



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

October 6, 1998

Mr. Alex Teimouri
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Teimouri:

Re: Car Wash Wastewater Discharges



Enclosed are the two Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) guidance documents on car wash wastewater that you requested (one is just a summary of the other). These documents were published in 1995 along with Ecology's new policy that a state waste discharge permit would not be issued to cover car washing operations as described in the attached *Vehicle and Equipment Washwater Discharges* (WQ-R-95-56) if the operations are using Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with this document. This policy was one of the drivers to eliminate the third miscellaneous streams discharge permit that was to cover car washing and was to be due in 1997. As long as the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) follows the enclosed, no discharge permit is required to wash cars.

Last year, Ecology had inspected the various car wash locations on the Hanford Site and determined a permit was not required. None of the car wash locations appeared to allow for surface water contamination, which is the main thrust of the BMPs. Ecology is now concerned at your recent report that the contractors doing car washing on site are unaware of any BMPs to follow. This does not necessarily mean they have started to do it wrong, but USDOE should be providing their contractors with information on the appropriate BMPs to follow, just to be sure. Please make sure your car wash contractors are provided with the enclosed documents and follow the appropriate BMPs. If the BMPs are not done voluntarily, then they will be added to a discharge permit and made enforceable.

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If you have any further questions, please contact me at (509) 736-3047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Dougherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

David S. Dougherty, P.E.
Miscellaneous Streams Permit Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

DD:sb
Enclosures

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA
William Adair, FDH
J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
Donna Powaukee, NPT
Russell Jim, YIN
Mary Lou Blazek, OOE
Administrative Record: Liquid Effluents Consent Order