



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

SEP 25 2008

Mr. Marc B. Connally, P.E.
92 CES/CEVR
100 West Ent Street, Suite 155
Fairchild AFB, Washington 99011

Re: Fairchild Air Force Base Second Five Year Review

Dear Mr. Connally:

EPA Region 10 has reviewed the Second Five Year Review Report for Priority One and Two Sites for the Fairchild Air Force Base Superfund site located in the state of Washington. EPA reviewed this report for technical adequacy, accuracy, and consistency with EPA guidance. Overall, the Five Year Review report is adequate, conforms to guidance and in general, EPA concurs with the protectiveness determinations in this report.

As the Air Force knows, according to the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), this Five Year Review should have been completed in December of 2005 and the Air Force, as the lead agency, has the statutory responsibility for meeting this deadline. While there are a number of factors that caused the extraordinary delay in finalizing this report, EPA finds it unacceptable that this report was submitted over two and one half years past the deadline. In fact, this is the only site in Region 10 where a Five Year Review has missed the submittal deadline by such a large margin. We trust that the problems experienced this time around will be avoided in the future, and the next Five Year Review will be completed in a timely fashion.

One of the reasons for the delay in completing this report had to do with a disagreement over whether or not there was a need to sample groundwater for perchlorate and n-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) at Fairchild AFB. The Air Force conducted extensive research in support of its position that perchlorate/NDMA sampling was not warranted and the findings are well-documented in Chapter 7.2 of the report. EPA reviewed the information and documentation provided by the Air Force and has agreed that the Air Force is not required to sample for these potential contaminants of concern. However, EPA reserves the right, as allowed under the Federal Facility Agreement, to sample the groundwater at Fairchild AFB at any time in the future and analyze for perchlorate, NDMA or any other potential contaminant of concern.

EPA appreciates the efforts the Air Force has made to work with us to reach agreement on the issues and recommendations identified in this Five Year Review report. We look forward to your continued cooperation as we work together to ensure the implementation of this report's findings. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Harney of my staff at (206) 553-6635.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan D. Opalski".

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Environmental Cleanup

cc: Chuck Hinds, WA Dept of Ecology