



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 30, 2024

Mr. Robert E. Wilkinson
President and Project Manager
Central Plateau Cleanup Company
Post Office Box 1464
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

This letter serves as notification of the Office of Enforcement's decision to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances associated with the January 2023 determination that the Solid Waste Operations Complex (SWOC) safety significant fire suppression system was inoperable and had been for an indeterminate amount of time. Central Plateau Cleanup Company (CPCCo) reported potential noncompliances associated with this condition into the Department of Energy's (DOE) Noncompliance Tracking System under NTS-EM-RL-CPCC-SWOC-2023-0010745, dated October 7, 2023.

The Office of Enforcement will conduct this investigation pursuant to the authority set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 820.21, *Investigations*, and in 10 C.F.R. § 851.40(a), *Investigations and inspections*. Although investigating the inoperable safety significant fire suppression system will be the general purpose of this investigation, additional issues relating to the scope, nature, and extent of compliance by CPCCo with DOE's nuclear safety requirements specified in 10 C.F.R. Part 820, *Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities*, and with DOE's worker safety and health requirements specified in 10 C.F.R. Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*, may be pursued as issues arise during the investigation. The investigation will include an onsite visit and interviews with contractor personnel.

Any requests for documents to support this investigation will be provided separately via one or more e-mails. Your cooperation to ensure timely submission of all documents by the requested date is appreciated.

For covered contracts according to 41 U.S.C. § 4301 and under the Major Fraud Act (MFA), as amended (41 U.S.C. § 4310), this investigation may be a proceeding commenced by the United States that relates to a violation of, or the failure to comply with, a federal regulation. Costs incurred in connection with such a proceeding are subject to the reimbursement restrictions of the MFA implemented at 48 C.F.R. § 31.205-47. As a result, any costs incurred that are directly attributable to supporting DOE's investigation should be tracked, subsequent to receipt of this letter, and segregated from other potentially allowable costs.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me or your staff may contact Mr. Jacob M. Miller, Director, Office of Nuclear Safety Enforcement, at (301) 903-7707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. C. Pierpoint', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony C. Pierpoint
Director
Office of Enforcement
Office of Enterprise Assessments

cc: Lynn Nye, Central Plateau Cleanup Company
Brian Vance, RL