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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF RADIATION PROTECTION

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July 19, 1996

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Mr. Robert K. Stewart
U.S. Department of Energy-RL
P.O. Box 550 MSIN HO-12
Richland, Washington 99352-0539

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The Department of Health appreciates the opportunity to review the Draft Data for the Screening Assessment Volume I for the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment. Although not a part of this review, the Department intends to submit a data package for use in the assessment under a separate mailing. Particular interest will be devoted to those areas where duplicate data may not be available. 44485

The review for this draft was limited to volume 1 and not the appendices, due to time constraints. The focus of the review therefore centered on the data evaluation conventions. Two areas of comment are offered. The first comments relates to the proper application of results when values are reported less than the detection limit as covered under section 3.2. Although time consuming, a more accurate approach is discussed by Dale H. Denham and David A. Waite in several publications. A comprehensive review of this subject and pertinent references is provided in the EPA document *Upgrading Environmental Radiation Data*: Health Physics Society Committee Report HPSR-1 (1980), EPA 520/1-80-012. Such a process may only be required for those sites where the results are log normally distributed (most environmental data) and are near the detection limit.

The second comment relates to the outlier analysis as identified in section 3.3.2.2. The second part of outlier analysis is that the cause of the outlier must also be known prior to removing the data. As the reasons for erroneous data for such a large data set may not always be possible, some consideration might be given to adjusting the confidence level to account for the lack of identification.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, I may be reached at (360) 586-3306.

Sincerely,

John L. Erickson

John L. Erickson, Head
Environmental Radiation Section
Division of Radiation Protection

cc: Dave Holland, Ecology
Amoret Bunn, Dames and Moore