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Department of Energy

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9403688

JUN 07 1994



TOP:SB 94-TOP-091

Mr. David L. Lundstrom, Section Manager
200 Area
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 1386
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Lundstrom:

APRIL BACKLOG WASTE PROCESSING STATUS - ORDER 93NM-201

This letter summarizes activities associated with the State of Washington Department of Ecology Order 93NM-201. The status report describes both processing and implementing activities performed during April, 1994, under the "Waste Analysis Plan for Confirmation or Completion of Tank Farms Backlog Waste Designation," (Backlog WAP), DOE/RL-93-70, Revision 1.

Accomplishments

As of April 30, 1994, the following activities were completed for nonsoil drums:

- 1136 nonsoil containers were processed through Real Time Radiography (RTR). RTR of nonsoil drums is now complete.
287 nonsoil drums were opened at T Plant for visual inspection, quality control checks of RTR, and/or chemical analysis. Field processing of nonsoil drums is now complete.
45 nonsoil drums were removed from backlog in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Backlog WAP. Acceptance of nonsoil drums is 4% complete.

As of April 30, 1994, the following activities were completed for soil drums:

- 828 soil containers were weighed and dose rates were taken. These activities are now complete.
362 soil containers were processed through RTR. RTR was not able to penetrate all of these containers. According to Addendum 2 to the Backlog WAP these drums will be opened for visual inspection.



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- 66 soil containers were opened at T Plant for visual inspection, quality control checks of RTR, and/or chemical analysis. Field processing of soil containers at T plant is 24% complete.
- 34 soil containers were opened in the Permacon at the Central Waste Complex (CWC) for visual inspection, quality control checks of RTR, and/or chemical analysis. Field processing of soil containers at Permacon is now 34% complete.
- 81 soil containers (9%) were removed from backlog in accordance with Section 5.3 of the Backlog WAP.

The configuration control system in Solid Waste Information and Tracking System (SWITS) was completed for the backlog project. SWITS is now the central data base for all processing activities.

All implementation work was completed for the Permacon. Permacon operations to process soil containers began April 22, 1994.

Backlog Activities

Several activities continued or were completed during the month of April.

- Due to the inability of Advanced Systems Technology's (AST) x-ray equipment to penetrate all soil drums, significantly more drums must be opened than initially planned. This will result in additional time to process the soil drums, which must be made up in the schedule.
- Efforts to bring on the AST box x-ray equipment have been delayed even further because the contractor had to alter part of the equipment. The new scheduled start-up date for the box x-ray equipment is May 31, 1994. This delay will have to be made up at other stages in the process by either utilizing additional shifts and/or bringing on more personnel to process paperwork faster.
- Nonsoil drums have been processed through RTR and the quality control of the physical analysis is complete. Evaluation of the results in accordance with Section 5.6.3 of the Backlog WAP was completed. One container has been identified that had a significant discrepancy (GMD-H mask filter cartridge) not previously identified during RTR. No change to the processing is considered necessary, as this is only an isolated incidents.
- The 325 Building operated by Pacific Northwest Laboratory was temporarily shut down due to operational and safety concerns. Backlog chemical samples which have radiation levels that are too high to be sent offsite would have been be sent to this laboratory. The 222-S laboratory will be used to analyze these samples instead. However, the 222-S laboratory does not have the capability to analyze organic for characterization. To date, no backlog samples have been sent to either of these laboratories for analysis.

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- The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) and Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) believe that enough information has been obtained on the containers processed to date that physical and chemical processing of boxes under the Backlog WAP is not necessary. A proposed Addendum 3 will be discussed and submitted to Ecology detailing the technical basis for stopping further work.

Correspondence

Ecology was an active participant in the weekly backlog waste status meetings. In addition, the following correspondence took place:

- Ecology issued two letters on April 14, 1994. The first letter closed the investigation of training record accessibility for the backlog program. The second letter appointed Mr. Bob Wilson as the new point of contact for Ecology for backlog.
- On April 14, 1994, RL and WHC responded to the March 4, 1994 letter from Ecology. Information on backlog workshops and attendance rosters was provided although it was not considered formal training.
- On April 14, 1994, RL and WHC formally submitted proposed Addendum 2 to Ecology for their review in accordance with Section 1.4 of the Backlog WAP.

Schedule Assessment

- Processing of nonsoil drums is ahead of schedule. Unless further actions are identified during the review of the paperwork, all physical and chemical analysis under the Backlog WAP is completed.
- Processing of soil drums is behind schedule because of additional drums needs opening due to the RTR issues discussed above.
- Processing of boxes has not yet begun. The schedule to RTR has been delayed, as discussed above, due to delays in deployment of operation of the AST box x-ray equipment.

Projected Activities for May

- Complete visual inspection and chemical analysis of the soil drums.
- Submit and obtain approval for Addendum 3 proposing changes to the Backlog WAP process for boxes.

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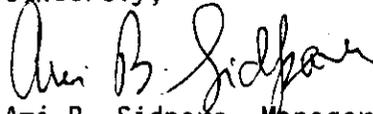
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- Bring AST equipment onsite and begin RTR of boxes.
- Continue with the final acceptance of containers at the CWC.

Should you have any questions on this report, please contact
Mr. C. O. Ruud, RL, at 376-0933 or Ms. C. J. Geier, WHC, at 373-5617.

Sincerely,



Ami B. Sidpara, Manager
Tank Operations Office

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Subject: APRIL BACKLOG WASTE PROCESSING STATUS - ORDER 93NM-201

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