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Addressees:

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TRANSMITTAL OF THE CENTRAL PLATEAU TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGICAL SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLAN – PHASE III, DOE/RL-2006-27, REVISION 0

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the Central Plateau Terrestrial Ecological Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) – Phase III, DOE/RL-2006-27, Revision 0 for your approval.

This Phase III SAP is the third in a series of three to assess ecological risks on the Central Plateau. The information contained in this SAP is the culmination of the Phase III Central Plateau Ecological Data Quality Objectives (DQO) and sampling design development process that included participants from the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Hanford Natural Resource Trustees, in addition to Hanford Advisory Board and Tribal representatives in interviews, workshops, document reviews, and site visits. The sampling activities in this SAP address the additional information needs identified through assessment of the Phase I and Phase II sampling results as well as the planned Phase III activities. The planned activities include addressing the distribution of radionuclides related to air-stack emissions in non-waste-site areas, West Lake sampling, and the potential influence of the 200 West Area carbon tetrachloride vapors on biotic receptors.

We thank you for your participation in the Phase III DQO development process and the review of the preliminary draft SAP earlier this year. RL received 136 comments from various organizations including EPA, Ecology, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Oregon State Department of Energy, and the Yakama Nation. The input from the participants in the workshops and formal transmission of comments resulted in the adoption of several new and important sampling design features that include the following:

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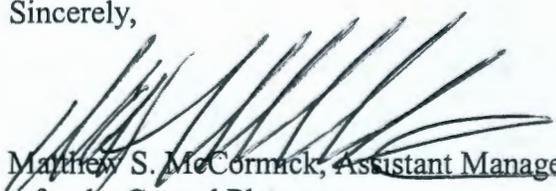
- The adoption of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) congeners analyses diminishes uncertainty by further refining lines of evidence associated with ecological risk.
- The re-analysis of vertebrate tissues for Strontium-90 to resolve quality control concerns over anomalous results in the Phase I data.
- The small mammal and lizard characterization commitment for PCBs near the old Hanford security roads was doubled from two to four sampling locations.
- The number of increments being collected from West Lake sediment and salt multi-increment samples was doubled (from 20 increments to 40).

Notably, two new commitments were influenced by direct communications from EPA and Ecology, the last of which was resolved on August 10, 2006:

- The addition of two offsite reference sites for soil sampling outside the Hanford Site boundary for direct comparison with the two onsite reference sites. These sites will be located in the vicinity of the Yakima Firing Range and the Black Rock Reservoir, or other suitable locations agreed to by the Tri-Party agencies.
- A contingency activity was added for the installation of artificial animal burrows in the 200 West Area for carbon tetrachloride vapor sampling. This will be performed if reconnaissance surveys do not identify natural animal burrows that intersect the 200 West Area dispersed carbon tetrachloride vapor plume.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Larry Romine, of my staff, on (509) 376-4747.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. McCormack, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

AMCP:BLF

Attachment

cc w/attach:

C. E. Cameron, EPA

R. D. Morrison, FHI

R. E. Piippo, FHI

J. B. Price, Ecology

Administrative Record

Environmental Portal