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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

September 22, 2006

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EDMC

Bryan Foley
Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
PO Box 550, A6-38
Richland, WA 99352

Re: EPA Approval of the Central Plateau Terrestrial Ecological Sampling and Analysis Plan
Phase III (DOE/RL-2006-27)

0070755

Dear Mr. Foley:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Central Plateau Terrestrial Ecological Sampling and Analysis Plan Phase III (DOE/RL-2006-27) and finds the document acceptable. The Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) provides for characterization that is required to support the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study process for the 200 Area source operable units. EPA understands that there are outstanding issues regarding offsite reference sites that may require further commitment (beyond what is described in the SAP) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to reach resolution. This commitment may require an update to the SAP or a new SAP and resulting sampling and analysis to close out issues surrounding offsite reference sites in support of the central plateau ecological risk assessment. It is EPA's desire to work collaboratively with DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology to resolve these issues with input from the Tribes, stakeholders, trustees, and the State of Oregon.

Mark Sprenger from EPA headquarters will assist EPA's Hanford Project Office in resolving these issues and help assure that EPA ecological risk assessment guidance is followed throughout the roll-up of the data from all three phases into a baseline ecological risk assessment. Mr. Sprenger helped write the Ecological Risk Assessment Guidance document for EPA and is therefore a unique resource. We also plan to continue to involve the U.S. Geological Survey (on contract with EPA) to provide technical expertise and maintain institutional knowledge throughout the risk assessment activities.

Please contact me at (509) 376-8665 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Cameron
Project Manager

cc: Jane Hedges, Ecology
Larry Romine, DOE
Mark Sprenger, EPA ERT
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Gabriel Bohnee, Nez Perce
Russell Jim, Yakama Nation
Ken Niles, Oregon Dept. of Energy
Todd Martin, Hanford Advisory Board
Patrick Moran, USGS
Administrative Record: 200 Area OU files