UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

March 6, 2015

(b) (6)

NORTHPORT, WA 99157

Dear (b) (6),

Thank you for participating in the EPA Residential Soil Sampling program. Last October we took soil samples at three "decision units" on your property and analyzed them for lead and arsenic. "Decision Unit" is the term we use for the sections of your property where samples were collected. This sectioning makes it possible for us to better understand what we find (and don't find) at each area of a property we sampled.

We took two kinds of soil samples at your property:

- "Incremental composite samples" were obtained by collecting soil at 30 places within each decision unit, and then combining the soil into one sample. Each decision unit is reported as a single result.
- In addition, five "discrete" samples were collected, which means soil was taken from 1-6 inches deep, not combined with any other soil. These samples were collected from only one decision unit on your property.

The enclosed maps show the location of the decision units where we sampled, with the lead and arsenic results for each decision unit. The enclosed table shows the results for lead and arsenic at each decision unit for both the incremental composite samples and the discrete samples.

The EPA national screening level for lead is 400 ppm (parts per million). The State of Washington has adopted a lower screening level of 250 ppm. The EPA and State of Washington screening level for arsenic is 20 ppm. We generally consider results below these screening levels to be safe for everyone living on the property, including children and pregnant women. Above a screening level does not automatically indicate cause for concern. At this point, we know that there are properties in the sampling area that are above both the state and federal screening numbers and some are significantly above these screening numbers. The EPA is working hard to determine what actions may be taken in the short term on properties with high levels of lead. We will send updates to all landowners when these decisions are made.

We recommend that all families in the study area with lead greater than 250 ppm and/or arsenic greater than 20 ppm follow the enclosed Soil Safety Guidelines. These actions from the North East Tri County Health District are proven measures to reduce your exposure to lead and arsenic in area soils and soils near your home.

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We are planning a public meeting this spring in the Northport area and will send an announcement out as soon as we have a date and location. If you have any questions about your results, please feel free to contact me toll free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 65466, directly at (509) 376-5466 or at buelow.laura@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura C. Buelow
Project Manager

Enclosure (2)

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