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Department of Energy

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JUL 24 1996



Mr. Steve M. Alexander  
Perimeter Areas Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
1315 W. 4th Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Dear Mr. Alexander:

TRANSMITTAL OF DOE/RL-95-110, N-SPRINGS EXPEDITED RESPONSE ACTION PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT, REV. 0

- Reference: (1) Ecology letter to Mr. P. M. Pak from Mr. P. R. Staats "Re: N-Springs Expedited Response Action Performance Evaluation Report (DOE/RL-95-110, Draft A)," dated April 15, 1996.
- (2) DOE letter to Mr. S. M. Alexander from Mr. D. E. Olson "Transmittal of Responses to Ecology Comments on the N-Springs Expedited Response Action Performance Evaluation Report," dated June 24, 1996.

Enclosed is a copy of DOE/RL-95-110, N-Springs Expedited Response Action Performance Evaluation Report, Rev. 0. This revision incorporates the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) responses (Reference 2) to comments (Reference 1) received from the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). Comments were resolved with Mr. P. R. Staats of your staff in a meeting on May 16, 1996, and subsequent discussions. A copy of this report will be placed in the Administrative Record.

Based on the recommendations made in the report regarding the expedited response action at N-Springs, RL is preparing a draft of an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) for the N-Springs Action Memorandum for Ecology's review. The ESD will address the upgrades proposed for the pump-and-treat and the steel sheet pile barrier which RL recommended not be installed at this time. This is a direct result of the performance evaluation of the pump-and-treat which indicates that the system is significantly reducing the flux of <sup>90</sup>Sr to the Columbia River by means of hydraulic control without a physical barrier in place. Per the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Change Control Form, M-15-94-04, dated May 1, 1995, Milestone M-16-12B was to be reevaluated with the submittal of DOE-RL-95-110. Milestone M-16-12B reads "Complete construction/installation of sheet pile wall, monitoring wells at the termini and matched (center of wall) sample capable piezometers, pursuant to Ecology (N Springs ERA) Action Memorandum dated September 23, 1994".

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In anticipation of the pending ESD for the N-Springs Action Memorandum RL has decided to modify the system to pump wells N-75-A, N-103-A, and N-106-A (N-105-A as backup) at a combined rate of 227 L/min (60 gpm). In addition, RL recommends that the N-Springs pump-and-treat system should continue to operate until a final remedy can be selected based on the 100-NR-1/100-NR-2 Corrective Measures Study to be submitted in November 1996.

If you have any questions, please call me on 376-7326.

Sincerely,



David E. Olson, Project Manager  
N Area Remedial Actions

NAP:DEO

Enclosure

cc w/encl:

S. M. Balone, EM-442  
P. S. Innis, EPA  
R. L. Person, EM-442  
P. R. Staats, Ecology  
R. W. Scheck, MACTEC

cc w/o encl:

M. J. Lauterbach, BHI  
E. R. Shorey, CHI