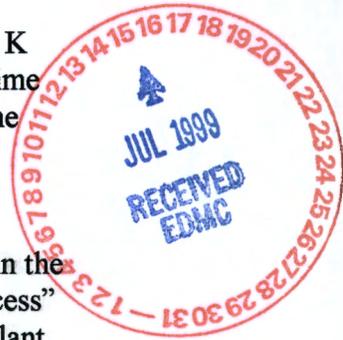


Mr. Larry Gadbois
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
 Richland, WA 99352

I recently attended the "Proposal Plan for the K Basins Interim Remedial Action". This public meeting was held June 10, 1999 in Richland, WA. The below list is what I gathered by the presentations.

1. The massive paper work provided for the public meeting is in limbo. The known costs are prohibitive and technical options have considerable risks for cost and schedule due to the technical challenges this scope of work represents. This resulted in a meeting that was neither informative nor factual related to the stated objectives. No actual proposal was presented, only problems.
2. The only thing that could be ascertained was that the DOE will be moving K Basin sludge out of K Basin (100K area) within the previously agreed to timetable, year 2004. This was not a change. A promise was made to move the sludge to a "qualified location" at Hanford. This is a pretty open-ended "proposal" in my view.
3. The bottom line was that the sludge will be move to someplace, probably in the 200 areas, where someday in the future a plant will be build that will "process" the sludge for final disposal. No costs for the interim storage, making T Plant ready to receive waste, if indeed that's where it goes, and no schedule was given other than to remove it from the basins. In addition, no costs were given for the continued effort to determine, once again, what to do with this waste.

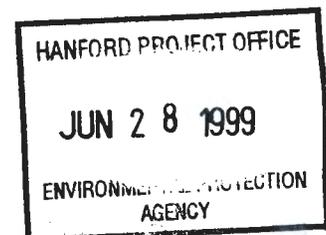


As a taxpayer, I was very disappointed that this meeting was not cancelled until something definitive was available. I agree that more study is needed to optimize the use of a single facility to deal with Hanford orphan waste. I do not agree that the public should "trust" that a suitable site would be found, probably in the 200 area and maybe at T Plant, without an opportunity to comment on such a plan with the cost and schedule identified.

Lack of public comment when no real proposal was presented should not be considered as agreement and should not be counted as completing the required public involvement. Decide on where the sludge is going and for how long, and then have a meeting, not before.

Comment:

- 1 No solution or definitive plan was provided to first contain and transfer the K Basin Sludge to an interim facility.



- 2 No location or cost was given for the interim sludge storage facility. I believe there will be substantial facility upgrade costs. The use of the oldest basin at Hanford, T Plant, should be reviewed once these costs are assessed.
- 3 Public comments should be solicited for the proposal to store the sludge as well as the technical solution to the processing of the sludge for permanent storage. Schedules should be given at this time.



4/26/99

Richard Whitehurst II
550 Franklin St.
Richland, WA 99352