



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

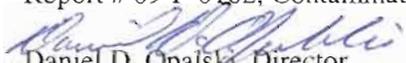
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OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

August 11, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Follow-up on Proposed Management Decision and Action Plan: OIG Final Hotline Report # 09-P-0162, Contaminated Soil Waste Repository at East Mission Flats, Idaho

**FROM:**   
Daniel D. Opalski, Director  
Office of Environmental Cleanup, Region 10

**TO:** Wade T. Najjum  
Assistant Inspector General  
Office of Program Evaluation

This letter is in response to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) assessment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 90 day response, which the OIG sent to EPA Region 10 on August 6, 2009. This letter also summarizes a conference call that occurred on August 10 between Region 10 and OIG staff regarding the August 6 OIG comments and the independent technical verification conducted by Bernie Zavala, a Region 10 hydrogeologist.

Region 10's understanding is that the OIG believes the technical verification conducted by Bernie Zavala is reasonable and addresses a number of the technical concerns raised by the OIG in their final report. At the same time, the OIG feels that the independent technical verification did not address all of the concerns raised about uncertainties in the repository technical analyses. However, the OIG agreed that these concerns would be appropriately addressed through a repository monitoring program and do not require additional modification to the repository design.

To address these remaining concerns, Region 10 and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will design the East Mission Flats repository monitoring program to reduce the uncertainties identified by the OIG and the independent EPA technical reviewers. Bernie Zavala will participate in the monitoring plan development to ensure these concerns are adequately addressed. Per our August 10 conference call, Region 10 understands that the OIG finds these next steps acceptable and responsive to their final report recommendations. This approach also is consistent with the Region's Action Plan and the monitoring activities Region 10 described in the June 17, 2009 transmittal to the OIG. EPA and DEQ expect to complete the revised monitoring plan by November 2, 2009.

We believe the Region's proposed actions, as clarified in this letter, fulfill the commitment of the Action Plan submitted by Region 10 on June 17, 2009, and approved by your office on July 7, 2009. With your acceptance, we will consider this review closed. Please feel free to contact Bob Phillips if you have any questions regarding this letter.