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Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
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Richland, Washington 99352

-0017408

9105626

NOV 12 1991

November 12, 1991

91-RPA-008

Mr. Timothy L. Nord
Hanford Project Manager
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504-8711



Dear Mr. Nord:

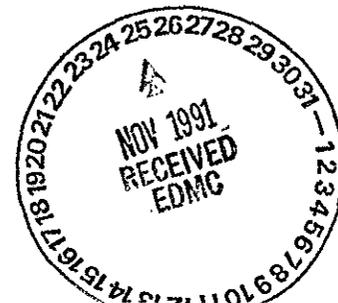
HEXONE TANK LIQUID LEVEL MONITORING

The DOE Field Office, Richland (RL) and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) have completed waste removal and distillation efforts at the hexone tanks (241-S-141 and 241-S-142). All hexone waste has been removed and only solid tar-like materials remain in the tanks.

The RL and WHC are discontinuing daily monitoring of the empty hexone tanks, effective December 2, 1991, for the following reasons:

- All hexone waste has been removed from the 22,750 gallon capacity tanks through pumping and numerous water flushes. Photographs of the interior of these tanks show that the remaining tar material is solid, and shallow puddles of water exist in the tar material. The total volume of liquid, as estimated from photographs, is less than 30 gallons.
- The liquid levels in the two tanks are monitored with nitrogen-purged weight factor bubbler dip tubes that are spaced two to three inches off the bottom of the tanks (equivalent to 60-120 gallons) to avoid plugging by tar residues. The weight factor equipment is not capable of detecting levels below the ends of the dip tubes and the computer equipment continuously displays a gallon volume equivalent to the dip tube level (60-120 gallons). Since the volume in the tanks has been reduced to a level below the instruments' detection capability, it is proposed to discontinue operation of the weight factor system.
- There is a very low potential for water intrusion.
- The tanks are undergoing closure. Hanford Federal Facility Compliance Order Milestone M-20-27 requires that a closure plan for the hexone tanks be submitted in November 1992.

Liquid level monitoring on the hexone tanks will be performed monthly to verify that no water intrusion has occurred.



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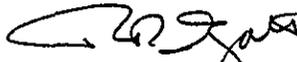
Mr. Timothy L. Nord
91-RPA-008

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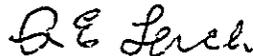
If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Mr. R. G. Holt, RL, on (509) 376-9989, or Mr. B. G. Erlandson, WHC, on (509) 376-5969.

Sincerely,



R. D. Izatt, Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy
DOE Field Office, Richland

EAP:PJK



R. E. Lerch, Manager
Environmental Division
Westinghouse Hanford Company

cc: P. T. Day, EPA
R. E. Lerch, WHC

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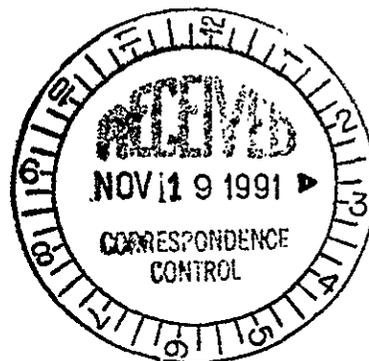
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subject: HEXONE TANK LIQUID LEVEL MONITORING

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