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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Mail Stop PV-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8711 • (206) 459-6000

March 12, 1993

Mr. Paul Pak  
US Department of Energy  
PO Box 550 MS A5-19  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Pak:

RE: 200 Area Ecological Investigations

This letter serves to document the conversation we had March 9 regarding ecological investigations in the 200 Area. Unit managers in our Kennewick office have informed me that USDOE has requested conceptual approval of regional ecological data collection in the 200 Area. We are in agreement that collecting these data can and should occur on a area-wide basis, rather than by operable unit. It is also understood the objective of this activity is a limited field investigation to support interim actions in the 200 Area. However, Ecology believes it prudent to review ecological data gathered last spring, summer and fall in the 100 Area before approving a Description Of Work (DOW) for data collection in the 200 Area.

These data are important to satisfy numerous regulatory requirements, including assessing risk to the environment, and assessing natural resource damages pursuant to CERCLA §107(d). As of this date, the only data we have seen from 100 Area investigations is an informal transmittal of a partial dataset. In accordance with Section 9.6 of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, the data should have been available to Ecology and EPA no later than 126 days after the date of collection. This time frame assumes 90 days for sample analysis, 21 days for validation, and 15 days for data entry into HEIS.

Consistent with the regional approach for 200 Area ecological investigations, data collection in the 200 Area should extend beyond operable unit boundaries. For example, groundwater contamination is believed to have affected receptors in the Gable Mountain and West Lake regions, which lie north and west of the 200 Area boundaries respectively. In addition to the subject DOW, it may prove efficient to collect ecological data this year in the proposed location for the Environmental Restoration, Storage and Disposal Facility. The "Site Evaluation Report for the Environmental Restoration, Storage and Disposal Facility" (WHC-SD-EN-EV-009, February 1993) calls for an ecological survey in the proposed site location.

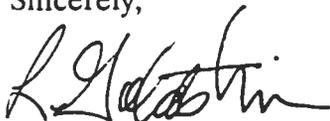
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We look forward to working with you to develop the DOW for 200 Area ecological investigations. Please submit to Ecology and EPA any information that describes the proposed objectives, scope, methods and schedules for this activity as soon as possible. Ecology anticipates a comprehensive schedule of field work, data analysis, and data reporting will be a part of the DOW. If the data are to be used in decision-making, its collection should be in accordance with the Hanford Site Baseline Risk Assessment Methodology. We are also concerned that adequate funding is available in fiscal year 1993, and fiscal year 1994 if necessary, to complete ecological tasks. Is there sufficient funding?

Please call me at (206) 438-7018, or Steve Cross, who is responsible for overseeing Hanford ecological investigations, so that we may establish a time to meet soon. Steve can be reached at (206) 459-6675.

Sincerely,



Larry Goldstein  
Environmental Assessment Unit Supervisor  
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program

LG:lj

cc: Paul Day, EPA  
Steve Wisness, USDOE  
Steve Weiss, WHC  
B. Austin, WHC Administrative Record



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Author: Larry Goldstein, Ecology      Addressee: Mr. Paul Pak, RL      Correspondence No.: Incoming: 9303909

Subject: 200 Area Ecological Investigations

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