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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

May 11, 1999

Mr. James E. Rasmussen, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: Coverage of a Hydrotest Discharge Under Permit ST 4508

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the *Submittal of Request for Hydrotest Discharge Coverage Under State Waste Discharge Permit ST 4508 (99-EAP-281)* that was submitted by the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) on May 5, 1999. This submittal requests that a planned hydrotest discharge at the Hanford Patrol Training Academy be covered by State Waste Discharge Permit ST 4508. The proposed hydrotest discharge is planned to achieve all conditions in the Permit with the exception of the flow limits.

Ecology is satisfied, based on the information provided, that the proposed discharge would be appropriate to be covered by the Permit. The planned flow does exceed the maximum flow limit for potable line flushing that is listed in the Permit, but Ecology understands that this new line is also meant for fire protection water. Fire system testing is exempt from permitting and can be done at the flows required to meet fire protection standards. USDOE's plan to comply with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) requirements in the Permit is the sensible way to handle this discharge.

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USDOE may commence the proposed hydrotest discharge upon receipt of this letter. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (509) 736-3047.

Sincerely,



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

DD:ld

cc: Doug R. Sherwood, EPA
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