



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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Mr. Russell Jim, Manager
Environmental Restoration/
Waste Management Program
Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation
2808 Main Street
Union Gap, Washington 98903

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Jim:

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT TEST PIT PLAN FOR THE 116-K-1 MILE LONG TRENCH

As discussed during the February 3, 2003, workshop on potentially contaminated human remains, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, has drafted a plan for the excavation of a series of test pits in the vicinity of the 116-K-1 Mile Long Trench. That draft plan is attached for your review. If you have any comments to the plan, please submit them to the following address by no later than April 14, 2003.

U.S. Department Of Energy
Richland Operations Office
Attn: Mr. Jamie Zeisloft
P.O. Box 550, MSIN A3-04
Richland, Washington 99352

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Jamie Zeisloft, of my staff, on (509) 372-0188.

Sincerely,

David T. Evans

David T. Evans, Acting Director
Environmental Restoration Division

ERD:JZ

Attachment

cc w/attach:

Larry Gadbois, EPA
Tom Marceau, BHI
Mark Buckmaster, BHI
G. Cleveland, YN

Administrative Record (116-K-1)

DRAFT TEST PIT PLAN

116-K-2 MILE LONG TRENCH

INTRODUCTION

Additional characterization in the form of test pits is proposed to provide advance information on the extent of contamination on the north side of the 116-K-2 trench. The area from the 116-K-2 Trench north to the Columbia River is an extremely culturally sensitive area. The additional characterization is designed to facilitate finalization of the project Cultural Resource Mitigation Action Plan.

The 116-K-2 Trench, also referred to as the "Mile Long Trench," received reactor-cooling water from 1955 to 1971. The trench is approximately 4,000 feet long by 15 feet deep and runs parallel to the Columbia River. The trench has been backfilled with approximately 15 ft of soil and the trench surface, which extends approximately 50 ft from the center of the trench, has been stabilized to prevent migration of near surface radiological contamination. In addition, there are three separate areas impacted by seepage or bank failures along the north side of trench. These areas, which extend upwards to 150-200 ft north of the trench, have also been stabilized. The site is currently posted as an underground radiological contaminated waste site.

CHARACTERIZATION

Nine test pits will be excavated along the northern boundary of the trench within the waste site boundary as defined by the concrete markers (see Attachment 1). The test pits will be excavated in those locations closest to the three seepage/bank failure areas and the highly sensitive culturally areas. One additional test pit will be excavated on the western boundary of the 116-K-1 Crib.

The test pits will be excavated with a track hoe to a depth of approximately 15 ft below ground surface. Soils will be stockpiled near the excavation and returned to the test pit when completed. A Hanford cultural resource specialist will monitor the excavation on a continuous basis and document changes in lithology and other findings. Tribal members will have access to the area immediately adjacent to the excavations for monitoring purposes. For safety reasons, no personnel will be permitted entry into the test pits.

Radiological field screening will be performed on soils excavated from the test pits. Soil samples will be collected from the excavation track-hoe bucket. Sample locations (maximum of 20) will be based on field instrument readings and at the discretion of the resident engineer. The samples will be analyzed for gamma emitting radionuclides and selected samples for hexavalent chromium.

If human remains are discovered during testing, work will stop for that pit. The remains will be field screened for radiological contamination and a soil sample (containing no visible remains or associated objects) will be taken for additional radiological assessment and chemical analysis. The pit will then be closed and a new location will be selected near the original test pit.

Following completion of the test pit excavation and sample analysis, a brief report providing the results for each test pit will be written and distributed.

SCHEDULE

Field activities are tentatively scheduled for late spring. This would allow the excavation to occur before the winter soil moisture evaporates, facilitating both dust control (water may be utilized if required) and access for cultural resource monitoring. Duration of field activities should be 2-4 days.



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