



START

Department of Energy

Richland Field Office

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JUL 14 1993

93-GSB-010

Mr. George C. Hofer
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Ave.
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Roger F. Stanley, Director
Tri-Party Agreement Implementation
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Messrs. Hofer and Stanley:

SITE-WIDE BACKGROUND VALUES FOR SOIL AND GROUNDWATER, MILESTONE M-28-00

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is aware of the work required over the next few years to be conducted on the side-wide background studies. Soils and groundwater background activities have been planned for the next several years and funding requested in the fiscal year (FY) 1994-1995 target case.

In regard to the question concerning the M-28-00 Milestones; these milestones were not intended to provide complete characterization of soil and groundwater background levels for radioactive and nonradioactive analytes. The revised report on soil background for nonradioactive analytes (DOE/RL-92-24, Rev. 1),²⁸⁹⁰⁸ issued in May 1993, meets the intent and requirements of M-28-03. The report on groundwater background (DOE/RL-92-23, Rev. 0) issued in April 1992,²¹⁷²⁵ (M-28-04), is a status report on the evaluation of existing groundwater background data for nonradioactive analytes that meet stringent data quality objectives and contains provisional site-wide groundwater background data. A revision of this report was intended to serve as the first of what is expected to be several periodic updates to groundwater background levels at the Hanford Site. Thus, the actual description and/or intent of the M-28-04 Milestone was perhaps misinterpreted. The original intent of this activity (initial compilation and evaluation of existing groundwater data) was met.

Many aspects of soil and groundwater background characterization remain to be done. The activities that are planned by RL and Westinghouse Hanford Company for the remainder of 1993, are refurbishment and sampling of selected wells and screening of existing soil and water data for radionuclides. The FY 1994



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Messrs. Hofer and Stanley
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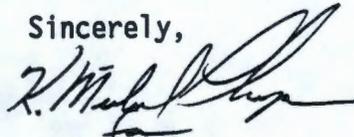
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and future outyear activities will be discussed as part of the on going Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order negotiations. Activity schedules and costs will be defined and prioritized during negotiations.

We agree with your thoughts that it would be very beneficial for us at Hanford to hold a workshop that would bring the expertise from throughout the U.S. Department of Energy complex to discuss the experiences and processes of developing site-wide background values for soils and groundwater and evaluating risk at the various sites. The appropriate scope and potential utility of holding such a workshop at the Hanford Site at this time needs to be addressed. Feel free to discuss this within at a Background Committee Meeting in the future. For the remainder of FY 1993, the current resources are committed to completing the activities previously discussed.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alden Foote or Mr. Bob Stewart on (509) 376-7172 and (509) 376-6192, respectively.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Wisness
Hanford Project Manager

ERD:AJF

cc: B. A. Austin, WHC
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Subject: SITE-WIDE BACKGROUND VALUES FOR SOIL AND GROUNDWATER,
MILESTONE M-28-00

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