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Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

December 17, 2002

Mr. Wayne Pierre, Team Leader
Environmental Cleanup Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Dean Nygard, Site Remediation Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

SUBJECT: Transmittal of the Explanation of Significant Differences for the Record of Decision for the Test Area North, Operable Unit 1-10, V-Tanks Site (DRAFT) (EM-ER-02-210)

Dear Mr. Pierre and Mr. Nygard:

The *Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the Record of Decision for the Test Area North, Operable Unit (OU) 1-10, V-Tanks Site* addresses: 1) the necessity of on-site treatment, stabilization, short-term storage, and disposal of V-Tank liquid waste; 2) additional regulatory requirements that are either applicable or relevant and appropriate and support the tanks liquid waste treatment and short-term storage; and, 3) the investigation of the OU 1-10 area of contamination for the V-Tanks site.

This ESD supports the early remedial action activities that are currently in design and that are planned for 2003. The early remedial action activities include removal, treatment, and disposal of liquid from one or more of the three 10,000-gallon tanks. Treatment of the liquid will be accomplished using an on-site treatment system or using the INTEC process equipment waste evaporator. The early remedial action also includes further characterization of the contaminated soil around and to the north of the V-Tanks. The remaining remedial action for the V-Tanks is planned for 2005 and 2006 after a Proposed Plan and ROD Amendment are issued.

Pierre, Nygard

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Based on the agreed upon 30 calendar day review period, comments are expected from the EPA and IDEQ by January 18, 2003. Please contact me at (208) 526-4392 or Mark Shaw at (208) 526-6442 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Hain, Manager
Environmental Restoration Program

Enclosure

cc: C. Cody, DEQ, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706
M. Wilkening, EPA Region X, Idaho Ops Office, 1435 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706