

START

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10
Hanford Project Office
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October 3, 1991

Steven H. Wisness
Hanford Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, A5-19
Richland, Washington 99352



Re: Interim Stabilization of Single-Shell Tanks -
(Milestone M-05-00)

Dear Mr. Wisness:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Change Request for Interim Stabilization Milestone Changes for Fiscal Years 1991-1996. This change request, if approved, would eliminate all interim milestones for the stabilization and isolation of single-shell tanks. In place of these interim milestones, the Department of Energy would commit to develop integrated schedules for stabilization activities on Non-Watch List and Watch List Tanks by January and June 1992, respectively.

EPA does not agree that sufficient justification exists to support a complete deferral of all interim milestones, therefore, this change request, as written, is denied. This decision is consistent with the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) letter of October 2, 1991.

EPA does support modification of Interim Milestone M-05-03 through M-05-09, but these modifications should be made prior to submittal of any change package. EPA is committed to reducing the potential environmental impacts of future tank leaks through stabilization and isolation of single-shell tanks in a safe manner. EPA is willing to provide support to DOE and Ecology to develop a schedule for interim stabilization that preserves the M-05-00 milestone within the existing constraints.

This office will work closely with Ecology on this issue. If you have specific questions on the above, please contact Doug Sherwood at (509) 376-9529 of my staff.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Day
Paul T. Day
Hanford Project Manager

cc: George Kifer, EPA
Sam Nord/Megana Larchen, Ecology
T. Veneziano, WHC



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