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

JUN 22 1993

93-ASB-027

Mr. George C. Hofer
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
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:

PROBLEMS WITH ANALYTICAL DATA QUALITY CONTROL

On May 19, 1993, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) received a letter from Laurence Gadbois, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which discussed concerns over the quality control for the 100 Area limited field investigations. RL and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) had similar concerns and have been evaluating this issue, and working with the validators, for about a month. Two specific problems identified were contamination of metals and rejection of gross alpha and gross beta based on low calibration efficiencies. What was perceived to be contamination of metals is the presentation of the reported contamination by the validator in the validation summary report. The distinction between which metals were found to be trace contaminants for each individual data package evaluated is not identified in the overview section of the reports. Instead, the summary of all contaminants detected are summarized for all data packages evaluated under the report. This leads to a perception that all the metals listed as contaminants are present in all the data packages. The validation reports will need to have the narrative format changed to more accurately and clearly present to the report reader the extent of the trace contamination in metals analysis. Rejection of the gross alpha and gross beta analyses was due to a misinterpretation of the validation procedure. WHC has requested that the data be reevaluated with the correct interpretation of the validation guidelines. Revised validation reports with the above mentioned corrections will be prepared and distributed.

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This is only a preliminary response to the identified concerns. WHC is preparing a summary of the problems identified with the validation, and a schedule for their resolution. A status of their progress will be presented at the monthly Analytical Support Services Unit Managers Meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Donna Wanek, of the Waste Management Division, on (509) 376-5778.

Sincerely,

R.P. Carter
for June M. Hennig, Director
Waste Management Division

WMD:DMW

Roger D. Freeberg
Roger D. Freeberg, Director
Environmental Restoration Division

cc: B. Mauss, Ecology
D. Sherwood, EPA
B. A. Austin, WHC
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Administrative Record H6-08

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