United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
2600 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Environmental Management, MS-620EM

SEP 2 9 2016

Mr. Hillary Hecht, Enforcement Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX (ENF 3-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105-3901

Dear Mr. Hecht:

This letter responds to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) letter, dated May 31, 2016, in which the EPA requested information regarding the status of compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), dated June 16, 1995. The AOC addresses releases at, or associated with, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) former Roads Maintenance Shop (Facility), Owyhee, Nevada.

The AOC requirements address environmental issues related to releases from the Facility and heating oil lines, including the storage and disposal of hazardous materials historically used at the Facility and operation of a 16,000-gallon heating oil storage tank and associated distribution pipeline. These corrective action requirements are found in Paragraphs 17 through 45 of the AOC.

The request for the status of BIA's response to the AOC requirements was organized into seven categories. This letter, through seven enclosures, individually addresses each of the seven categories in your letter. Each enclosure includes a narrative describing the status of completion with each paragraph as well as a listing of documents, as applicable. These documents are provided to you via e-mail.

In compiling the documents associated with responding to your letter, the BIA scanned and saved all documents related to this project. We then reviewed these documents with the intent of providing you the most relevant information to satisfy whether we completed the requirements of a particular paragraph. Other documents exist that would further support or provide documentation associated with our determination if EPA believes additional information is necessary.

In summary, the BIA has satisfied the requirements of the AOC, less Paragraphs 39, 40, 44, and 45. The enclosed "Table 1: Status of Corrective Actions Associated with the 1995 SDWA AOC," provides an overview of our accomplishments, to date, with the AOC. This table provides: (1) a general description of the provision; (2) summarizes whether the action has been completed; (3) references the AOC Paragraph with the category provided in your letter; and (4) provides a brief explanation of the status of the requirement.

In order to address the remaining corrective actions in the AOC, BIA has contracted with Cooper Zietz Engineers, Inc./Akana, Portland, Oregon, to: (1) develop a work plan to address the remaining action items with the AOC, and (2) implement that work. We believe that future work planned should be presented and discussed subsequent to the EPA and BIA reaching general agreement on the outstanding work needed to satisfy the intent of the AOC. We prefer to work under the existing AOC to resolve the remaining items.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all enclosures were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the persons directly responsible for gathering the information, I certify that the information is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

If you have any questions, please contact John F. Krause, Regional Environmental Scientist, at 602-379-3723 or john.krause@bia.gov.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Enclosures

cc: Joseph McDade, Superintendent, Eastern Nevada Agency