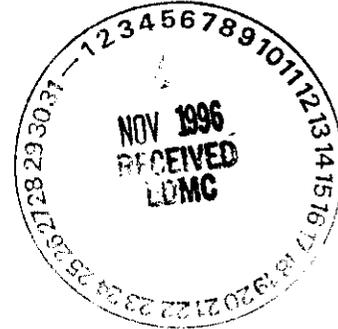




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Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

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97-EAP-040

Mr. Michael A. Wilson  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Section  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
1315 West Fourth Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018

Dear Mr. Wilson:

PROCEDURAL CLOSURE CERTIFICATION UPDATE FOR THE 324 SODIUM REMOVAL PILOT PLANT

The State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) requested that the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) update the certification submitted to Ecology in 1989 for the 324 Sodium Removal Pilot Plant. Discussions between Ecology and RL at the monthly Project Manager Meetings have clarified that the certification update could be a letter covering the time period between the 1989 submittal and the present.

The certification package submitted in 1989 provided verification of documentation that the operations covered by the existing Part A, Form 3 did not meet the definition of a treatment, storage, and/or disposal (TSD) facility as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or the State of Washington Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC). RL has reviewed the records and activities which have occurred in the 324 Sodium Removal Pilot Plant since 1989 and has found no evidence to conclude, or suggest, that this facility was used in a manner constituting "treatment, storage, and/or disposal" as defined by regulations promulgated under either the WAC, or the RCRA.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Ellen Mattlin, of my staff, at (509) 376-2385.

Sincerely,

James E. Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental Assurance, Permits,  
and Policy Division

EAP:EMM

cc: Administrative Record  
M. Jaraysi, Ecology  
R. Jim, YIN  
D. Powaukee, NPT  
J. Wallace, Ecology  
J. Wilkinson, CTUIR