



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION VIII
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 DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

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Ref: 8HWM-FF

Mr. Richard Schassburger
 Department of Energy
 Rocky Flats Office
 P.O. Box 928
 Golden, Colorado 80402-0928

JAN 12 1994

re: Review of Operable Unit 1 Final
 Phase III RFI/RI Report

Dear Mr. Schassburger:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) have reviewed the above referenced document and find it to be much improved over the draft version that was submitted in 1992. The report has been rewritten to present data more clearly in summary tables, figures and discussion and the analytical results in Appendix C have been reformatted substantially as requested. In addition, many of the comments made on the draft report have been adequately addressed. Nevertheless, there are still problems in the report, as described in our enclosed comments, that must be addressed in order for EPA and CDH to grant approval of document. Although the changes being requested are necessary for approval of the document, it is not anticipated that they will affect the final conclusions of the document.

It should be noted that the procedure used in Appendix D of this report for determination of contaminants of Operable Unit 1, deviates somewhat from standard agency practice. EPA and CDH agreed to the use of this procedure only for Operable Unit 1, in the interest of expediting the project and to ensure that the risk assessment focused on the site contaminants rather than the entire list of detected chemicals. However, for the purpose of national and regional consistency, it is important that procedural deviations such as this be kept to a minimum. Therefore, this procedure may not be cited as a precedent for use at any other operable units at Rocky Flats or any other CERCLA sites.

The majority of the surface water stations and all of the sediment stations sampled for this report are located in the South Interceptor Ditch or Woman Creek, both of which are being more completely characterized through Operable Unit 5 (OU 5). Therefore, the conclusions regarding characterization and assessment of surface water and sediments shall be deferred to the OU 5 RFI/RI report, regardless of the possible origin of contaminants detected in these media. Nevertheless, the data gathered for OU 1 should remain as presented in the report in order to give an indication of the surface water and sediment

ADMIN RECORD

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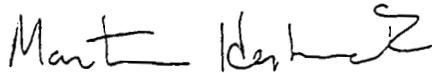


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conditions present near OU 1.

In summary, EPA and CDH will approve this document on the condition that revisions are made which satisfactorily address the comments enclosed. It is expected that the revised document will be submitted within one month of receipt of this letter and enclosure. If you have any questions regarding these matters, EPA's contact is Gary Kleeman at 294-1071 and CDH's contact is Jeff Swanson at 692-3416.

Sincerely,



Martin Hestmark, EPA
Manager
Rocky Flats Project



Gary Baughman, CDH
Chief
Facilities Section
Hazardous Waste Control Program

Enclosure

cc: Mark Silverman, DOE
Tim Reeves, Aguirre
Zeke Houk, EG&G