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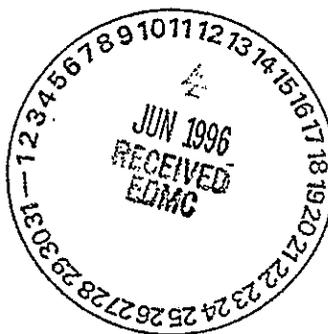


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

June 4, 1996

Mr. James McClusky, Director
TWRS Waste Storage Division
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. McClusky:

Re: Initial Review of Fiscal Year 1997 Tank Waste Analysis Program as required by
Milestone M-44

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has begun its review of the *Draft Fiscal Year 1997 Tank Waste Analysis Plan* (WHC-SD-WM-PLN-120, Rev. A) (TWAP) submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) to fulfill the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement or TPA) Milestone M-44-01. During Ecology's initial review, the TWAP was found to contain a fatal flaw. In **Section 3.2 Tank Characterization Reports Identified For Fiscal Year 1997** of the TWAP, the following statement is made:

"Appendix D lists the 40 TCRs currently identified for FY 1997. However, in accordance with the current RL Multi-Year Program Plan, only 15 of these TCRs will be issued in FY 1997."

As stated in Ecology's letter of May 21, 1996, failure of USDOE to provide adequate funding to meet TPA Milestone M-44 places this milestone in jeopardy. Ecology cannot and will not accept any number of Tank Characterization Reports (TCRs) less than those dictated by M-44-10. In addition, Ecology will not entertain changes to M-44. Therefore, in order for this document to fulfill M-44-02 and M-44-10, USDOE must fund the characterization program to the level necessary to produce the TPA required tank characterization data.

Mr. James McClusky

June 4, 1996

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Ecology will provide additional comments within the next 45 days. If you have questions on this topic, contact me at (509) 736-3018.

Sincerely,

 Dave Wright for

Dr. Alex Stone
Characterization Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

AS:mf

cc: Jackson Kinzer, USDOE
Maureen Hunemueller, USDOE
Jim Thompson, USDOE
Wen Liou, USDOE
Susan Eberlein, WHC
Len Ermold, WHC
Ron Lerch, WHC
Merilyn Reeves, HAB
Richard Tontodonato, DNFSB
Administrative Record, TWRS Characterization