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

FEB 13 1996

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:

STRATEGIES FOR 100-D PONDS CLOSURE

This letter provides information and requests your concurrence on the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), proposed strategies for achieving Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) closure at the 100-D Ponds. The 100-D Ponds are being closed in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-610 and the Hanford Site Dangerous Waste Permit (Permit). Specifically, RL requests your concurrence on the following issues:

1. A PROPOSAL TO VOLUNTARILY REMOVE SOILS PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF AN APPROVED CLOSURE PLAN

RL has proposed to begin removing contaminated soils from 100-D Ponds upon agreement with the State of Washington, Department of Ecology (Ecology), on the appropriate sampling and analysis required to demonstrate closure at this unit. This proposal has been documented in meeting minutes from a Data Quality Objectives workshop held on December 11, 1995, with Ecology. RL's proposal to remove contamination from 100-D Ponds during FY 1996 is based on consideration of costs associated with delaying cleanup at this unit due to continued monitoring.

Removal of soils prior to obtaining an approved closure plan is allowable under the regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) final rule for removal and decontamination at closure units (51 FR 16430, May 2, 1986) states:

As long as the removal of hazardous wastes . . . conducted prior to submission of the closure plan are consistent with the closure requirements set forth in the Part 265 regulations, these activities would be approved in the subsequent closure plan and would not render unacceptable activities previously undertaken.

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RL considers that the removal of soils contaminated from dangerous wastes disposed to 100-D Ponds is compliant with Ecology closure requirements and therefore, is an acceptable activity.

2. USE OF AN EQUIVALENCY DEMONSTRATION TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH FINAL STATUS GROUNDWATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS AT THE 100-D PONDS

The 100-D Ponds are defined as surface impoundments. There is currently an interim status detection groundwater monitoring system established for these ponds in compliance with Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 265. It is anticipated that the 100-D Ponds will meet clean closure standards as defined in Permit Condition II.K.1. and WAC 173-303-610(2)(b) by removal of surface soils containing dangerous waste constituents above Model Toxics Control Act Method B cleanup levels. Because these ponds are surface impoundments, compliance with final status groundwater monitoring (WAC 173-303-645) and a determination of no impact to the groundwater from the unit must be demonstrated to achieve clean closure. RL intends to demonstrate compliance with these requirements through an equivalency demonstration. Procedures for an equivalency demonstration are contained in WAC 173-303-800(10).

The equivalency demonstration will be submitted with the intent of demonstrating that a postclosure permit is not required at 100-D Ponds, under the assumption that clean closure standards will be met for all soil and groundwater. Soil and interim status groundwater sampling results will be used to support the demonstration that clean closure at 100-D Ponds is achieved. Should soil remediation conclude that clean closure cannot be met at this unit, an equivalency demonstration would not be required because groundwater monitoring would need to continue at 100-D Ponds under a modified or landfill closure option.

3. DETERMINATION THAT POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL (PCB) CONCENTRATIONS IN THE SOILS ARE NOT DEFINED AS W001 UNDER WAC 173-303 REGULATIONS

PCB contamination was detected in the 100-D settling pond within the soil zone ending 2 to 3 feet below the surface at a maximum concentration of 29 milligrams per kilograms (mg/kg). The source of this PCB contamination cannot be determined. Designation of a waste as a Washington State source code W001 is, like other source-listed dangerous wastes contained in WAC 173-303-9904, dependent upon meeting the definition contained in the source listing. The source listing for W001 states that PCB-contaminated waste are those generated from:

the salvaging, rebuilding, or discarding of transformers, bushing, or capacitors . . . cooling and insulating fluids; cores, including core papers, from unrinsed transformers and capacitors; transformers and capacitors which will no longer be used for their intended use, except for those transformers or capacitors which have been rinsed; and, reinstate from the rinsing of transformers and capacitors.

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None of the documented activities, which had the potential to discharge to 100-D Ponds, involved the sources listed under W001. EPA policy regarding unknown sources is that resultant waste need not be designated as listed waste. In the proposal to the National Contingency Plan (53 FR 51394, December 12, 1988) EPA states:

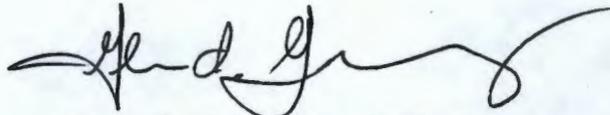
To determine whether a waste is a listed waste under RCRA, it is often necessary to know the source However, at many Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act sites no information exists on the source of the wastes nor are references available citing the date of disposal. The lead agency should use available site information, manifests, storage records, and vouchers in an effort to ascertain the source of these contaminants. When this documentation is not available, the lead agency may assume that the wastes are not listed RCRA hazardous wastes, unless further analysis or information becomes available which allows the lead agency to determine that the wastes are listed RCRA hazardous wastes.

Because no documentation exists to substantiate that the PCB contamination found within 100-D Ponds originated from W001 sources, it is not required that the dangerous waste code W001 be assigned to any soils that will require removal from the 100-D settling pond.

The scope of the work presented in this letter is based on current understanding of funding levels and is subject to modification should these levels change. Please review this information and provide RL with concurrence on the approaches proposed.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Nicole S. Kimball at 376-4670.

Sincerely,



Glenn I. Goldberg, Project Manager
Remedial Actions Project

RAP:NSK

cc: J. W. Badden, BHI
K. K. Holliday, Ecology
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