



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

August 1, 1996

Mr. George H. Sanders, Administrator  
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement  
U. S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Sanders:

Re: U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE) letter dated June 28, 1996, "Withdrawal of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Change Form M-44-96-01

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) was pleased to receive the above referenced letter, withdrawing Change Form M-44-96-01, and looks forward to resolving this issue.

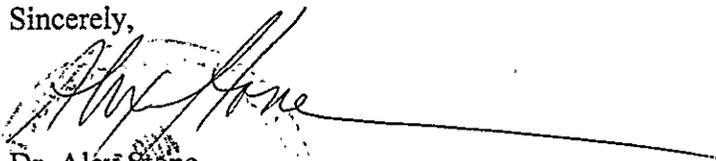
However, Ecology would like to make clear, withdrawal of this Change Request Form was a decision reached solely by USDOE. Ecology appreciates your concern over the content of the change package; however, we are fully aware of the issues which surround characterization. Ecology had reviewed the change request form and found it lacked adequate justification and contradicted commitments made to other organizations, such as, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), a group often referenced within the change package. Without adequate justification for a Tri-Party Agreement Change Form, Ecology cannot support any changes to the current Tri-Party Agreement.

Ecology endorses USDOE's commitment to fulfilling the current requirements of the M-44 Characterization Milestones and looks forward to evaluating the results of the data obtained, as it addresses the various programmatic needs of the Tank Waste Remediation System.

Mr. George H. Sanders  
July 31, 1996  
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If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (509) 736-3018.

Sincerely,



Dr. Alex Stone  
Characterization Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

AS:sb

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA  
Chris Bader, USDOE  
Maureen Hunemueller, USDOE  
Jackson Kinzer, USDOE  
Jim McClusky, USDOE  
Jim Thompson, USDOE  
Susan Eberlein, WHC  
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Rich Tontodonato, DNFSB  
Marilyn Reeves, HAB  
Administrative Record: M-44 & DST Part B Permit