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April 25, 2016

Arthur Burbank
USDA Forest Service
4350 South Cliffs Dr.
Pocatello, ID 83204

Subject: Biological Selenium Removal Treatment Technology Fluidized Bed Bioreactor Pilot Study March 2016 Progress Report

Dear Art,

This progress report summarizes key activities in March 2016 associated with the fluidized bed bioreactor (FBR) pilot study located near Hoopes Spring. This pilot study is being conducted as part of the Smoky Canyon Mine Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to provide information on the effectiveness of the active biological treatment system in removing selenium and other COPCs from South Fork Sage Creek Springs and Hoopes Spring. Operation and monitoring of the pilot study follows the *Pilot Study Work Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan (Work Plan/SAP), Biological Selenium Removal Treatment Technology Fluidized Bed Bioreactor* (prepared by Formation Environmental, dated September 2014, with revised text and tables dated March 5, 2015), along with Work Plan/SAP Addenda 01, 02, and 03 which Simplot submitted to the Agencies (and were subsequently approved) in the summer of 2015, and Addendum 04 submitted to and approved by the Agencies in January 2016.

Following the treatment system shutdown in February 2016, the system was restarted in March and it underwent a period of performance monitoring and nutrient feed optimization. Week 0 sampling was conducted on March 30, 2016, and the samples were shipped to IAS EnviroChem on March 31, 2016.

Identification of Deliverables and Data Transmittals

At the time of this report no laboratory data have been received for the samples collected on March 30, 2016 (Week 0). Field data from the Week 0 sampling will be presented in the April progress report.

Upcoming Activities

The following activities associated with the FBR pilot study are planned through April 2016, or have occurred as of the date of this progress report:

- Continuation of performance monitoring through the end of April (Weeks 1 through 4 monitoring)

Please contact me if there are questions regarding this monthly progress report.

Sincerely,

Monty Johnson
Environmental Engineering Manager

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