Modeling of the groundwater 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 groundwater hydraulics, we have no confidence that the groundwater system beneath Hanford will remain unchanged over the next 28 years. Therefore, we can not assure you that 1500 ρCi/ml is a conservative answer.

Additional Comment: Data from groundwater springs collected in the summer of 1983 have not been used in this response. They are indicative of groundwater concentrations - perhaps more so than groundwater well samples. However, there is a not a history of spring water concentrations to rely on; therefore, maximum values are certainly ill-defined with respect to the 28 year history at Hanford. For this reason, and no other, this response relies on groundwater well data as indicative of concentrations arriving at the Columbia River.

CTK:kh