

and - FW Response to Triay letter Assistance Required to Identify a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury

From: Levenstein, David [David.Levenstein@em.doe.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 11:36 AM
To: Dimarzio, John A.
Subject: EOI: Richard - FW: Response to Triay letter "Assistance Required to Identify a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury"

-----Original Message-----

From: Weil, Stephen R [mailto:Stephen_R.Weil@RL.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 9:03 PM
To: Levenstein, David
Cc: Brockman, David; Olinger, Shirley J; Taylor, William; Russell, Woody; Erickson, Leif; Shoop, Doug; Goldsmith, Julie R; Gloria, Ofelia T; McCormick, Matthew; Holten, Richard A; Farabee, Oliver A (AI); Flynn, Karen; Hathaway, H B (Boyd); Ward, Janis L
Subject: Response to Triay letter "Assistance Required to Identify a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury"

David:

I have been asked to respond for the Hanford Site to Inés Triay's March 30, 2009 letter, Assistance Required to Identify a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury. This response is for the DOE Richard Operations Office (RL) and the Office of River Protection (ORP).

RL/ORP does not currently have any buildings that are available, of the required size, and that could be permitted for mercury storage in the Central Plateau. The Central Plateau geographic area of the Hanford Site has been designated as Industrial-Exclusive under the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0222-F, 64 FR 61615). The Industrial-Exclusive designation is defined in the Record of Decision as follows:

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Industrial-Exclusive: An area suitable and desirable for treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous, dangerous, radioactive, nonradioactive wastes, and related activities.

The record of decision also states:

*

This designation will also allow expansion of existing facilities or development of new compatible facilities.

Use for storage of elemental mercury under hazardous waste management regulations falls within the existing land use designation.

A new facility could be constructed in the Central Plateau for the specific purpose of storing elemental mercury. Such a facility would be a new TSD unit under the existing Hanford RCRA permit. It would be a challenge to do the facility design, permitting, and construction between a designation of a facility on January 1, 2010 and the requirement to have an operational facility on January 1, 2013. In addition, it is not likely to receive a lot of local public support, which will complicate the permitting activity. Despite these caveats, the Central Plateau of the Hanford Site remains an option.

Another theoretical option could be the FMEF (Fuels and Materials Examination Facility). This is a 255,000 square foot existing building. It would take about ~1.5 years and ~\$2M to bring the facility back in terms of electrical, cooling, HVAC, fire protection, life safety codes. However, it is outside the Industrial Exclusive zone that is deemed suitable and desirable for treatment, storage, and

and - FW Response to Triay Letter Assistance Required to Identify a Storage Facility for Elemental Mercury disposal of hazardous, dangerous, radioactive, nonradioactive wastes under the ROD for the Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Environmental Impact Statement noted above. At this time, I do not know if the FMEF does or could meet RCRA requirements but I suspect that a compliant RCRA storage area for liquids (elemental mercury) could be built in. However, as noted above for a facility on the Central Plateau, any new waste importation to the Hanford site is not likely to receive a lot of local public support.
If you have any questions please give me a call.

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