APPENDIX A

CONSULTATION LETTERS

This appendix will include consultation/approval letters between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding threatened and endangered species, and between other State and Federal agencies as needed. Letters currently supplied are from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the U.S. Department of Energy.

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Snake River Basin Office, Columbia River Basin Ecoregion
1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 368
Boise, Idaho 83709

February 23, 1998

Roger Twitchell
National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Officer
Department of Energy
Idaho Operations
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

Subject: Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project Species List
SP #1-4-98-SP-68 File #506.0000

Dear Mr. Twitchell:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is writing in response to your request for information about potential impacts to endangered species from the proposed Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment project area. It is our preliminary determination that, given the general nature of the proposal the project is unlikely to adversely impact any species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If you determine otherwise or require further assistance, please contact Susan Burch of this office at (208) 378-5265. Thank you for your interest in endangered species conservation.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Martin

Acting Supervisor, Snake River Basin Office

cc: IDFG, Idaho Falls
FWS-ES, Pocatello (Donahoo)

Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563
January 12, 1998

Alison Beck Haas
Snake River Basin Office
Columbia River Basin Ecoregion
1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 368
Boise, Idaho 83709

SUBJECT: Request For Species List (ARM-PA-98-004)

Dear Ms Beck Haas:

This is to request a species list to assist the Department of Energy (DOE) in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). DOE is preparing a draft EIS for The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The Notice Of Intent (NOI) to prepare this EIS was published in the Federal Register November 20, 1997, (62 FR 62025). The NOI provides background information, gives the purpose and need, and describes the proposed action and agency identified alternatives. Our schedule is to issue the Draft EIS in the spring, and the Final EIS in the summer of 1998. DOE's proposed action and agency identified alternatives would take place on the INEEL which is a 569,295 acre DOE reservation that occupies lands withdrawn from the public domain in south-east Idaho on the eastern Snake River Plain. All actions analyzed in the EIS would take place within or near the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC). The RWMC is located in the south-west portion of the INEEL in Township 2N, Range 29E, and occupies about 165 acres of the central portion of Section 18. The location and geographic relationship of these areas are shown on the attachment.

This EIS will analyze the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of a facility that would treat approximately 65,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste at the RWMC. The waste is mixed low level waste, alpha-contaminated mixed low level waste, and transuranic waste. The facility would be constructed within the fenced boundaries of the RWMC on previously disturbed ground. Treated waste would be transported to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Calsbad New Mexico. The environmental impacts of transportation and the operation of WIPP were addressed in DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS.

Please provide a list of threatened, endangered and candidate species and species proposed to be listed under the Endangered Species Act that may occur on the INEEL, and particularly in the vicinity of the RWMC. Also please identify any designated or proposed critical habitat near the INEEL, and any supplementary information you think may be used in our analyses. If you have any questions concerning this request or if you need further information concerning this EIS or other actions on the INEEL, please call me at (208) 526-0776.

Sincerely,

Roger Twitchell
National Environmental Policy Act
Compliance Officer

Attachment:

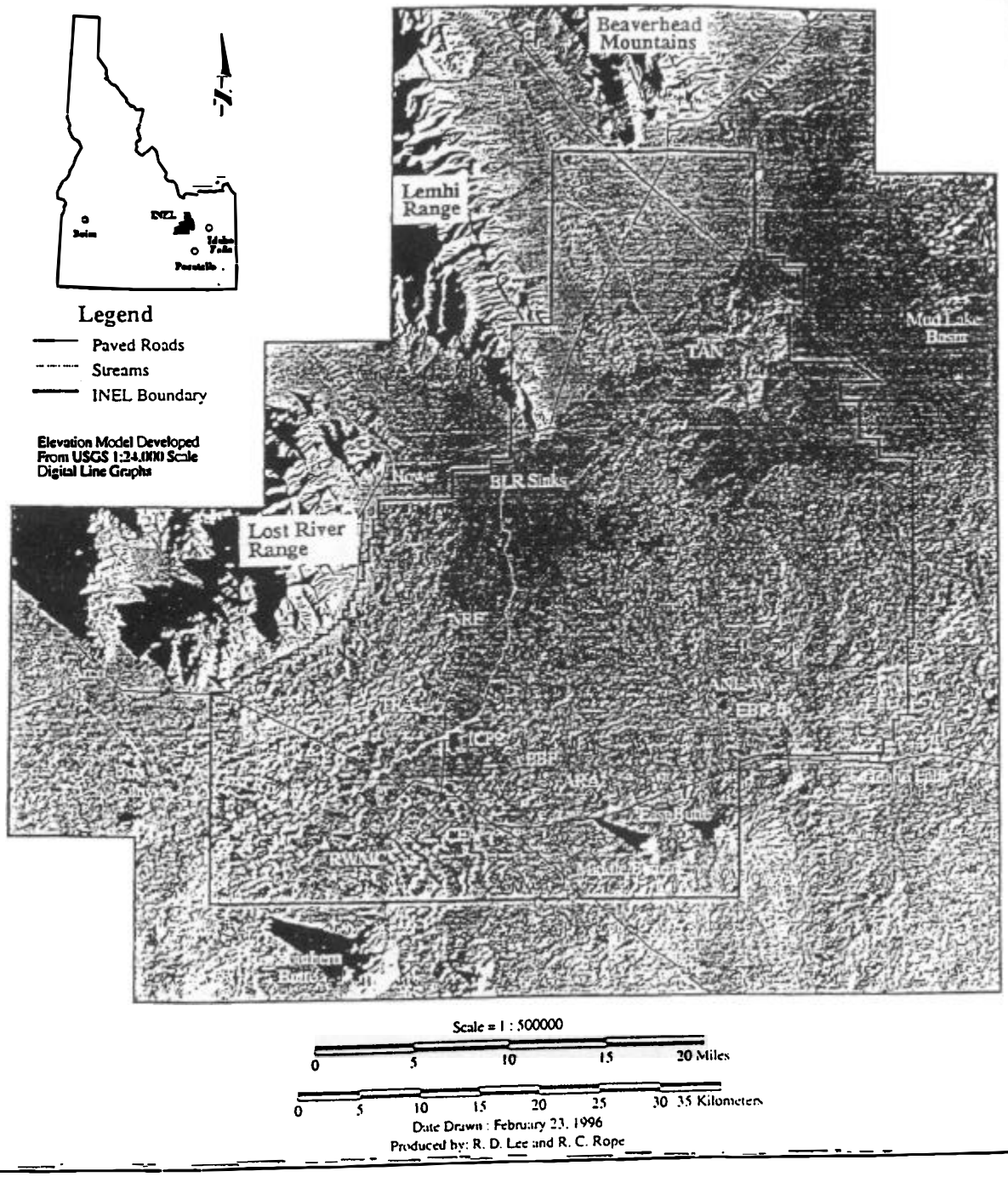

Figure 1. Physiographic setting of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Acronyms show locations of major facilities.