



U.S. Department of Energy

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NOV 6 1997

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



Dear Mr. Alexander:

100-NR-1 TREATMENT, STORAGE, AND DISPOSAL UNITS ENGINEERING STUDY. BHI-01092.
DRAFT A

Enclosed, please find the subject document for review and comment. The following summarizes the notable points of the engineering study:

- The purpose of the engineering study was to confirm the implementability of the preferred remedial alternative being proposed for the 1301-N and 1325-N Treatment, Storage, and Disposal units.
- The engineering study addresses concerns of radiological hazards to worker safety during remediation.
- The study also addresses waste management issues associated with disposal of the high activity waste that will be generated during remediation.

The Corrective Measures Study (CMS) cost estimate was prepared for the purpose of comparison of the remedial alternatives; whereas, the cost estimate presented in this engineering study includes the evaluation of details supporting conceptual design for remediation and waste management associated with disposal at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). The cost estimate in the engineering study is significantly higher than the CMS cost estimate. Packaging of the waste to allow for safe disposal at ERDF is the single largest contributor to the increased cost. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), plans to revise the CMS cost estimate to incorporate the new information made available in this engineering study pending the State of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) review and resolution of comments. It is essential that the CMS contain the most current information prior to it being made available for public comment.

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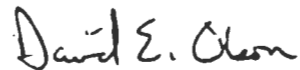
Mr. Steve M. Alexander

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RL requests that Ecology submit comments within three weeks of receipt of this letter. If you are unable to meet this review schedule, or should you have any questions, please contact me at 376-7142.

Sincerely,



David E. Olson, Project Manager
Remedial Actions Project

RAP:DEO

Enclosure

cc w/encls:
L. E. Gadbois, EPA
M. K. Harmon, EM-442
P. R. Staats, Ecology (2)