



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

97-SID-094

APR 01 1997

Mr. Moses N. Jaraysi  
200 Area Unit Supervisor  
Nuclear Waste Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
1315 West Fourth Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Dear Mr. Jaraysi:

PATH FORWARD FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE HANFORD SITE SOLID WASTE LANDFILL (SWL)

The Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the Hanford Site Solid Waste Landfill (SWL) (DOE/RL-94-142) was submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) to address contaminated groundwater below the SWL. This plan was approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) in a letter dated June 7, 1995. The letter also provided concurrence with a shutdown date of the SWL of March 31, 1996. The plan stated each phase was to be approved by Ecology before moving to the next phase. It was mutually agreed that we would use the data quality objective workshops to guide the development of the soil gas sampling analysis plan. Your letter of November 20, 1995, suggested that the data quality objective workshops be delayed at least until March 1, 1996, to allow time to address the Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Landfill issues before the workshop. The first data quality workshop was held in September 1996, and since then discussions have been held with your staff to keep them informed of progress. The following is proposed as a change in the activities and tentative schedule as outlined in the CAP.

RL proposes to use existing data and data collection equipment to estimate the extent of contamination due to the SWL before any commitment is made to conduct a soil gas survey and expand existing groundwater monitoring network. RL believes this is the most cost-effective manner to address the SWL and also should not pose a significant risk to human health or the environment.



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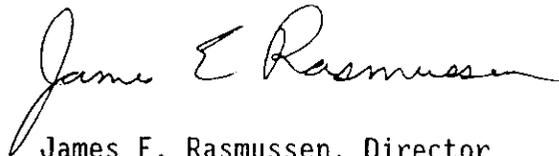
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The existing data will be analyzed and a conceptual model will be developed. If the model reveals any significant concerns, RL and Ecology will address them at that time.

During the latter part of FY 1997, the Project Hanford Management Contractor will begin planning for a line item project to handle the final SWL cover design and installation. The final SWL Closure Plan should be completed in FY 1998. The budget baseline and validation documentation will be prepared for a funding year 2000 Line Item, "Hanford SWL Final Closure Project". The entire project schedule is summarized in Attachment 1. Adherence to this schedule is dependent upon favorable results from the groundwater conceptual model, and appropriate funding being allocated. This plan will be reviewed after October 1, 1997, when the conceptual model is complete.

If you have any questions or concerns on the above, please call Ellen Mattlin on (509) 376-2385 or D. J. Ortiz on (509) 376-0950.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental Assurance, Permits,  
and Policy Division

SID:DJO

Attachment

cc w/attach:  
T. J. Harper, FDH  
D. S. Kelly, FDH  
F. A. Ruck, FDH  
F. Ma, Ecology  
Ecology Library, Lacey, WA  
EDMC, H6-08  
D. Powaukee, NPT  
R. Jim, YIN

HANFORD SOLID WASTE LANDFILL PROJECT PLAN

**FY 1997: Actions to be completed by September 30, 1997.**

- Propose existing data and equipment be used to develop a conceptual model in lieu of the Corrective Action Plan for the Hanford Site Solid Waste Landfill (SWL) (DOE/RL-94-143).
- Verbal presentation of proposal to Ecology (completed on December 18, 1996, verbal acceptance received).
- Completion and Submittal of Conceptual Model.
- RL and Ecology reach agreement on the path forward for the SWL.
- Reevaluate this Project Plan.

**FY 1998: Actions to be completed by September 30, 1998.**

- Evaluation of design and pricing of cover installation.
- Preparation of Closure Plan.
- Reevaluate this Project Plan.

**FY 1999: Actions to be completed by September 30, 1999.**

- Preparation of FY 2000/2001 Line Item Project budget baseline and validation documentation.
- Validation of Project.

**FY 2000/2001:**

- Execute Line Item Project to design/construct final cover for the 75-acre Hanford SWL.