



Nez Perce

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT
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July 25, 1995

Mr. Robert M. Rosselli
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

RE: ResonantSonic™ Drilling

Dear Mr. Rosselli:

On July 20, 1995, members of the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management (ERWM) staff met with Ms. Donna Wanek and Mr. Lance Mamiya of DOE-RL and Mr. Greg McLellan of Water Development Hanford, Inc. to discuss our concerns about ResonantSonic™ drilling. Please thank Mr. Mamiya for arranging the meeting and Mr. McLellan and Ms. Wanek for the time they spent with us. The meeting was productive, and we are encouraged by such interaction. Meetings such as these fulfill the partnership embodied in the Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. DOE and Nez Perce Tribe. Unfortunately, we were unable to observe ResonantSonic™ drilling in the field. Mr. McLellan graciously extended an invitation to us to observe this technique in the field, and our staff looks forward to this event.

The driver for the Nez Perce ERWM's interest in ResonantSonic™ drilling is ground water remediation. Given the budgetary constraints and the cost of drilling wells on the Hanford Site, we are concerned that the use of inappropriate drilling techniques may severely restrict the amount of ground water remediation that can be accomplished at the Hanford Site.

As result of this meeting, we would appreciate receiving the information listed on the following page so that we can make an objective determination of the merits of ResonantSonic™ drilling and independently verify the claims of Water Development Hanford, Inc.:

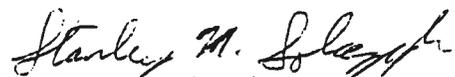


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- 1) During the meeting, Mr. McLellan claimed that, at times, wells drilled on the Hanford Site using either rotary air drilling or cable tool drilling will compact the surrounding formation resulting in drastically reduced well production. We were unaware that this phenomena would occur with these methods, and we expect Mr. McLellan to provide us with a list of wells drilled on the Hanford Site where this compaction has occurred in wells drilled by techniques other than ResonantSonic™. We will use this information to determine which techniques would provide the best results in similar geologic conditions.
- 2) A list of wells drilled on the Hanford Site using the ResonantSonic™ technique.
- 3) All available information (i.e., daily reports, driller's reports, well construction logs, lithologic logs, water production rates, and geophysical logs) for the four wells recently drilled by Water Development Hanford, Inc. at ZP-1.
- 4) An explanation in writing from Water Development Hanford, Inc. as to why the two production wells, recently drilled at ZP-1, produce water at a rate that is one-quarter of a nearby RCRA monitoring well. An explanation in writing from Water Development Hanford, Inc. as to why the injection well, recently drilled at ZP-1, will not fulfill the expected injection rates.
- 5) We have been led to believe that a side-by-side comparison of water production rates among the cable tool, air rotary, and ResonantSonic™ wells can be made amongst the 199-H5-1, 199-H5-1A, and 199-H5-1B well sites. Would DOE-RL please supply us with all available information (i.e., daily reports, driller's reports, well construction logs, lithologic logs, water production rates, and geophysical logs) for the 199-H5-1, 199-H5-1A, and 199-H5-1B well sites.
- 6) The total cost of the wells drilled at ZP-1 to DOE-RL. In the past, the bulk of the well costs has been incurred in the area of support services. What was the cost to DOE-RL for support services for the well at ZP-1 that Water Development Hanford, Inc. was unable to complete? How much has it cost DOE-RL to attempt to rehabilitate the ZP-1 wells that Water Development Hanford, Inc. was able to complete.
- 7) Nez Perce ERWM believes that CRADA reports are subsidized with tax moneys and the information therein is public record and should be distributed without restriction or impediment. Does DOE-RL concur with Water Development Hanford, Inc. that information within CRADA reports is proprietary and therefore access to CRADA reports can be limited?

We believe, as Mr. McLellan does, that the proof of the viability of the ResonantSonic™ technique is in actual drilling results not unsubstantiated claims. We expect to receive a timely response to our request for information so that ResonantSonic™ drilling can be discussed at the August 16, 1995 meeting of Hanford Site Technology Coordination Group.

Sincerely,



Stanley M. Sobczyk,
Environmental Specialist

In Concurrence:



Donna L. Powauke
Donna L. Powauke
Nez Perce Tribe ERWM Manager

cc: John Wagoner, DOE-RL, Site Manager
Ron Izatt, DOE-RL, Assistant Site Manager
Kevin Clarke, DOE-RL, Indian Programs Manager
Clyde Frank, DOE-OTD, Director
Greg McLellan, Water Development Hanford, Inc., Manager - Business Development
Stan Leja, Hydrogeologist, Department of Ecology
Dennis Faulk, EPA