NOTICE:

"BEST AVAILABLE COPY"

PORTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT ARE ILLEGIBLE

The Administrative Record Staff

Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 928
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0928

MAY 25 1995

95-DOE-08426

Mr. Martin Hestmark
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII
ATTN: Rocky Flats Project Manager, 8HWM-RI
999 18th Street, Suite 500, 8WM-C
Denver, Colorado 80202-2405

Mr. Joe Schieffelin, Unit Leader
Hazardous Waste Control Program
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80222-1530

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the final version of the Operable Unit (OU) 1 Proposed Plan (Plan). You will note a change in the preferred remedy from that presented in the last draft Plan dated February 1995. Based on the events that have transpired on this project since our last joint review of the document on May 15, 1995, the focus of the Plan has changed considerably. Specifically, the Department of Energy (DOE) believes that proposing No Action in conjunction with continued monitoring points, is technically defensible, protective of human health and the environment, and represents the best use of the taxpayers money.

The change in the Plan is based on several reasons. First, we have an increased understanding of OU 1 as a result of a reexamination of the groundwater system data previously submitted and in light of additional more recent information. Second, groundwater results at the French Drain indicate the plume is not moving. This is confirmed by the monitoring of the water at the French Drain since 1992, encompassing the seasonal variations. All this information was not available for the Remedial Investigation Report. Third, DOE has determined that the only remaining valid land use scenario from the Baseline Risk Assessment is an Ecological Reserve. A deed restriction would be used if necessary at OU 1 to enforce a building limitation to ensure the designated land use scenario. No exposure pathways exist with the eco-reserve. Finally, use of Soil Vapor Extraction or attempts to dewater would be unsuccessful because of the limited mobility of the contaminants. As recently as May 18, 1995, we were completing this reevaluation. This examination of the cumulative evidence led to the conclusion that No Action is necessary to achieve protection of Human Health and the Environment. This is consistent with OSWER guidance (9355.3-02).

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION
REVIEW WAIVER PER
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

In our personal discussion on May 23, 1995, I heard and understood your concerns about this change in direction at this stage in the process. It is unfortunate, and I apologize that these conclusions were not rendered earlier in the discussion process, however numerous discussions at the staff and other levels in an attempt to find the best solution have occurred over the past month. We now believe a proposal of No Action is appropriate based on the best available information. We believe that this is the appropriate time to reassess the direction of this project, and that to continue on the path of remediation, without reconsidering the available data would be a mistake.

I propose we delay the start of the Public Comment period until about June 1, 1995. This will allow about one week for us to discuss this matter, and to incorporate additional regulatory comments into the Plan. Applicable responses to the comments received from the EPA on May 2, 1995 have been incorporated in this document. In addition, comments received during the May 15, 1995 meeting have been incorporated where possible. It is our intention to incorporate comments when possible, to generate the best technically supportable document for public presentation.

With the level of concern by all parties and the importance of this project, I reiterate the verbal request I made to both of you on May 24,1995, which is to meet and to discuss this issue as soon as possible. The DOE appreciates all of the effort expended by the OU 1 Working Group in an attempt to draw this project to a conclusion. Please direct any questions or comments to me at 966-4839.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Slaten
IAG Project Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: w/o Enclosure:
M. Silverman, OOM, RFFO
T. Howell, OCC, RFFO
J. Roberson, AMER, RFFO
J. Wienand, ER, RFFO
D. George, ER, RFFO
A. Primrose, EG&G
R. Rupert, EG&G
B. Card, K-H

cc: w/Enclosure
Admin. Record

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS - PROPOSED PLAN
OPERABLE UNIT 1 - 881 HILLSIDE
ROCKY FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY SITE

The following represents the response to the written comments on the Operable Unit 1 Proposed Plan, transmitted to the Department of Energy from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Comments are based on the Proposed Plan submitted to the Agencies for review and comment on February 13, 1995. No written comments were received from the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment. Neither Regulatory Agency provided written comments on the version submitted on November 22, 1994. Additional applicable verbal comments are included in the document based on discussions held by the OU1 Working Group.

Responses to written comments are as follows:

EPA comment 1 - These comments have been incorporated into the revised document.

EPA comment 2 - This comment has been incorporated into the revised text of the document.

EPA comment 3 - This comment is not applicable to the revised proposed alternative, which is "No Action".

EPA comment 4 - This comment is not applicable to the revised proposed plan since other alternatives were not evaluated due to the "No Action " alternative. Since no other alternatives were required to be evaluated, the comparison chart was deleted.

In summary, there is no need to refer to the Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study nor revise the Proposed Plan based on the document since risk levels indicate that no action is required at Operable Unit 1.