



0067902

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

DEC 8 2005

06-AMCP-0058

Mr. Nicholas Ceto, Program Manager
Office of Environmental Cleanup
Hanford Project Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
309 Bradley Blvd., Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED
DEC 22 2005
EDMC

Dear Mr. Ceto:

TRANSMITTAL OF RESPONSE TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) DETERMINATION REGARDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY COMMENT RESPONSES TO THE FOCUSED FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE BC CRIBS AND TRENCHES AREA WASTE SITES, DOE/RL-2004-66, DRAFT A, AND THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE BC CRIBS AND TRENCHES AREA WASTE SITES, DOE/RL-2004-69, DRAFT A

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is responding to "Transmittal of EPA Determination of DOE Comment Responses to the Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) for the BC Cribs and Trenches Area Waste Sites, DOE/RL-2004-66, Draft A, and the Proposed Plan for the BC Cribs and Trenches Area Waste Sites, DOE/RL-2004-69, Draft A" received on October 10, 2005.

65630
65629
66948

We appreciate having the opportunity to have continued discussions with you and your staff regarding the proposed remedy for the BC Cribs and Trenches Area waste sites presented in the initial Draft A of the FFS and Proposed Plan referenced above. Our discussions have resulted in an agreement to excavate where such removal of shallow contamination might eliminate the need for a barrier or where it simplifies the design of a barrier and its associated institutional controls. RL also proposed working collaboratively with EPA to develop criteria for excavation through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act Record of Decision and subsequent remedial design process. These proposals support EPA's expectation for removal of shallow contamination to risk-based levels that are safe to intruders in the short term and that would allow for conservation land use in the long term.

Given the conclusion of the informal 30-day dispute resolution period on November 10, 2005, this letter also documents our mutually agreed upon commitment to continue discussions to address additional technical information needed to properly evaluate the remedial alternatives and reach agreement on the criteria to guide beneficial excavation at the BC Cribs and Trenches Area.

Mr. Nicholas Ceto
06-AMCP-0058

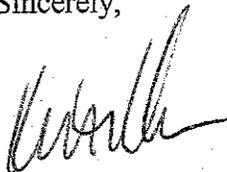
-2-

DEC 8 2005

We also agreed upon the importance of reaching agreement on how the FFS should be revised so that it does a better job of communicating those remedies, including the associated justification for how those proposed remedies are protective of human health and the environment as required by Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and how stakeholder values have been taken into consideration in reaching remedial action.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Klein
Manager

AMCP:BLF

cc: B. A. Austin, FHI
M. W. Benecke, FHI
G. Bohnee, NPT
C. E. Cameron, EPA
L. D. Crass, FHI
L. G. Dusek, FHI
S. Harris, CTUIR
R. Jim, YN
M. B. Lackey, FFS
R. A. Lobos, EPA
T. M. Martin, HAB
R. D. Morrison, FHI
K. Niles, ODOE
M. E. Todd-Robertson, FHI
M. A. Wilson, Ecology
Administrative Record
Environmental Portal