



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30341-3724

October 16, 1996

038405



Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
DOE NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, Washington 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Ferns:

We have completed our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Hanford Remedial Action and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We are responding on behalf of the U.S. Public Health Service.

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Technical assistance for this review was provided by the Radiation Studies Branch (RSB), Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The RSB comments are enclosed for your consideration. If you should have any questions regarding these comments, you may contact Mr. Robert C. Whitcomb, Jr. at (770) 488-7634.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this DEIS. We would appreciate receiving a copy of the Final EIS when it becomes available, and any future environmental impact statements which may indicate potential public health impact and are developed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Holt, M.S.E.H
Special Programs Group (F29)
National Center for Environmental Health

Enclosure
cc: Robert C. Whitcomb, Jr.

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**Memorandum**

Date October 15, 1996 038405

From Robert C. Whitcomb, Jr., Physical Scientist, National Center for Environmental Health, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, Radiation Studies Branch (F35)

Subject Review of 'Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan'

To Ken Holt, Environmental Health Scientist, Special Programs Office, National Center for Environmental Health

This review focuses on the public health consequences associated with several proposed alternatives for the Hanford area and its facilities. Comments have been separated into two categories; general and specific.

General Comments

I was pleased to see an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) formatted with line numbers. This addition has greatly improved the reviewer's ability to do a thorough review. I commend the authors for providing this useful information.

Some minor changes would improve the document. I have organized these below and begin with pointing to the location where the comment applies. Next I give a brief description of the find. Then I present my comments in bold print.

Specific Comments

- 1) Summary, page 32, tables entitled 'Risk to Workers from Radiation Exposure Under Routine Conditions'

Latent Cancer Fatalities (LCFs) are presented for the Columbia River, Restricted Use Alternative and the Central Plateau, Exclusive Use Alternative as 0.00.

Also Volume 1 of 4, page 5-154, Table 5-53,

Same as above.

The LCFs are not zero (0.00). The calculated values are $0.2 \times 4E-4 = 8E-5$ and $5 \times 4E-4 = 2E-3$. No matter how small these numbers are, they are more than zero. They should change these tables to show these values.

2) Volume 1, page 5-135, Table 5-46,

Maximum Population Dose (person-rem) and Risk (increase in latent cancer fatalities) in this population are presented in the last column.

The Groundwater Treatment Accident Scenario contains a calculational error. Specifically, the last column presents the LCF risk as $3.2E-4$. The correct value should be $4.7E-4$ (which is $0.94 \times 5E-4 = 4.7E-4$).

I thank you for the opportunity to review this document. I hope that these comments and suggestions will be helpful to the preparers.



Robert C. Whitcomb, Jr.