



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 10**  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To  
Attn Of: RA-140

Mr. Paul McKechnie  
Acting Ombudsman  
Office of Congressional and Public Liaison  
EPA Office of the Inspector General  
1 Congress Street  
Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Re: Ombudsman Review of Bunker Hill and Coeur d'Alene Basin  
Report Number 2004-P-00009

Dear Mr. McKechnie:

The following is a response to recommendations provided in the "Ombudsman Review of Bunker Hill and Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Actions", dated March 24, 2004. EPA Region 10 concurs with the recommendations included in this report. This letter outlines our proposed response to the recommendations and a schedule for response actions. Consistent with EPA Manual 2750, this response is being submitted within 90 days of the final report date.

**Recommendation 1-1**

"In the interest of being open to the public and getting wide dissemination of useful information, we recommend that EPA Region 10 post a copy of this report and the finalized National Academy of Sciences study on the EPA Superfund Coeur d'Alene Basin web site to ensure availability to citizens."

**Response:** A copy of the Ombudsman report was posted on the EPA Region 10 Coeur d'Alene Basin web site shortly after being released. EPA will post a copy of the finalized National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study on the web site when it is available. The NAS study is expected to take approximately 21 months from the 6/13/03 start date so we expect a report in the Spring of 2005. In the meantime, we have provided on our web site a link to the NAS web site relative to the Coeur d'Alene study so the public can track the study's progress.

**Recommendation 2-1**

"Encourage the Basin Commission to clarify its exact status, especially including a consensus among all Basin Commission members, so that its future actions and decisions, and especially its interactions with EPA under CERCLA, will be based on a settled definition of the Basin

Commission's powers and abilities.”

**Response:** EPA Region 10 will provide a letter to the Basin Commission board of directors requesting clarification of the status of the Basin Commission. This letter will be sent by June 1, 2004 and a copy provided to the Acting Ombudsman.

**Recommendation 2-2**

“Clarify to the Basin Commission, inclusive of its board of directors and those who signed the MOA, the region's relationship with the Commission under CERCLA and other applicable laws and regulations.”

**Response:** EPA Region 10 will provide a letter to the Basin Commission board of directors and signatories to the MOA clarifying EPA's relationship to the Commission under CERCLA and other applicable laws and regulations. This letter will be sent by June 30, 2004 and a copy provided to the Acting Ombudsman.

**Recommendation 3-1**

“Encourage the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to implement within the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan some of the recommendations in its [EPA's] March 25, 2003 letter, including adding accountability checkpoints, a coordination mechanism, and an implementation timetable.”

**Response:** EPA will provide the a letter to the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe encouraging them to include the recommendations listed above in the addendum to the Lake Management Plan. This letter will be sent by June 30, 2004 and a copy provided to the Acting Ombudsman.

**Recommendation 3-2**

“Clarify with the State of Idaho, and other stakeholders, who will pay for upstream remedial actions and Lake management activities.”

**Response:** EPA will provide an outline of funding for upstream remedial actions and lake management activities to the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, with a copy to regulatory stakeholders in the Basin. This letter will be sent by June 30, 2004 and a copy provided to the Acting Ombudsman.

**Recommendation 3-3**

“Work with the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe to reach some form of consensus about the dedication (or assignment) of funds or funding sources to pay for the implementation of the Lake Management Plan.”

**Response:** As part of the letter references in our response to Recommendation 3-2, EPA Region 10 will offer to assist the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in the identification of non-

CERCLA federal funding sources for lake management activities. EPA Region 10 currently provides information regarding applicable grant opportunities to these entities and will continue to do so. We will also offer to work with the State of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in building consensus on non-federal funding for lake management activities.

If you have any questions regarding these responses, please contact Sheila Eckman, the Bunker Hill/Coeur d'Alene Basin Team Leader, at (206) 553-0455.

Sincerely,

/s/ 5/7/05

L. John Iani  
Regional Administrator

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If you have any questions regarding these responses, please contact Sheila Eckman, the Bunker Hill/Coeur d’Alene Basin Team Leader, at (206) 553-0455.

Sincerely,

L. John Iani  
Regional Administrator

INITIAL					
NAME	Eckman	Chung	Kowalski	Nolan	Gearheard
DATE					