

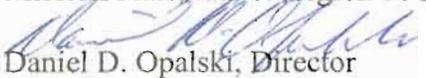


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

JUN 17 2009

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: OIG Hotline Report # 09-P-0162, Contaminated Soil Waste Repository at East Mission Flats, Idaho: Region 10 Proposed Management Decision and Action Plan

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

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

Region 10 has received and reviewed the subject report, issued on June 8, 2009. We appreciate the OIG's consideration of Region 10's technical comments on the draft hotline report provided on April 17, 2009, as well as the supplemental information that EPA and the State of Idaho provided on May 15, 2009.

We have reviewed the comments that the OIG provided in Appendix B of its June 8 report. While we disagree with OIG's interpretation of some of our supporting documentation, Region 10 fully concurs with the report's final recommendation to complete analyses to ensure that dissolved contaminants are not released from the repository. Region 10 will seek technical verification as recommended in the final report. We expect that technical verification will be completed by July 31, 2009. We believe this proposed action will fully address the OIG's recommendations and, when completed, will serve to close out this audit. The findings from the technical verification will be subsequently incorporated into the Final 90% Design Report. In addition, EPA and the State will continue monitoring water quality at the repository site to ensure that dissolved contaminants are not released from the repository. It is our understanding, based on discussions with your office, that you also feel such monitoring is an appropriate strategy to address the final report's recommendation. This monitoring program will be ongoing for several years, and is a component of a broader site-wide monitoring program for the Bunker Hill Superfund Site.

Region 10 would like to thank the OIG for its thorough review of the concerns raised by the complainant and the work performed by EPA and IDEQ. We sincerely appreciate the time spent by your staff and their assistance clarifying the technical review and comments. We believe the report fully endorses the extensive public outreach efforts that both EPA and the State of Idaho have conducted for this repository site. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed Management Decision and Action Plan, please feel free to contact Bob Phillips, Region 10 Audit Coordinator/Liaison, at (206) 553-6367 or phillips.bob@epa.gov.

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