



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

July 23, 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*
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 follow-up to my June 17 response, in which I indicated that Region 10 would perform a technical verification as recommended by the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) final hotline report dated June 8, 2009. That review has been completed and a copy of the final memorandum is attached for your information. We understand that the OIG would like to review the technical verification completed by Region 10 before closing this audit.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has started to prepare the East Mission Flats repository for operations later this summer. However, EPA and DEQ informed the public that contaminated waste would not be permanently disposed of at the repository until the technical verification was completed. We recognize that this was an additional measure beyond what was recommended by the OIG. We also recognize that delaying waste disposal at this location may slow down Superfund residential cleanup in the surrounding area. Therefore, we would very much appreciate receiving your final review and concurrence on the technical verification by the end of July. This will allow adequate time to prepare the repository for use later this field season.

We believe the technical verification fully supports the repository design and analyses completed to date. We also believe the enclosed technical verification fulfills 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.

Attachment

cc via email:

Eric Lewis, OIG
Tom Reilly, OIG
Kathryn Hess, OIG

Dan Cox, OIG

Michelle Pirzadeh, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10

Cami Grandinetti, Manager, Cleanup Unit 4, ECL 113

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