

# **Comments on US Department of Energy Use of Risk-Based End States Policy DOE P 455.1, Approved 7-15-03, As Applied to the LEHR Site**

Comments Submitted to DSCSOC by  
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January 9, 2004

DOE has provided an application of the US Department of Energy Risk-Based End States policy to the LEHR site. Comments on this application are presented below.

## **Comments on “Draft Risk-Based End State Vision for LEHR,” Prepared by US Department of Energy, October 28, 2003**

***Shift of Responsibility for DOE Areas from DOE to UCD.*** In the Executive Summary, page S-1, the third paragraph states, “*All EM activities at the LEHR site are scheduled to be completed by the end of FY 2005. This also marks the completion of the EM mission at LEHR.*” EM is defined in the first paragraph as the Office of Environmental Management of DOE. As I understand the situation, based on the responsibilities for LEHR site investigation and remediation defined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOE and UCD, if DOE is to complete all of its responsibility by the end of FY 2005, it is important that UCD clearly acknowledge that it will assume responsibility for all as yet unidentified hazardous and deleterious chemicals that are present in the LEHR site soils that can be found at some time in the future. Also, the responsibility for *ad infinitum* monitoring of the site, including translocation of buried waste materials from DOE areas to the surface through vegetation that may develop in these areas at any time in the future, shall be defined.

***Long-Term Monitoring Obligations.*** Page 1-6, first paragraph (and at other locations in this document), the third sentence states, “*At the completion of the EM mission, it is possible that limited groundwater monitoring may be required to determine if residual contamination left in place at any of the DOE areas is impacting groundwater.*” Unless UCD assumes responsibility for monitoring of DOE areas that have impacted groundwaters, DOE will have an *ad infinitum* monitoring requirement of groundwaters with pollution that has occurred. Also, there will be need for monitoring of the potential for translocation of residual wastes in the DOE areas that could be translocated to the surface.

***Groundwater Quality Issues.*** Page 2-3, fourth paragraph states, “*The regional groundwater is very good quality and is used for domestic purposes including drinking according to state, county, and local water agency officials.*” While the groundwaters of the Davis area are drinkable, they are not of “very good quality.” They are excessively hard and have high TDS. Many of them have elevated nitrate and selenium. Some of them have chromium.