



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
1955 Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

March 31, 2020

Ms. Trilby McAfee, Chair
Idaho Cleanup Project
Citizens Advisory Board
1425 Higham Street
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Ms. McAfee,

Thank you and the Idaho Cleanup Project Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for the board's recent recommendation No. 157, titled, "Snake River Plain Aquifer Presentations." It is clear from the depth of the recommendation that the Snake River Plain Aquifer Subcommittee and the full CAB put a lot of thought into this recommendation. Protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer has always been a high priority for the Idaho Cleanup Project. Being able to clearly and effectively communicate about the work that the ICP has done to remediate past contamination and to prevent future insults to the aquifer is also vitally important to the Department of Energy and our contractors.

In reviewing your recommendation, I believe the Department and our contractors can meet your requests, at least in spirit if not in exact execution. I agree that we can address the geology, activities that have affected the aquifer in the past, monitoring activities and results, and mitigation and remediation activities. We certainly can provide charts, maps and images that give visual perspective to our aquifer activities. We can also summarize the data and reports that have been generated recently about the aquifer, discuss any agreements we may have with other agencies to monitor the aquifer, and provide a history of past reports and data.

DOE also agrees to provide at least one aquifer presentation every year, if the CAB continues to find that useful. I would anticipate our next presentation would be at the October meeting in Sun Valley.

DOE cannot bind other agencies, such as the U.S. Geological Survey or the State of Idaho, who also perform monitoring of the aquifer and have occasionally made presentations to the board on the aquifer in the past. We will certainly pass on the board's recommendations, however, to any external agency that plans an aquifer presentation to the board in the future. We will also ask our contractor, Fluor Idaho, to consider the board's input anytime they are asked to present to the board on aquifer-related topics.

Thank you again for the board's well-thought out recommendation. We look forward to implementing it to provide more effective presentations on this very important topic in the future.

Connie M. Flohr

Connie M. Flohr
Manager
Idaho Cleanup Project