



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY  
E4585 HOADLEY ROAD  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21010-5424

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

OCT 29 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rodney S. Skeen, Ph.D. I have had the privilege working with Dr. Skeen over the past thirteen (13) years in my capacity as the former Site Project Manager for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) and as the current Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity. During this time, Dr. Skeen served as a technical representative for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) on matters related to the destruction of chemical weapons at the UMCDF. The CTUIR was involved with this work since it is a federally recognized Indian Tribe that retains Treaty reserved rights on, and near, the Umatilla Chemical Depot. I have always found Dr. Skeen to be honest, direct, knowledgeable regarding the technical issues, and able to work collaboratively with diverse groups and individuals.

As the Umatilla Tribe's technical representative Dr. Skeen often had to represent Tribal environmental policies without direct governmental jurisdiction or authority at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Incorporating the goals of the CTUIR into the demilitarization efforts at Umatilla required Dr. Skeen to build consensus with local governments, state regulators, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army. It was his character attributes I mention above that enabled Dr. Skeen to be successful in this effort. Through sound technical analysis, honest and candid communication, and a respect for the goals of the collaborating jurisdictions he was able to build mutual trust with the parties and influence outcomes. An example of his success was the inclusion of Tribal human health risk based standards in the UMCDF RCRA<sup>1</sup> closure plan. These standards, which are more stringent than typical risk based standards, are being applied to the land area where the CTUIR expects to exercise their Treaty rights. Incorporating these standards into the site closure plan was the culmination of more than three years of negotiations with supporting technical analysis provided by Dr. Skeen. I am pleased to say that today, because of Dr. Skeen's persistence in working to include the Tribal standards, the Army is positioned to be able to join with the CTUIR and the state regulators to declare clean closure of the UMCDF.

In summary, I would offer my highest recommendation for Dr. Skeen. I am certain you will find him to be a valuable asset to your organization. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me by phone at (410) 652-8987 or by email at don.e.barclay.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Don E. Barclay  
Director

<sup>1</sup> RCRA denotes the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act