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Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
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FEB 17 1995

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State of Washington
Department of Ecology
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Mr. Douglas R. Sherwood
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
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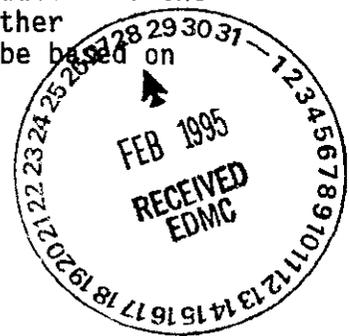
Dear Ms. Butler and Mr. Sherwood:

RESPONSE TO REGULATOR CONCERNS ON FUNDING FOR THE HANFORD BARRIER PROGRAM

In response to your letter to Mr. Ron Izatt, dated January 4, 1995, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office's (RL), Environmental Restoration Contractor (ERC) is currently conducting a thorough evaluation of the Hanford Barrier Development Program related to the needs of RL's Environmental Restoration Project. The evaluation is examining the overall barrier program, as well as the requirements for testing the prototype barrier. Performance requirements will be based on the needs of the Environmental Restoration Project. A strategy will be developed for continuing minimal but essential activities that will be acceptable to both RL and the regulators.

To date, the Testing and Monitoring Program on the prototype barrier is proceeding as planned. Full funding for the testing and monitoring program is available through the end of March 1995. RL plans to continue to fund the program at a reasonable level through FY 1995. In an effort to coordinate outyear funding, surface barrier development including testing and monitoring, has been proposed as a site need by the Hanford Site Technology Coordination Group to the Plumes Focus Area Management and Implementation Teams.

The above referenced letter addresses concern about additional programmatic end users, public interest groups, and tribal governments which will require additional performance data for acceptance. The current ERC evaluation of the barrier program will consider the concerns of the end users and other commenters; however, due to funding limits, recommendations will be based on the needs of the Environmental Restoration Project.



Ms. Butler and Mr. Sherwood

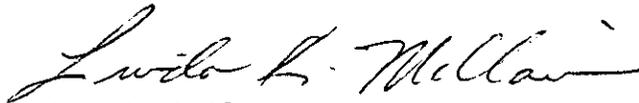
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In order to determine acceptability by public interest groups and others, including the Yakama Indian Nation (YIN), formal review and comment on the use of surface barriers are planned. One of the first operable units to recommend the use of a surface cover as a final cleanup remedy is 200-BP-1. The proposed plan for 200-BP-1 has been completed and is ready for public comment. RL understands that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has provided that proposed plan to the YIN, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for review and comment. Once formal comments have been received from the Indian Nations and the public interest groups, an action plan can be developed for additional performance monitoring, if required.

If you want to discuss this matter further or require additional information, please feel free to contact me, or your staff may contact Mr. Bryan L. Foley at (509) 376-7087.

Sincerely,



Linda K. McClain, Assistant Manager
for Environmental Restoration

PRD:BLF

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