



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10 HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE  
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May 7, 2002

Arlene Tortoso  
Project Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550, A6-38  
Richland, WA 99352

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MAY 13 2002

EDMC

RE: Decision to Proceed Towards a Final Record of Decision for U-Plant Canyon Disposition Initiative (CDI)

Dear Ms. Tortoso:

After much discussion and legal review of the current CDI feasibility study and proposed plan by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), it is our recommendation that the CDI Record of Decision (ROD) for U-Plant be a final ROD. Because of the irretrievable nature of the disposed waste in the preferred alternative for the U-Plant and the irreversibility of the remedy, a final ROD is deemed necessary. This remedy would be unlike those performed for soil dig sites where, although it would be undesirable, it would be possible to return to do further remediation if warranted after an interim remedy. A proposed plan and revised feasibility study for a final ROD would accurately convey to the public the finality of the proposed remedial action.

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) requires the development of a baseline risk assessment during the RI/FS process leading to a Final ROD. According to the NCP (40 CFR 300.430(d)(4)), the baseline risk assessment is conducted to "...characterize the current and potential threats to human health and the environment that may be posed by contaminants migrating to ground water or surface water, releasing to air, leaching through the soil, remaining in the soil, and bioaccumulating in the food chain." As project managers for EPA and Ecology, we offer our assistance in developing the baseline risk assessment to meet regulatory requirements and can provide relevant guidance documents.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us.

Matt Mills  
Ecology Unit Manager

Sincerely,

Craig Cameron  
EPA Project Manager

cc: Gary MacFarlan, BHI  
Charles Hedel, CHI  
Frederick Bond, Ecology  
Admin. Record - Canyon Disposition Initiative