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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

September 8, 1995

Mr. James Rasmussen
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: 3718-F, Alkali Metal Treatment and Storage Facility, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Unit Inspections

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) request for reduced frequency of RCRA inspections at the 3718-F facility. Inspections are required according to Washington Administrative Code 173-303-320 of all treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. The intent of the inspections are "to prevent malfunctions and deterioration, operator errors, and discharges which may cause or lead to the release of dangerous waste to the environment, or a threat to human health." This code goes on to say the "inspections need to be conducted often enough to identify problems before they can cause damage to human health or the environment."

The 3718-F unit is vacant of dangerous waste, is under controlled access, and is currently undergoing closure. Ecology concurs that weekly inspections are no longer necessary. Therefore, USDOE may opt to change the frequency of their inspections based on the probability of an incident occurring. As the Ecology unit manager, I require an inspection of the building and its surroundings be performed once every six months until closure certification is received by Ecology.

If you have any questions, please call me at (509) 736-3010.

Sincerely,

Clinton D. Stuart, 3718-F Unit Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

CS:sl

cc: Ellen Mattlin, USDOE
Dan Duncan, EPA
Fred Ruck III, WHC

Zach Knaus, WHC
Phillip Miller, WHC
Administrative Record

