



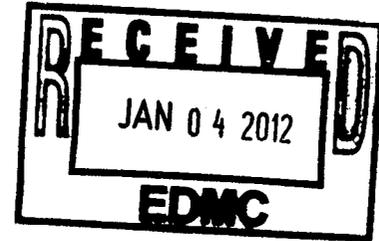
Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

0100649

12-AMCP-0041

DEC 28 2011

Ms. J. A. Hedges, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton
Richland, Washington 99354



Dear Ms. Hedges:

GROUNDWATER INDICATOR PARAMETER EXCEEDANCE AT 1324-N/NA

This letter provides formal notice that indicator parameter results exceeded the critical mean comparison value for total organic carbon (TOC) at the 1324-N/NA treatment, storage, and/or disposal (TSD) units, regulated under the Dangerous Waste Regulations in accordance with Washington Administrative Code 173-303-400, which references 40 CFR 265 subpart F. The average TOC concentration in down-gradient Well 199-N-165 exceeded the most recent limit of quantitation (LOQ) of 1,000 micrograms per liter. The LOQ is larger than the critical mean value of 860 micrograms per liter, so the LOQ is used as the comparison value. The recent data from September 8, 2011, are out of trend, with values ranging from 2,920 micrograms per liter to 3,370 micrograms per liter. Verification samples were collected, with TOC samples originally split between two laboratories. In addition volatile organic analyses (VOA) were done. The Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility Laboratory was not able to take samples during this period, therefore duplicate samples went to a Tethered Applications Simulation Laboratory. The well was re-sampled on November 7, 2011, and results of the duplicate samples were 6,800 micrograms per liter and 6,900 micrograms per liter, confirming the exceedance of the critical mean. All VOA constituents were non-detect, with the exception of Chloroform at 3.6 micrograms per liter.

The following is required as a consequence of these results:

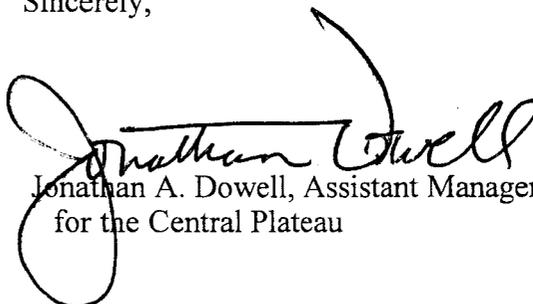
"...the owner or operator must provide written notice to the Regional Administrator within seven days ...that the facility may be affecting groundwater quality. [40 CFR 265.93(d)(1)]" (In this context, 'Regional Administrator' means State of Washington Department of Ecology).

"Within 15 days after the notification under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the owner or operator must develop and submit to the Regional Administrator a specific plan... for a groundwater quality assessment program at the facility. [40 CFR 265.93(d)(2)]" (In this context, 'Regional Administrator' means State of Washington Department of Ecology). Note that although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has removed the requirement to submit the plan, the State of Washington Department of Ecology has retained the requirement through the Dangerous Waste Regulations.

DEC 28 2011

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact, Briant Charboneau, of my staff, on (509) 373-6137.

Sincerely,



Jonathan A. Dowell, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

AMCP:RDH

cc: G. Bohnee, NPT
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