DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE INSTITUTE FOR OPERATIONAL HEALTH (AFMC)
BROOKS CITY-BASE TEXAS

20 December 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. RAMACHANDRA BHAT
AFMOA/SG3PR
110 LUKE AVENUE RM 405
BOLLING AFB DC 20032-7050

FROM: AFIOH/SDRH
2350 Gillingham Drive
Brooks City-Base TX 78235-5103

SUBJECT: Consultative Letter # IOH-SD-BR-CL-2007-0120, Review of Data for the Closure of IRP Site RW-35 on McChord AFB WA

1. The Air Force Institute for Operational Health (AFIOH), Radiation Surveillance Division (SDR), and Health Physics Consulting Branch (SDRH) reviewed the documents concerning the closure of Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Site RW-35 on McChord AFB WA. The review included historical documents, the closure report and the response to comments of a previously conducted SDRH review. It is the recommendation of SDRH that IRP Site RW-35 be released for unrestricted use.

2. Background:

a. RW-35 consisted of an underground concrete vault in a wooded area behind the Whispering Firs Golf Course. Historical documents indicate that the vault was used to dispose of radiological rinse water and miscellaneous radiological medical waste including radium painted dials and cathode tubes. The site was investigated in 2002 to determine the size of the vault. No radioactivity above background levels was reported. The site was excavated in January 2003. The exterior of the vault was shown to have no radioactivity above background levels. The interior of the vault was found to contain various radioactive articles that were sent for offsite disposal at a properly licensed facility. Prior to backfilling the excavation, the sides and bottom of the excavation were surveyed and found to be comparable to background readings[1].

b. Mr. Cicotte of SDRH reviewed the closure report in November 2006 and provided comments to McChord AFB to forward to the contractor for resolution. Mr. Cicotte left SDRH prior to responses to his comments being provided. I have reviewed Mr. Cicotte's comments and the responses provided.

[1] Closure Report Site RW-35 McChord AFB, WA (May 2006)

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3. Recommendations and Conclusions:

a. The exterior of the vault and the surrounding soils were surveyed with no readings exceeding the background radiation level. There was no indication of leakage from the vault. Based on the historical record review results there is no indication of residual radioactive material at RW-35.

b. The responses to Mr. Cicotte's comments are satisfactory.

c. SDRH recommends that RW-35 be released for unrestricted use.

4. If you have any comments or questions regarding this consultation, please contact Mr. Brian Harcek at 210-536-4263 (DSN 240-4263) or brian.harcek@brooks.af.mil. Please direct any questions or comments regarding Radiation Surveillance Division support to the division chief, Lt Col Kevin Martilla at 210-536-5565 (DSN 240-5565) or kevin.martilla@brooks.af.mil.

//signed//

BRIAN G. HARCEK, DAF
Chief, Environmental Health Physicist