



INEEL

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

March 4, 2002

CCN 30399

Kathleen E. Hain
Environmental Restoration Program
U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive, MS 1117
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1563

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC07-99ID13727 – RECOMMENDED PATH FORWARD FOR OPERABLE
UNIT 1-10 V-TANKS REMEDIAL ACTION

Dear Ms. Hain:

The revised V-tanks path forward recommendation was presented to DOE-ID on February 12, 2002, in the Environmental Restoration (ER) Program Review meeting. As discussed, this path forward recommendation is the result of a Critical Project Review conducted by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (BBWI) to assess a number of cost and project risk issues associated with the current V-tanks remedy, design, and remedial action approach, and additional recommendations based on subsequent Agency conference calls.

Based on the review of the issues and uncertainties and the consideration of other potentially viable technology alternatives, BBWI recommends that the V-tanks remedial action be redirected to evaluate technology alternatives that are more viable and cost effective.

Three such technology alternatives that have been identified are in situ vitrification, in container (ex-situ) vitrification, and thermal desorption. Based on recent discussion with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, a fourth technology alternative, chemical treatment/stabilization may also be included for evaluation.

The recommendation from the project review also includes a short, focused design study, to be performed concurrent with the technology evaluations, to determine if a significant volume of liquid in the V-tanks could be decanted, treated, and disposed onsite or offsite as an early (FY 03) risk and cost reduction measure. In addition, it is recommended that this design study be expanded to cover other measures that are cost effective and that would be beneficial to moving the remedial action forward. Such measures may include soil sampling, piping isolation/removal, and soil excavation for tank access.

The Agencies requested that further value engineering be considered to determine if cost reduction could be achieved through modifications to the current remedy design. The current design was developed to minimize cost and meet requirements inherent in the contents removal and offsite treatment remedy. Changes to the design that would provide significant cost and project risk reduction are only available

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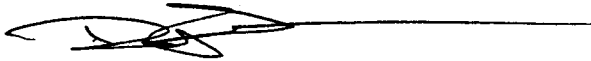
through a remedy change that would include onsite treatment using a currently viable treatment technology.

The results of the evaluation are expected to provide a lower cost remedy. The new proposed remedy could be implemented through a Proposed Plan and ROD amendment, which would delay remediation of the tank sludge to FY 05. However, an alternate path using an explanation of significant differences with a public comment period is recommended as a means to reduce the delay and allow remediation to occur in FY 04. To gauge and confirm public support, an early fact sheet is recommended to advise the public of the technologies that are being considered.

In summary, BBWI will proceed with the planning to implement the V-tanks path forward recommendation provided above, given DOE-ID concurrence.

Please contact Mr. Al Jantz or me at your earliest convenience regarding the recommended path forward for the V-tanks project.

Sincerely,



Douglas K. Jorgensen
Acting Manager of Projects
Environmental Restoration

AEJ:mr

cc: Craig D. Cutler, MS 3810
R. Jeffrey Hoyles, DOE-ID, MS 1221
R. Mark Shaw, DOE-ID, MS 1117

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bcc: John D. Harris, MS 3921
af Allen E. Jantz, MS 3921
Gary E. McDannel, MS 3921
Robert A. Montgomery, MS 3427
WAG 1 OU 1-10 Project File
ARDC File, MS 3922
Correspondence Control, MS 3106
Douglas K. Jorgensen File (DKJ-42-02)

Uniform File Code: 6400

Disposition Authority: ENVI-K-2-a

Retention Schedule: Permanent, Cutoff at project. Transfer to NARA 25 years after cutoff.

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