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10-AMCP-0185

JUN 18 2010

Mr. D. A. Faulk, Program Manager
 Office of Environmental Cleanup
 Hanford Project Office
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
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Dear Mr. Faulk:

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT FOR THE 200-MW-1 MISCELLANEOUS WASTE SITES OPERABLE UNIT, DOE/RL-2008-38, DRAFT A

This letter responds to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) May 17, 2010, comments regarding the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report for the 200-MW-1 Miscellaneous Waste Sites Operable Unit, DOE/RL-2008-38, Draft A.

The U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (RL) would like to thank EPA for taking the time to review and comment on this document and for the two positive comments provided. The policy comments in your letter are currently being addressed in a series of scoping discussions between RL, EPA, and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) regarding development of the RI/FS Work plan for the 200 West Inner Area of the Central Plateau. EPA's review and comments on the 200-MW-1 RI/FS have helped focus these discussions. This letter provides RL's responses on a number of those policy level issues, but specific comments will be addressed in our ongoing scoping discussions for 200 West and in subsequent work plans for the Central Plateau. RL recognizes that aspects of the strategy and execution of risk assessment presented in 200-MW-1 differ from previous documents. Since this document was prepared during a transitional period it contains both historical elements and an initial presentation of RL's proposed path forward with respect to many aspects of risk assessment. As such, the document was prepared during the development of the Tri-Party Agreement change package and many of the likely elements of the change package were incorporated.

Based on the proposed Tri-Party Agreement change package, and subsequent discussion with EPA, RL is preparing baseline risk assessments (BRAs) for the 200 East Area and the 200 West Area of the Central Plateau. This is analogous to the River Corridor BRA in that each 200 Area BRA will support risk characterization for several Operable Units. RL plans to discuss the following policy topics during our ongoing work plan scoping meetings:

200-MW-1

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Central Plateau inner area exposure scenarios - During the ongoing scoping discussions, RL has agreed to run multiple exposure scenarios in the BRAs, including an intruder, Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) industrial worker, tribal, and RL worker. An exposure scenario that reflects residential use without institutional controls will be presented to support a basis for action in the Central Plateau but will not be used to establish cleanup levels. Cleanup levels to be established will protect the reasonably anticipated future land use of industrial. As part of these scoping discussions, it is RL's belief that the Tri-Parties can come to agreement on a standard approach to including these exposure scenarios in remedial action development and evaluation. We believe that those discussions will address your specific concerns regarding a number of the risk assessment issues identified in your comment letter.

Alternate Point of Compliance for ecological protection - WAC 173-340-7490(4)(a) provides that Ecology may approve a site-specific depth (other than the presumptive 4.57 m [15 ft] standard point of compliance) based on a demonstration that an alternative depth is more appropriate for the site. Since submittal of the 200-MW-1 RI/FS, RL has reviewed an "Evaluation of Biointrusion at the Hanford Site in Support of a Conditional Point of Compliance for Protection of Ecological Receptors" (CHPRC-00651, Draft A). This forthcoming document will be available for agency review by late June 2010. RL believes that this paper will initiate discussions on setting the alternate point of compliance.

Data Sufficiency - RL recognizes that limited data creates uncertainties about the nature and extent of contamination. RL's ongoing work plan scoping discussions include data quality and sufficiency assessment and evaluation of existing data. Outcomes of these discussions may lead to the identification of data gaps and a path forward for addressing those data gaps. RL intends to prepare RI/FS Work Plans for the 200 West and East Areas, that will clearly document the contaminants of potential concern (COPC) screening process. RL's current proposal to the regulatory agencies expands the list of COPCs based on limited screening rules and develops preliminary remediation goals (PRGs) for this expanded list.

Though the scoping discussions are focused on the 200 West Area work plan, the resulting decisions will be applicable also to the 200-EA-1 Operable Unit. As an outcome of these discussions, the resolution to comments may be addressed in several documents, including those documents developed for the proposed 200-WA-1 Operable Unit, therefore, RL has elected to respond categorically rather than individually, as follows:

Land Use

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) establishes the land use for the Hanford Site, including the 200 Areas. RL believes that the reasonably anticipated future land use for the Inner Area of the Central Plateau is industrial-exclusive and expects the BRA to examine the risks posed to an industrial worker using both the MTCA C Exposure Scenario as well as an industrial exposure scenario tailored to reflect potential future site workers that will be implementing the institutional controls program. The BRA will also evaluate potential risks to intruders both within the upper 15 feet of the soil column and greater depths as appropriate to particular exposure scenarios.

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Technology Screening

Based on the proposed Tri-Party Agreement change package, RL will prepare a 200-WA-1 RI/FS Work Plan which will include a detailed assessment of technologies. The 200-EA-1 RI/FS Work Plan will follow the process developed for the West Area Work Plan. EPA's comments concerning the manner and level of details used in technology screening and additional supporting details for the alternatives development sections will be addressed in the RI/FS Work Plan. Comments concerning construction, performance criteria and remedy effectiveness will be addressed in the Remedial Design/Remedial Action Work Plan.

Document Content

In response to EPA, Ecology, and Hanford Advisory Board comments calling for standardization in Hanford Site cleanup decision documents, RL has been working with its contractors to develop an annotated template for a combined RI/FS report. This template has been developed consistent with published EPA and RL guidance for conducting remedial investigation and feasibility study activities and preparing the resulting activity reports. Guidance on reporting feasibility study activities does not include, nor does it explicitly exclude the presentation of the preferred alternative. RL's intent is to use the proposed plan as the vehicle to identify and communicate the preferred remedial action alternative. For the Inner Area 200 East and West decision documents, the RI/FS Reports and the Proposed Plans will be submitted simultaneously so that the preferred alternative will be available along with the supporting data and evaluations presented in the RI/FS Reports.

Editorial

Editorial comments will be taken into account as appropriate in the 200-EA-1 RI/FS/Proposed Plan.

Revisions to the new remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) report for the proposed 200-EA-1 Operable Unit are based on the proposed realignment in the new Tri-party Agreement change package, the information from DOE/RL-20008-38, and any changes resulting from public comments. Therefore, no revised version of DOE/RL-2008-38, Draft A will be issued. As we have discussed, we are not anticipating EPA will comment on these comment responses. However, as noted earlier in this letter, RL appreciates EPA's comments on the subject document. The comments have been helpful in framing the issues for our central plateau work plan development efforts and promoting RL's understanding of EPA's perspectives on a number of important issues. We look forward to responding to each of the specific comments in the context of the appropriate Operable Unit work plan development.

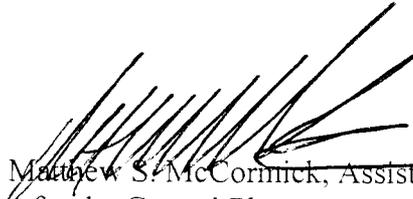
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If you have any questions please contact me, or your staff may contact Nick Ceto, on
(509) 376-6144.

Sincerely



Matthew S. McCormick, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

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