



**U.S. Department of Energy**

Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

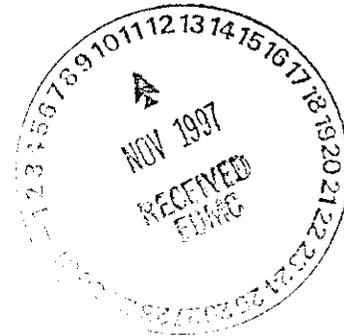
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Mr. Steve M. Alexander  
Perimeter Areas Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
1315 W. Fourth Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018

Mr. Douglas R. Sherwood  
Hanford Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5  
Richland, Washington 99352-0539



Dear Messrs. Alexander and Sherwood:

REVISION OF THE HANFORD SITEWIDE GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION STRATEGY,  
DOE/RL-94-95, REV. 1, AND COMPANION DOCUMENTS

Please find attached five copies of the updated subject document (Attachment 1) and companion documents: Hanford Sitewide Groundwater Remediation Strategy - Groundwater Contaminant Predictions, BHI-00469, Rev. 1 (Attachment 2); Hanford Sitewide Groundwater Flow and Transport Model Calibration Report, BHI-00608, Rev. 0 (Attachment 3); and Decision Process for Hanford Sitewide Groundwater Remediation, BHI-00455, Rev. 1 (Attachment 4). These revised documents reflect changes made in response to comments received.

Attachment 1 provides a concise statement of strategy that currently describes how the Hanford Site groundwater remediation is being accomplished. The strategy addresses objectives and goals, prioritization of activities, and technical approaches for groundwater cleanup. Attachment 2 presents predictions on how the major groundwater contaminants plumes may change over time due to natural attenuation, decay, and remedial actions. This predictive model was performed by a Bechtel Hanford, Inc. subcontract and should not be confused with the ongoing predictive modeling in response to the findings of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. Attachment 3 presents the calibration results of the three-dimensional, finite element groundwater model for the unconfined aquifer used to perform the groundwater contaminant predictions and analyses. Attachment 4 describes a suggested decision flow process for planning future investigations and remediation of contaminated groundwater within the Hanford Site using and encompassing the current Interim Remedial Measures.

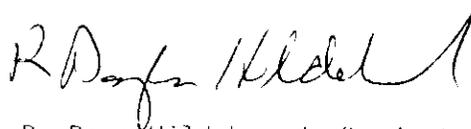
The reports transmitted via this letter document historical activities and past progress in Hanford's approach to groundwater cleanup. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), recognizes that the "Hanford Sitewide Groundwater Remediation Strategy" must be dynamic and must also be responsive to observed responses to the groundwater and source cleanup efforts. Changes may be necessary to assure compliance with the

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Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) and assure goals of the Hanford Groundwater Protection Management Plan (GPMP) are attained. Future updates to the "Hanford Sitewide Groundwater Remediation Strategy" will be incorporated in updates to the GPMP. RL recently brought on line the last of the groundwater treatment facilities required by the Tri-Party Agreement for interim action. This juncture provides an opportunity for RL to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Tribes, and the stakeholders to discuss the future goals and the strategic approach to meet them. A separate letter will follow inviting Ecology, EPA, the Tribes, and the stakeholders to participate in this effort.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 373-9626.

Sincerely,



R. Doug Hildebrand, Project Manager  
Groundwater Project

GWP:RDH

Attachments: As stated

cc w/attachs:

J. T. Bachmaier, EH-412  
M. L. Blazek, Oregon DOE  
G. deBruler, Columbia River United  
R. L. Dirkes, PNNL  
M. K. Harmon, EM-442  
R. Jim, YIN (2)  
F. M. Mann, FDNW  
R. O. Patt, Oregon DOE  
D. L. Powaukee, NPT (2)  
L. Seelatsee, Wanapum  
R. M. Smith, PNNL (6)  
J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR (2)  
M. A. Wilson, Ecology  
M. I. Wood, RFSH

cc w/o attach:

G. C. Henckel, BHI  
A. J. Knepp, BHI  
L. C. Swanson, CHI