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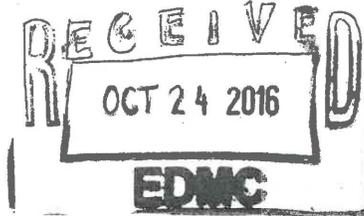
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 17, 2016

16-NWP-176

Mr. Kevin W. Smith, Manager  
Office of River Protection  
United States Department of Energy  
PO Box 450, MSIN: H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352



Re: Assessment of Potential Impacts on Tank Waste Retrievals due to Labor Concerns about Vapors

Reference: Letter 16-TF-0102, dated September 15, 2016, "Status Update Related to Tank Farm Vapors"

Dear Kevin:

1240188

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 2016, regarding the potential impact of labor concerns about Hanford tank farm vapors and the *Hanford Challenge v. Moniz* and *State of Washington v. Moniz*, (E.D. Wash.) court action. Your letter indicated these could impact the United States Department of Energy, Office of River Protection's (ORP's) progress towards tank waste retrieval milestones and deadlines in the Amended Consent Decree in *State of Washington v. Department of Energy*, Case No. 2:08-cv-5085-RMP (E.D. Wash.).

We read with interest the assessment of the potential impact these actions could have on the pace and cost of tank retrievals and other tank farm projects, prepared by the tank farm operations contractor Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS). We share ORP's concerns about the potential schedule delays identified in the chart in Enclosure 3 to the document entitled *Consent Decree/TPA Milestone Impacts* (WRPS-1602413 R2 REISSUE). We also have similar questions about the assumptions used to evaluate potential cost increases in Enclosure 2 of that document.

Therefore, we would appreciate receiving a copy of WRPS's response to ORP's September 8, 2016, request for additional information about WRPS's assumptions in developing its estimate of potential impacts to schedule and budget, and any other information you receive relevant to these issues.

Thank you again for sharing this information with us, and for your commitment to keep us informed of events that could impact ORP's ability to meet Consent Decree deadlines. If you have questions, please contact me at [alex.smith@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:alex.smith@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 372-7905.

Sincerely,

Alexandra K. Smith  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: See page 2



Mr. Kevin W. Smith  
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cc electronic:

Dennis Faulk, EPA  
Thomas Fletcher, USDOE-ORP  
Jon Perry, MSA  
Ken Niles, ODOE  
Jeff Lyon, Ecology  
Cheryl Whalen, Ecology  
Environmental Portal  
Hanford Facility Operating Record

cc: Rod Skeen, CTUIR  
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT  
Rex Buck, Wanapum  
Russell Jim, YN  
Steve Hudson, HAB  
Administrative Record  
NWP Central File  
USDOE-ORP Correspondence Control