



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

0071724

07-AMCP-0023

NOV 07 2006

Mr. Ken Niles, Assistant Director
Nuclear Safety Division
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street Northeast, Suite 1
Salem, Oregon 97301

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Niles:

INVITATION FOR INTERVIEW TO OBTAIN INPUT FOR HIGH RESOLUTION
RESISTIVITY DATA QUALITY OBJECTIVES PROCESS FOCUSED ON BC CRIBS AND
TRENCHES AREA WASTE SITES

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is formally requesting your input on the data quality objectives (DQO) process for work to be performed at the BC Cribs and Trenches Area. The DQO is planned to establish what data are needed to verify the high resolution resistivity (HRR) characterization data that has been collected at the BC Cribs and Trenches Area waste sites. The HRR is a geophysical technology designed to delineate regions of the vadose zone possessing anomalous electrical conductivity. The HRR data shows regions of lowered conductivity, relative to background, that coincide with soil contaminated by the liquid waste disposal sites. Soil sampling at the 216-B-26 Trench performed prior to the HRR characterization showed that the region of anomalous soil conductivity coincided with the general depth of highest nitrate and technetium-99 soil concentrations. The objective of this DQO is to establish the relationship between indicated soil conductivity and soil contaminant concentrations. Soil sampling is tentatively scheduled to begin the Summer of 2007.

Based on the results of sampling data from BC Cribs and Trenches waste sites, additional HRR characterization activities have been performed on the Hanford Site in recent months at multiple locations including the Tank Farms. Additional HRR verification activities are planned to be performed at other locations like the Tank Farms and in the vicinity of south of the PUREX facility but the BC Cribs and Trenches Area will be the first area to do HRR verification work. This DQO is focused on BC Cribs and Trenches, not on the work at Tank Farms. However, the information gathered from BC Cribs and Trenches will be shared with other projects to help fine tune their HRR verification planning.

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DOE requests your input and would like to schedule an interview with your agency representative. Please provide contact information for your agency representative and their availability for an interview. We would be happy to meet in person or conduct the interview by phone. We would like to complete the interview by November 20, 2006.

For more information, a copy of a paper on HRR characterization of the BC Cribs and Trenches Area that was prepared and presented at the Waste Management Symposium in March 2005 is attached.

If there are any questions, please contact me, or you may contact Briant Charboneau, of my staff, on (509) 373-6137.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. McCormick, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

AMCP:BLF

Attachment

cc w/o attach:

B. A. Austin, FHI
M. W. Benecke, FHI
C. E. Cameron, EPA
R. A. Lobos, EPA
T. Martin, HAB
R. E. Piippo, FHI
J. B. Price, Ecology
Administrative Record
Environmental Portal