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**Department of Energy**

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SEP 22 1995

Ms. Carol Rushin  
Associate Director  
Hazardous Waste Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region X  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Mike Wilson, Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Rushin and Mr. Wilson:

**1301/1325-N LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES (LWDF) CHARACTERIZATION PROGRAM**

In reference to your letter to Ms. Linda McClain, "Pre Closure 100 N Crib Characterization," dated July 31, 1995, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) appreciates the effort put forth by the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in reviewing the alternative characterization programs that were developed by RL and its environmental restoration contractor in a Data Quality Objective (DQO) workshop held in May and June 1995. These alternate programs were evaluated using the existing Description of Work (DOW) generated during a June 1994 Tri-Party "SAFER" workshop as the baseline.

On June 21, 1995, RL presented the results of its DQO workshop to Ecology and EPA along with the recommendation that alternative number two be the program used to characterize the 1301/1325-N LWDF. Alternative two calls for a borehole directly in the 1301-N crib, one along side the 1301-N trench and RLS and neutron moisture logging of the boreholes and existing wells around the 1301 and 1325 LWDF. This information would be used to characterize the 1325-N LWDF using the analogous site concept employed on the Hanford Site. A follow up DQO workshop session was held with Ecology and EPA unit managers to describe in more detail the existing data RL had compiled and the rationale for RL's recommendation that the 1325-N LWDF be characterized using the analogous site concept.

In your letter of response (referenced above), you had requested that RL characterize the LWDF using alternative number three. Alternative number three contains the entire scope of alternative number two and adds a third borehole along side the 1325-N crib. Subsequently, a DQO workshop session was held on August 22, 1995, to understand Ecology and EPA's basis for a third borehole located along side the 1325-N crib. RL still stands by alternative

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number two as a more cost effective characterization program with regard to dollars spent for information collected. However, RL recognizes that alternative number three will collect more site specific information with the most important being contaminant loading with depth at the 1325-N crib. This information will become an important component of the 1301/1325-N Corrective Measures Study. Therefore RL concurs with Ecology and EPA's request to implement the alternative number three characterization program.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the document "Description of Work for Vadose Zone Characterization of the 1301-N and 1325-N Liquid Waste Disposal Facilities, DOE/RL-94-104, Revision 0." This document describes in detail the scope of work to be performed as part of the alternative number three characterization program. RL plans to begin drilling the borehole along side the 1301-N trench the week of October 2, 1995.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul M. Pak on 376-4798.

Sincerely,



Linda K. McClain, Assistant Manager  
for Environmental Restoration

NAP:DEO

Enclosure

cc w/encl:

S. M. Alexander, Ecology  
S. M. Balone, EM-442  
M. K. Harmon, EM-442  
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cc w/o encl:

M. E. Greenidge, BHI  
M. J. Lauterbach, BHI