



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE
712 SWIFT BOULEVARD, SUITE 5
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

December 14, 1998

Larry Caldwell
91413 Biggs Rufus Highway #8
Wasco, Oregon 97065-3003

Re: Response to Comments on the 100 Area Remaining Sites Proposed Plan

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

Thank you for taking the time to review and provide comment on the cleanup plan for the 100 Area Remaining Sites.

You stated in your comment that any cleanup alternative requiring disposal on the 200 Area Plateau should be deferred until issues raised in the General Accounting Office audit report entitled Nuclear Waste: Understanding Waste Migration at Hanford is Inadequate for Key Decisions.

EPA has reviewed the GAO report and it is our impression that the report focuses on the U.S. Department of Energy's tank farm and the lack of solid vadose zone information in this program. The waste from the 100 Area waste sites will be placed in a state-of-the-art disposal facility that has been built to comply with all current environmental laws.

As additional background, in the 1994 the Tri-Party agencies refocused the cleanup program to focus cleanup activities in waste sites near the Columbia River. This refocusing effort had and still has strong public support. Cleanup of the sites near the river could not occur without the disposal options on the Central Plateau.

Again, thank you for your continued interest in the Hanford cleanup issues. Please call me at (509) 376-8631 if you would like to discuss your comments further or have any other questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Faulk".

Dennis A. Faulk
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Glenn Goldberg, DOE
Wayne Soper, Ecology
Administrative Record (100 Area General)