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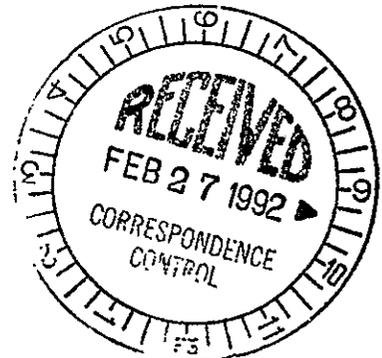
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Department of Energy

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Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

FEB 24 1992



92-TPA-030

Mr. Roger F. Stanley  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
P. O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Stanley:

### TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM (TWRS) MILESTONE NEGOTIATIONS

Reference: Letter, R. F. Stanley to J. H. Anttonen, "Proposed TPA Milestones for the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS)," dated February 14, 1992.

I share your disappointment that the ongoing TWRS Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) milestone negotiations did not produce milestones by the end of January 1992, per the goal established by the December 16, 1991, conference call between Mr. Leo Duffy, Ms. Christine Gregoire and Mr. John Wagoner. Contrary to the implications of your letter, I feel that significant progress has been made to identify meaningful interim and target milestones in support of the Hanford Waste Vitrification Project (HWVP) hot startup in December 1999. U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Field Office (RL) senior management met four times with the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) during the month of January 1992, and significant strides were made on identifying applicable milestones. I may note that your unavailability at the fourth meeting had a profound impact on the ability to obtain closure on proposed milestones by the end of January 1992. Furthermore, repeated attempts early in February 1992, to conclude negotiations did not materialize because of incompatible schedules between RL and Ecology.

RL believes that the current proposed milestones (interim and target) have far exceeded the original commitment by our senior management. Milestone M-03-03 established not only a milestone for the completion of HWVP detailed design but included the completion of the Vitrification Building detailed design. Milestone M-02-02, "Incorporate additional interim milestones to support pretreatment of double-shell tank waste" contains milestones designed

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to move the pretreatment program towards an informed decision on how to best approach the pretreatment of waste prior to vitrification. RL is not trying to delay or defer tough decisions nor are we "...setting the stage for significant delays to construction of advanced pretreatment facilities." To the contrary, RL is laying a strong planning foundation on which to build a successful pretreatment program. We do not advocate guessing at the results of the planning process and consequently have not proposed any milestones associated with the TRUEX process.

It is RL's position that no interim or major milestones will be added to the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) that are not based on solid planning. This is essential in order to provide all parties including the public a reasonable assurance that the milestones are valid and achievable. If the parties desire to have milestones for the purpose of tracking activities that are not on the critical path, then large milestones would be appropriate.

RL is following a course of action that took many months of intense contractor and RL analysis, planning, and execution to accomplish. The Secretary of Energy was provided a briefing on Hanford and U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarter's efforts in December 1991, and subsequently sent guidance to RL establishing the framework to develop the rebaseline program planning the first leg of which is the TWRS Decision Plan. The Decision Plan will be updated every six weeks. Discrepancies between activities in the Decision Plan and established TPA milestones will be reviewed, analyzed and, if necessary, a change request will be submitted to the Regulators with justifiable and defensible reasons in accordance with the provisions of the TPA. Potential discrepancies should be anticipated. The baseline assumptions have changed considerably since establishing the TPA milestones in this area in 1989. The flexibility in establishing a new integrated baseline would possibly be hindered if the dates established under the original assumptions were not considered negotiable under the new set of assumptions. This is not to say that the TPA dates are considered easily changed, indeed the TPA commitments lie at the heart of our program planning.

RL has supplied numerous draft and final copies of pertinent TWRS documents to Ecology as well as funded and meaningful participation by Ecology and their subcontractor in TWRS planning activities. However, Ecology must recognize that the diversity and complexity of the TWRS program involves a potential for controversial positions between RL and its contractors. In principle RL will resist the release of Draft contractor documents that could be confusing, cause unnecessary concern, or cause unnecessary effort. The Draft Implementation Plan requested by your TPA Project Management Office on February 19, 1992, falls into this category. When we are confident in the thoroughness and accuracy of the information, we will provide it you.

The proposed TPA milestones enclosed with your letter will be evaluated and a RL position will be brought to the next negotiating team meeting. It is my position that the negotiation continue to focus on the Fiscal Year 1993

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Mr. Stanley  
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milestones which support the December 1999, HWVP hot startup per the Conference Call Record.

If you have any questions I may be reached on (509) 376-7391 or you may also contact Mr. Ron Izatt on (509) 376-5441.

Sincerely,

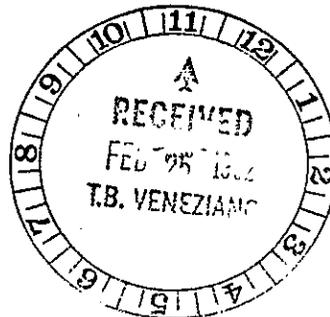


J. H. Anttonen, Assistant Manager  
Tank Waste Disposal

EAP:SHW

cc ~~T. B. Veneziano, WHC~~  
P. T. Day, EPA  
D. B. Jansen, Ecology

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Author: J. H. Anttonen, RL      Addressee: R. F. Stanley, Ecology      Correspondence No.: Incoming: 9201176

Subject: TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM (TWRS) MILESTONE NEGOTIATIONS

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