment by the Nez Perce Tribe and others. Both of these tests will take advantage of ongoing characterization work for Technetium 99 and Uranium at the Hanford Site. The addition of the detailed Uranium test plan responds to concerns by reviewers that there was not enough emphasis on evaluating technologies to deal with the Uranium in the vadose zone in the B, BX, and BY Areas.

The revised Test Plan is designed to meet the Tri-Party Agreement milestone requirements for evaluating potential technologies for in-situ treatment vadose zone remediation of Technetium 99 and Uranium. The strategy envisioned by the regulators and the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is that if a viable deep vadose zone approach for Technetium 99 and Uranium is developed, it would also address the other contaminants of concern. The selection and testing of in-situ technologies for Technetium 99 and Uranium is designed to evaluate if there are any in-situ methods that are practicable such that they might be considered

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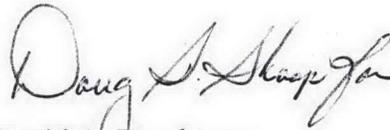
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as part of a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act remedy for remediation on the Central Plateau. Testing of deep vadose zone technologies does not in any way represent a decision by RL and the regulators on a preferred remediation alternative.

We look forward to a continuing dialogue with the Nez Perce Tribe on deep vadose zone remediation and the treatability testing as it progresses. If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,



David A. Brockman
Manager

AMCP:JGM

cc: L. Buck, Wanapum
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