



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

December 18, 2001

Reply To
Att Of ECL-113

T.M. Bradley, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Pittsburgh Naval Reactors Office
Idaho Branch Office
P.O. Box 2469
Idaho Fall, Idaho 83403-2469

Re: EPA Concurrence with Recommended Course of Action for the Old Sewage Basin (NRF-21A)

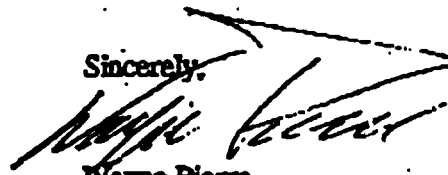
Dear Mr. Bradley,

EPA received the December 4, 2001 letter along with the white paper which recommends a new course of action at NRF-21A. The white paper explains that the amount of contamination in the sewage basin was found during remedial action to be significantly greater than was estimated in the remedial investigation. The white paper presents a number of response options including continued excavation with variations on the scope of excavation and opportunities for disposal. Another proposed option is placement of an engineered cover over the sewage basin. NRF evaluated these possibilities using the CERCLA nine criteria and recommends placement of an engineered cover at NRF-21A.

Based on information and analysis presented in the white paper, EPA concurs with the recommended course of action. The remedy proposed for NRF-21A is consistent with the ROD-selected remedy for the NRF-19 and NRF-14 leaching beds where engineered covers were chosen rather than excavation of a large volume of contaminated soil. An additional advantage of this option is that it is less likely to impact the July 31, 2003 Phase I RD/RA completion goal and that design of the NRF-21A engineered cover can be incorporated into Phase II design along with the NRF-19 and NRF-14 covers. EPA agrees that the change in scope of the remedy will require an Explanation of Significant Differences.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (206) 553-7261 or Kathy Ivy at (206) 553-0040.

Sincerely,


Wayne Pierre
Project Manager

cc: Dean Nygard, IDEQ
Margie English, IDEQ
Kathy Ivy, EPA