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The current ban on herbicide use emphasizes the need to develop other methods of weed control. The current lapse in overall weed control at RFP only increases the future problems of weed management. Weed management within the buffer zone is crucial in maintaining a productive vegetative ground cover capable of minimizing soil erosion from wind and water. Soil erosion is a primary pathway for plutonium migration. Healthy vegetation is the best natural defense against migration of plutonium contaminated soil.

Federal and State weed legislation highlights the need for RFP to develop an effective weed control strategy. DOE needs to become involved by designating a contact person to work with the EG&G Remediation Programs Division (RPD) in developing a site-wide weed management program. RPD will take the lead in developing a weed management program for RFP that meets legislative requirements. An overall strategy will include the following:

- Identify involved RFP, regulatory and technical personnel
- Identify problem by constructing a map showing weed species, locations and densities
- Research appropriate control methods
- Identify weed control issues, both technical and political, through dialogue with involved parties
- Write management plan with appropriate review process

Your designee may contact Michael Guillaume of RPD at extension 4291 to begin this task.



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Enclosure:
As Stated