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Pacific Northwest Laboratories

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To PE Bramson

From PA Eddy PAE

Subject Monthly Report - May 1984

May 5 was Leigh Prater's third anniversary with the ground-water surveillance group. I don't know how she put up with us but she did. Anyway, congratulations Leigh!

On the May 11, a meeting was held with Roger Stanley from the Washington State Department of Ecology. During the meeting, several items which are covered by RECRA were discussed. Specific topics included the 100-N springs discharge, the high beta count found in the springs at the 100-H Area and the use of wells has monitoring structures at Hanford. The meeting was attended by representatives of DOE-RL, UNC and PNL.

The BWIP DOE-RL group asked Phil and I to attend a general public meeting. We were asked to present information about the defense portion of the Hanford waste program if questions were asked. We met in Ben Melton's (DOE-RL) office before the meeting to be sure that each person was aware of his responsibilities. As it turned out, no one asked any questions about the defense waste program, so Phil and I sat through the meeting without giving any input.

As a result of some work done last month, a group of representatives from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory came to Hanford and discussed the possibilities of us obtaining funding from them for work to be done at Hanford in complying with RECRA. It appears that environmental concerns will not be addressed as a very high priority. From a list of six items listed in order of priority, environmental concerns were number five. It therefore does not appear that we will be obtaining any funding from that source for any ground-water work.

There was a meeting with UST, RHO, and PNL to discuss the current methods of sampling for and testing for ^{90}Sr. The end result of the meeting was that we should try to acidify samples in the field instead of having the laboratory doing the acidification. If this occurs, there must be some way the monitors can handle concentrated nitrite acid in the field. There must also be a job safety analysis performed before this type of work is done. I am currently checking in with the various laboratories to see if a method exists that would allow the monitors to spike the samples with acid without opening a bottle, i.e., tubing attached to a source of acid.

Leigh Prater, Dave Myers and I reviewed a reprocessing unit at the 100-N Area. The unit will take overflow water from the spent fuel rod storage area and "clean it up" and then reuse the the water. The primary effort we were requested to do was to determine if monitoring wells would be required for the facility, and if they were required, where should they be placed. Leigh is following up on this request.