evaluation of Hanford Site environmental data, and assure the credibility, completeness and consistency of environmental information.

The requirement listed in your letter to integrate site-wide environmental assessment programs will be met through the HEO office. Management interaction with other contractors is appropriately an overhead function as is the control and overview of the SAP. The detailed review, however, of the major elements of the SAP is a technical undertaking appropriately costed directly to the SAP, though to assure the necessary independence, the Hanford Environmental Oversight Office will conduct those reviews with the aid of other PNL and outside technical resources. Funds identified in the work element plans for this purpose will be transferred to the HEO Office.

It should be pointed out that the 7% increase recommended in the "Revised PNL Minimum" budget for FY 1985 is not optimized from a technical standpoint but reduces the budget request to the lowest possible level without seriously compromising necessary work. Delays will still result in emergency response improvements such as preparing Region 8 scenarios, providing equipment and training for offsite response functions, and evaluating uncertainties in atmospheric models which define exposure patterns. In addition, for surveillance needs, establishing hydrological and geochemical models to evaluate hazardous waste migration and impact must await other sources of funds following the scoping study permitted by the FY 1985 SAP budget. Similarly, measurement of hazardous chemicals in the Hanford environment can only be planned with requested funding and any necessary comprehensive measurement and analysis effort will require separate future funding. The exception is the characterization of PCB distributions and impacts already identified in the Hanford environment. This work is currently underway and requires a second year of funding.

Maintaining a zero percentage growth in the SAP budget in the future would represent a serious change in DOE-RL long-range plans and would imply a change in environmental and safety policies, in the midst of implementing the current plans. Extensive re-evaluation and reprogramming must be undertaken between DOE-RL and PNL if this is necessary.