

AROC
3922



Department of Energy

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

January 23, 2003

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
Waste Management and Remediation Division
Idaho Department Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF WASTE AREA GROUP 5 EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES (EM-ER-03-018)

- References:
- (a) DOE-ID, 2003, *Explanation of Significant Differences for the Record of Decision for the Power Burst Facility and Auxiliary Reactor Area Operable Unit 5-12 (Draft Final)*; U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office, DOE/ID-11017, Rev. C, January 2003
 - (b) DOE-ID, 2000, *Record of Decision for Power Burst Facility and Auxiliary Reactor Area*, U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office, DOE/ID-10700, Rev. 0, January 2000

Dear Mr. Pierre & Mr. Nygard:

This letter transmits copies of the explanation of significant differences (ESD) to the Waste Area Group 5 record of decision (ROD). The ESD documents significant differences in the remedy selected in the ROD for the treatment of waste contained in the Auxiliary Reactor Area (ARA)-16 radionuclide tank. The remedy selected in the ROD for the ARA-16 tank waste was removal, ex-situ thermal treatment, and disposal. This ESD alters the remedy for the ARA-16 tank waste to allow alternative approaches to treat this waste, such as non-thermal treatment, on-site treatment, or treatment to different criteria. This change is necessitated because the thermal treatment options identified in the ROD will not be available, and no other thermal treatment facility that could accept the ARA-16 sludge is currently available.

If you have any questions or need further information please contact me at 208-526-4049.

Sincerely,

Carol A Hathaway

Carol A. Hathaway
Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Restoration Program

Cc/enc: R. Poeton, EPA, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101; 3 copies
T. Livieratos, IDHW DEQ; 3 copies
John Herritt, MS 4160; 1 copy
Tony Kluk, HQ, EM 441; 1 copy