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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
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07-AMCP-0274

AUG 30 2007

Ms. Jane A. Hedges, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton
Richland, Washington 99354

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Dear Ms. Hedges:

SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLAN FOR SUPPLEMENTAL REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES AT MODEL GROUP 5 LARGE AREA PONDS WASTE SITES, DOE/RL-2006-57, DRAFT A, UPDATED PATH FORWARD PLAN

References: (1) RL ltr. from M. S. McCormick, to J. A. Hedges, Ecology, "Response to State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Review Comments on Sampling and Analysis Plan for Supplemental Remedial Investigation Activities at Model Group 5 Large Area Ponds Waste Sites, DOE/RL-2006-57, Draft A," (07-AMCP-0242) dtd. July 20, 2007.

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(2) Ecology ltr. from J. B. Price, to B. L. Charboneau, RL, "Department of Ecology Review Comments on Sampling and Analysis Plan for Supplemental Remedial Investigation Activities at Model Group 5, Large Ponds, Waste Sites; DOE/RL-2006-57, Draft A," dtd. June 26, 2007.

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The purpose of this letter is to identify a problem, propose a solution, and provide an updated path forward plan in response to the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) June 26, 2007, review comments on the Sampling and Analysis Plan for Supplemental Remedial Investigation Activities at Model Group 5 Large Area Ponds Waste Sites, DOE/RL-2006-57, Draft A (MG-5 SAP).

The U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (RL) stated in Reference (1) that upon completion of the workshops, or no later than 60 days from receipt of Ecology's comments, (September 4, 2007,) RL would submit a revised MG-5 SAP for approval. The problem, as Ecology is aware, is that while three meetings have been held, the workshops have not yet been completed. The meetings that have been held have been productive; however, only three of the seven ponds have been discussed. While resolution has been reached on the shallow borehole and test (auger) pits at one pond, resolution for the direct pushes and related sampling for all ponds remain in progress. The next meeting is scheduled during the week of September 3, 2007, and

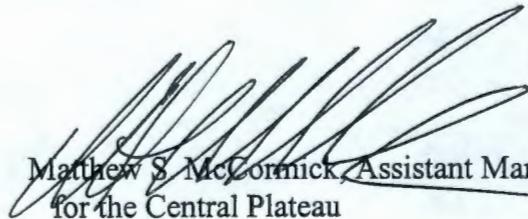
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more sessions may be needed. At the present rate, an additional month will be needed to complete the comment/issue resolution process. It is RL's position that it is not feasible to update the document until comment resolution is completed. Assuming comment resolution is reached, the updated path forward is that RL would submit the updated MG-5 SAP for review and approval 60 days later.

RL appreciates the staff discussions and remains confident that these meetings will lead to an MG-5 SAP that will meet the needs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ecology, and RL. As a proposed solution that would minimize further impact to the completion of Tri-Party Agreement Interim Milestone M-15-38B, RL asks Ecology to join in a commitment to continue to meet until comment resolution is reached or an impasse is determined, so that an acceptable MG-5 SAP can be submitted and approved. Remedial investigation field work can then be rescheduled and progress can continue. Upon approval of the MG-5 SAP, RL will submit a Tri-Party Agreement Change Package to move Tri-Party Agreement Interim Milestone M-15-38B accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Briant Charboneau, of my staff, on (509) 373-6137.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. McCormick, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

AMCP:BLF

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