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

June 18, 1993



John A. Wells
10601-231 Street S.W.
Edmonds, Washington 98020-6153

Re: Riverland Expedited Response Action Proposal Response
Comments

Dear Mr. Wells:

Thank you for taking the time to review and comment on the Riverland Expedited Response Action (ERA) Proposal.

Your comments indicated that you were in favor of a removal action at the Riverland Site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) support the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) preferred alternative of removal of pesticide containers and contaminated soil and removal and bioremediation of the diesel contaminated soil.

In your letter you also expressed a concern regarding potential radioactive air releases from the site. Initial sampling has indicated that little or no radioactive material is present at the Riverland Site. However, as excavation occurs the soil will be monitored to insure no radioactive contaminants are present. If monitoring should indicate the presence of any radionuclides, appropriate actions will be taken to insure no airborne release occurs.

Again, thank you for your participation in the cleanup of the Hanford Site. Public participation is an important facet of the Hanford cleanup program. If you have any further questions or concerns, please call me at (509) 376-8631.

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Faulk
Environmental Scientist

cc: Becky Austin, WHC
Jack Donnelly, Ecology
Mary Getchell, Ecology
Paul Pak, DOE
Administrative Record (Riverland ERA)



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Environmental Protection
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Edmonds, WA. 98020-6153
June 1, 1993Dennis Faulk
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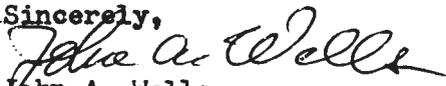
Dear Mr. Faulk:

Regarding the proposed Riverland Expedited Response Action - "Riverland Rail Wash Expedited Response Action" - as noted in the May 30th edition of the SEATTLE TIMES/POST INTELLIGENCER, page B4, I wish to make the following comments:

1. Being a railfan and a one-time runner, I heartily approve of the idea of using the former railbed for trail(s) and other recreation facilities.
2. However, as I have been aware of the history of the general area since the releasing of information over the last twenty years or so, I am concerned about the degree and extent of cleanup necessary to afford the future users of that portion of the reservation reliably clean air. The water for drinking purposes would likely have to be brought in as the ground water would NOT be safe over time.
3. The seriousness of the Clean Air problem was probably well exemplified by a range fire which came close to the Hanford Nuclear complex some time during the 1980's. An observer employed at the time as a guard reported somewhat later that after that fire was extinguished, an oval-shaped dust cloud hovered in stagnant air over the complex for almost a week and then was blown away by wind. With the buildup of particulate matter on the surface and about the sage-brush at that time, that cloud undoubtedly carried some of that radioactive particulate matter. Where it went - probably toward Spokane - was, as far as I had heard, not monitored. Reliably clean air - that is, air free from Hanford-generated radiation may be impossible. Even England, where nuclear waste has been dumped in the North Sea, and where it was assumed that the heavier radio-nucleides would sink to the bottom of the sea, still reportedly has had radiation problems at some of its beaches.
4. If the proposed RIVERLAND RAIL WASH EXPEDITED RESPONSE ACTION results in a particularly circumscribed area being "cleaned-up", what provisions for monitoring of the fluctuations of air-borne, let-alone water-borne radioactive debris caused by local fires, steam leaks from the various Hanford tanks, and those "occasional", but unreported (to the public) spurious leaks to the atmosphere from the currently operating nuclear power plant, WPPS # whats-it?
5. As a citizen who has attended Department of Energy public meetings and has become acquainted with the long-standing troubles that D. O. E. organization has had with public credibility, I am very much in support of all cleanup activities which will reduce the baleful contamination which exists about the Hanford Reservatio~~n~~. It is clear to me, at least, that cleanup will assure employment in that region for decades to come.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



John A. Wells

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