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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7601 W. Clearwater, Suite 102 • Kennewick, Washington 99336 • (509) 546-2990

February 8, 1994

Kim R. Smith  
P.O. Box 5505  
Eugene, OR 97405-0505

Dear Kim R. Smith:

Re: Wahluke Slope Cleanup Proposal Comment Response

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) appreciates your interest and concern for the Wahluke Slope. We would like to address your concerns and assure you that the Wahluke Slope Expedited Response Action will support the cleanup and protection of the environment. 31891

You expressed two concerns in your letter. The first was regarding the amount of attention given to the nature and extent of radiation hazards remaining on the Wahluke Slope from past activities at the Hanford Site. The majority of radionuclides from stack releases were short lived. According to surveys performed on or adjacent to the Wahluke Slope, there is currently no detectable radioactive contamination present at this site. Additional radiation surveys will be performed prior to and during remediation activities to confirm these findings.

Your second question asked if the fish and wildlife in this region have been studied to determine any damages they may have incurred from Hanford operations. A flora and fauna survey was performed to assess threatened or endangered plant and wildlife species, or species of special concern, and to identify ways to minimize impacts to these species. The assessment concluded that there will be no impact on any of these species. In addition to these surveys, seasonally correct flora and fauna surveys will be performed at each waste site prior to remediation activities.

For more information on the cleanup action, feel free to consult the North Slope (Wahluke Slope) Expedited Response Action Cleanup Plan at Portland State University, Branford Price Millar Library, Science and Engineering Floor, (503) 725-3690. The final version of this document should be available by February 24, 1994.



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START

Kim R. Smith  
February 8, 1994  
Page 2

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the cleanup action. If you have any questions please contact me at (509) 736-3026, or Dib Goswami at (509) 736-3015.

Sincerely,



Gary Freedman  
Unit Manager  
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program

cc: Dennis Faulk, EPA  
Walter Perro, USACE  
Administrative Record (Wahluke Slope ERA)

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# CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION COVERSHEET

Author

Addressee

Correspondence No.

Gary Freedman  
Manager

Admin. Record, <sup>WHC</sup> EPIC

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Subject: WAHLUKE SLOPE CLEANUP PROPOSAL COMMENT RESPONSE

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