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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
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10-AMCP-0086

FEB 12 2010

Ms. J. A. Hedges, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton
Richland, Washington 99354

RECEIVED
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EDMC

Dear Ms. Hedges:

INTEGRATED 100 AREA REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY WORK PLAN, ADDENDUM 5: 100-N DECISION UNIT, DOE/RL-2008-46-ADD5, DRAFT A, AND SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLAN FOR THE 100-N DECISION UNIT REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY, DOE/RL-2009-42, DRAFT A

This letter responds to the State of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) January 29, 2010, comments on the Integrated 100 Area Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan, Addendum 5: 100-N Decision Unit, DOE/RL-2008-46-ADD5, Draft A, and Sampling and Analysis Plan for the 100-N Decision Unit Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, DOE/RL-2009-42, Draft A. The U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (RL) appreciates Ecology's timely comments on the work plan.

In the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Section 9.2.1, the comment period ends sixty days from delivery of the work plan, which is Monday, February 22, 2010. RL requests that if a time extension for submitting comments is requested by Ecology, it be accompanied by a Tri-Party Agreement change request delaying Target Date M-015-62-T01 accordingly on a day-for-day schedule slip.

Recently, the Tri-Party Agencies met and agreed to work collaboratively to improve the quality of cleanup decision documents. Consistent with the approach proposed during the meeting, RL agrees to meet on February 17 and 18, 2010, to begin to work through Ecology's concerns. While RL does not agree with Ecology's assertion that the work plan does not consider the "program goal, program management principles, and expectations," contained in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 300.430, we believe the five issues identified can be collaboratively resolved and the work plan can be updated and delivered within 60 days.

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To facilitate resolution of these issues, RL has scheduled a workshop on February 17, 2010, to provide information pertinent to the resolution of the issues and the development of the feasibility study/proposed plan that is due December 2011. Information provided during the workshop will be useful to the tribes and stakeholders, thus we propose an open workshop. A closed meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010, to resolve any outstanding concerns. RL is confident that the issues can be resolved and the work plan revised in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Briant Charboneau, of my staff, on (509) 373-6137, or Joe Franco, Assistant Manager for the River Corridor, on (509) 376-6628.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. McCormick, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

AMCP:KMT

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