UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICES OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CLEANUP AND AIR
WASTE AND TOXICS

August 22, 2012

Ms. Sheila Monroe and Ms. Elizabeth Druback
Managers
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Eastern Region – The Dalles Office
400 East Scenic Drive, Suite 307
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Re: Need for Immediate Action at the Lockheed Martin Company/Martin Marietta Corporation Superfund Site, The Dalles, Oregon

Dear Ms. Monroe and Ms. Drubeck:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 appreciates your letter of support to work to resolve issues concerning safety and protection of human health and the environment at the LMC Site in The Dalles, Oregon. We are working with LMC and with you to try to understand the nature of the potential threat posed by the presence of toxic, asphyxiating and explosive gases at the Site. The recent data collected by LMC, although only a snapshot of Site conditions, indicates the presence of several gases at or above the immediately dangerous to life and health level and/or the lower explosive limit for those gases. Understandably, this snapshot merits additional investigation on an expedited basis.

The 2004 Memorandum of Agreement between our two agencies for this Site, while intended to facilitate regulatory coordination, clearly states that the EPA will become involved in issues at the CERCLA Waste Areas as required by CERCLA or as necessary if required by the CERCLA Consent Decree. The issue concerning gases initially arose at the CERCLA landfill and leachate treatment system, but expanded to other areas of the Site, including the RCRA landfill and leachate collection system and other issues, such as access, covered under the Consent Decree. The MOA anticipated that our Agencies might see issues at the Waste Areas differently. For this reason, our Agencies expressly reserved the right to proceed to make independent decisions and to issue independent decision documents. The EPA views our actions at the Site as wholly within the spirit of the MOA in this context. The EPA's directions to LMC in our letter of July 20, 2012, derive from CERCLA and the Consent Decree for this Site and are consistent with the MOA between EPA and the Department of Environmental Quality. While the permit modification process you refer to is one of the regulatory mechanisms at the Site, other mechanisms, such as CERCLA, are being appropriately used at this time.

As we work towards an understanding of the significance of the threat posed by the toxic, asphyxiating and explosive gases at the Site, we look forward to rapid progress in obtaining the facts and data necessary to ensure that all appropriate steps are taken to protect human health and the environment at the Site.

Sincerely,

Dennis Faulk, Program Manager
Hanford Project Office

cc: Fredrick Moore, ODEQ