



Department of Energy
 Richland Operations Office
 P.O. Box 550
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09-AMCP-0022

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Mr. N. Ceto, Program Manager
 Office of Environmental Cleanup
 Hanford Project Office
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 309 Bradley Blvd., Suite 115
 Richland, Washington 99352

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Dear Mr. Ceto:

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE 200-CW-5 COOLING WATER OPERABLE UNIT, DOE/RL-2004-24, DRAFT B, AND PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE 200-CW-5 COOLING WATER OPERABLE UNIT, DOE/RL-2004-26, DRAFT B

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the October 17, 2008, comments provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Feasibility Study for the 200-CW-5 Cooling Water Operable Unit, DOE/RL-2004-24, Draft B, and Proposed Plan for the 200-CW-5 Cooling Water Operable Unit, DOE/RL-2004-26, Draft B. As indicated by EPA's comments, there are still a number of issues to resolve in order to come to agreement on the proposed approach to remediation of the 200-CW-5 Operable Unit.

Among the issues identified are a difference of opinion on the most appropriate preferred alternative, how institutional controls and monitoring should be addressed, and concerns about the alternative comparison cost estimates. The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) is interested in addressing these issues, including evaluation of a full Remove-Treat-Dispose (RTD) alternative with disposal of all, or nearly all, of the remediation waste at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF). RL believes that the method for evaluating institutional controls and monitoring costs in the Central Plateau should be re-evaluated. In addition, the cost of disposal at ERDF to be used for comparative analysis should be reviewed. In the future, it is anticipated that both the remediation work and operation of ERDF may be completed through the Plateau Remediation Contract. The cost basis review could result in the use of different ERDF disposal cost estimates than the historical costs previously experienced by Fluor Hanford, Inc. (FHI). FHI's historical ERDF disposal costs served as the basis for the costs presented in Draft B of the 200-CW-5 Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan.

Based on Fiscal Year 2009 funding levels associated with the Continuing Resolution, work on a number of soil sites in the Central Plateau including the 200-CW-5 Operable Unit, is planned to be suspended. This is being done in order to use the available resources to continue making progress on higher priority work such as River Corridor clean-up, groundwater clean-up activities, and continuing de-inventory of plutonium from the Plutonium Finishing Plant. The

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schedule for addressing the comments and revising the 200-CW-5 Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan will be established based on the outcome of ongoing discussions between the Tri-Parties concerning 2009 funding. As a first step of that process, a comment response table will be developed to capture the specific comments, responses, and resolutions such that agreement can be reached to produce the Revision 0 documents. As indicated above, some of the resolutions are anticipated to involve re-evaluation of several important factors and possibly a different RTD alternative.

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

Sincerely,



Matthew S. McCormick, Assistant Manager
for the Central Plateau

AMCP:GLS

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Administrative Record (200-CW-5 Operable Unit)
Environmental Portal