Modeling of the ground-water system underlying Hanford could address proposed changes to the system's driving forces (i.e., pond decommissioning and trench opening). However, the short time constraints of this request have not permitted a more comprehensive study of this question with computer based models.

Based on operational scenarios now under consideration and the potential changes they imply for the ground-water hydraulics, we have no confidence that the ground-water system beneath Hanford will remain unchanged over the next 28 years. Therefore we can not assure you that 1,500 pCi/ml is a conservative answer.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me (376-4188) or JoAnne Rieger (376-4187) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Eddy
Sr. Research Scientist
Environmental Evaluations Section

JTR:ks