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March 16, 2006

CCN 302318

Mr. Richard B. Provencher, Assistant Manager
Idaho Cleanup Project
U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID)
1955 Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415-1222

SUBJECT: Contract No. DE-AC07-05ID14516 – Idaho National Laboratory Responses to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Review of the Tank Farm Closure Draft 3116 Determination

REFERENCES: (a) DOE-ID, 2005, Draft Section 3116 Determination Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center Tank Farm Facility, DOE/NE-ID-11226, Rev. 0 Draft, September 7, 2005
(b) Scott Flanders, NRC, letter to Mark A. Gilbertson, DOE, Request for Additional Information on the Draft Section 3116 Determination for Idaho Nuclear and Engineering Center Tank Farm Facility (DOE/NE-ID-11226), January 10, 2006
(c) ICP, 2006, Response to Request for Additional Information on the Draft Section 3116 Determination Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center Tank Farm Facility, ICP/EXT-06-01204, March 2006

Dear Mr. Provencher:

This letter transmits responses to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) comments concerning the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) tank farm waste tank closures. The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) have prepared responses to Request for Additional Information (RAI) and Clarifying Comments (CR) submitted to Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) by the NRC. These comments are based on the NRC review of the draft 3116 Determination prepared to support the closure of the Tank Farm Facility at INTEC. The information contained in the responses has been reviewed and approved for external release to the NRC.

The responses have been prepared in two phases, with this transmittal providing the first phase. Phase 1 includes responses to RAI 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 as well as CR. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21. Included in this transmittal is a reference disk that provides references requested by NRC in CR 21 and a reference disk that contains new references that were cited in the responses.

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Phase 2 responses will comprise the balance of the comments and will be finalized for submission to DOE-EM on April 7, 2006. These responses are in progress and require additional fate and transport modeling not yet available. Response to RAI 17 has been provided to DOE-EM for review; however, approval of this response involves significant review by General Counsel as well as other DOE sites which might be impacted by this approach to concentration averaging.

These responses have been coordinated by and reviewed with Keith Lockie of DOE-ID as well as other DOE-ID staff as deemed appropriate based on the subject matter. The responses have been developed with input and extensively reviewed by DOE-EM and General Counsel and all comments have been incorporated. DOE-EM has provided via e-mail their concurrence with the responses prepared.

Based on your concurrence these responses need to be transmitted to Mark Gilbertson, DOE-EM.

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal or requests for additional information, please contact James French (208) 526-7149 or Keith Quigley (208) 526-3779.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Johnson
INTEC Area Projects Manager

KDQ:rrh

Enclosure

cc: (w/o Enc.)
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