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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
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04-AMCP-0345

JUL 14 2004

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
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Addressees:

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON DRAFT A FEASIBILITY STUDY (FS) AND PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE 200-TW-1 SCAVENGED WASTE GROUP, 200-TW-2 TANK WASTE GROUP, AND 200-PW-5 FISSION PRODUCT RICH WASTE GROUP OPERABLE UNITS

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The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) thanks both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) for comments received on the subject documents.

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RL and Fluor Hanford, Inc. have been meeting with EPA staff since mid-April to ensure understanding of EPA comments and to establish a path to completion of remedial action decision making for this group of operable units. In particular, RL accepts the recommendation that the BC Cribs and Trenches Area waste sites be addressed separately in the form of a focused feasibility study (FFS).

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DOE notes that this is a change to the baseline planning agreed to in 2002 with EPA and Ecology and causes an additional study to be issued. However, DOE agrees with this path forward with the understanding that it will streamline the process for obtaining a Record of Decision (ROD) for the 200 BC high risk waste sites scheduled to be remediated in the next two years. The FFS for the BC Cribs and Trenches Area waste sites is planned to be submitted by September 30, 2004. Following issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) for those waste sites, the FS representing the remainder of the 200-TW-1/2 and 200-PW-5 waste sites will be submitted by January 31, 2006.

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This latter document will incorporate comments and refinements made to the FFS and elements of the BC Cribs and Trenches Area ROD, as appropriate. Similarly, the comments from Ecology will be addressed in both the FFS for the BC Cribs and Trenches Area waste sites and the FS for the remainder of the sites. Prior to document submittal, RL commits to meeting with both EPA and Ecology to ensure satisfactory resolution of comments.

If you have questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971, or Joel Hebdon, Director, Office of Environmental Services, on (509) 376-6657.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Klein
Manager

AMCP:BLF

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Administrative Record, H6-08
Environmental Portal