



Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management

AUG 14 2006

Ms. Marcella L. Teters  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Spokane Agency  
P.O. Box 389  
Wellpinit, WA 99040-0389

Subject: Logging Reclamation at the Sherwood, Washington, Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation  
Control-Act-Title-II-Disposal Site

Dear Ms. Teters:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) conducted its annual inspection of the Sherwood disposal site on July 12, 2006. The effects of logging operations during the past year were evident. Also, the 2-track road along the diversion channel dike has had substantial use since the last inspection.

Recent vehicle tracks and trash indicate that trespassing is occurring via the logging access road located across the southwest corner of the site. No damage to the disposal cell or associated features (diversion channel, signs, boundary monuments, monitor wells) was observed.

In a letter to you dated July 21, 2005, DOE agreed to the construction of a road across the southwest corner of the site to allow access to logging operations in the forest surrounding the site, and stipulated the following reclamation requirements.

- The logging road and any other areas within the site boundary affected by logging operations will be returned to pre-logging conditions. Reclamation activities include ripping the roadbed, grading disturbed areas to match pre-logging contours, and reseeding the reclaimed areas with a recommended seed mixture.
- The gap in the rock barrier at the road access point will be partially closed to match pre-logging width.
- Provide photos of the reclaimed areas to DOE.

At the time of the inspection, no reclamation activities had occurred. In addition to a wide gap through the rock barrier and a substantial 2-track logging access road across the southwest corner of the site, significant damage was observed in the northeast portion of the site. The barbed-wire fence within the site boundary in that area is heavily damaged; and the downed wire strands, in places tangled with slash, pose a safety hazard to DOE inspectors and wildlife. Also, logging vehicle tracks up to 1 foot deep are present in that area and have provided and will continue to provide paths of erosion.

DOE requests that the three items above be met. To discourage access to the dike road, please completely block off the gap in the rock barrier at the southwest corner of the site with existing boulders after the logging access road is reclaimed. The barbed-wire fence along the east side of the site does not have to be repaired, but the downed strands need to be cut from the posts and removed from the site. Leaving gaps in the fence is acceptable to allow access by wildlife. The vehicle ruts need to be graded and repaired in a manner that will inhibit erosion and encourage revegetation. After grading, water bars can be constructed and/or slash can be placed across reclaimed areas where ruts cross steep slopes. To revegetate the reclaimed access road and the damaged areas in the logged portions of the site, please broadcast the following revised seed mixture. The mixture was revised from the one provided in the July 2005 letter because of the unexpected damage to the forested area in the northeast portion of the site.

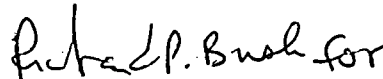
Common Name	lbs PLS*/acre
Meadow barley	2.0
Slender wheatgrass	2.0
Canada wildrye	3.0
Bluebunch wheatgrass	3.0
Western wheatgrass	3.0
Common yarrow	0.5
Blue flax	0.5
Blanket flower	0.5
Alfalfa	2.0
Antelope bitterbrush	4.0
Total	20.5

\*PLS = pure live seed

To discourage continued trespassing, reduce the effects of erosion and to encourage revegetation, DOE requests that these reclamation activities be completed before winter 2006.

Please call me at 202-586-5881 or Dick Johnson, our contractor site lead, at 970-248-6022.

Sincerely,



Jagdish Malhotra  
Site Manager

Ms. Teters

-3-

cc:

T. Pauling, LM-20

G. Janosko, NRC

R. Peone, Spokane Tribe

D. Smith, BIA

D. Stoffel, WA Dept. of Health

D. Johnson, Stoller

Records File: SHE 30.10 (D. Roberts)

---

Malhotra/Sherwood/M. Teters Letter.doc