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Ref: 8EPR-SA

JAN 12 2011

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 2010, requesting information and supporting documents related to the costs and funding for EPA Region 8's ground-water investigation in Pavillion, Wyoming. The responses to the eight questions and sub-questions in your letter can be found as Enclosure 1, with supporting documents enclosed as a series of Attachments. The information was compiled using the latest costs reports received from our contractor at the time your letter was received; at that time, EPA Region 8 had received invoices from our contractor through August 27, 2010. Certain documents have had confidential business information (CBI) redacted based upon the claims of the contractor. EPA has not made a final determination as to whether the information qualifies for protection as CBI, but is initiating the process as laid out in 40 CFR Part 2 to determine whether the information is CBI.

As discussed with members of your Committee staff on October 27, 2010, both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of our investigation involved testing ground water from wells already in existence in the Pavillion area, including domestic water supply wells and stock watering wells. The two new monitoring wells EPA Region 8 installed with the assistance of EPA's Office of Research and Development's, National Risk Management Research Laboratory/Ground Water and Ecosystem Restoration Division (ORD/NRMRL/GWERD) laboratory in Ada, Oklahoma, were drilled after Phase 2. To be more fully responsive, we are including costs of our investigation incurred after completion of Phases 1 and 2, and are not limiting our response to those costs paid only by EPA Region 8. Costs associated with the additional work completed by ORD are correct as of November 1, 2010. In addition, where we have had to estimate specific personnel costs, we have provided our methodology for arriving at the reported figure(s).

EPA has completed Phases 1 and 2 of the groundwater investigation at Pavillion, and we have shared the results with the community through public meetings and individual health consults. While this investigation has developed a detailed understanding of groundwater quality in the area, we are not presenting any definitive statements regarding the sources of contamination at this time. Please be assured that, as EPA continues to more fully characterize

the nature and extent of the ground-water contamination in the Pavillion area, we are proceeding under standard scientific methods and processes.

Because we share your concern that the residents of the Pavillion area have access to safe and reliable drinking water, we will diligently continue to work on their behalf. To that end, EPA is coordinating our next steps with state, local and tribal government agencies to better define our respective roles and responsibilities in developing a long-term solution. We will continue to keep the community involved and to apprise the Wyoming congressional delegation and your Committee staff of our progress.

I trust this information and the enclosed documentation are responsive to your request. If you or your staff have questions, please contact me; or your staff may wish to contact Sandy Fells, our Regional Congressional Liaison, at 303-312-6604 or fells.sandy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

James B. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair
Committee on Environment & Public Works
United States Senate

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