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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 14, 2003

Mr. James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Division
Office of River Protection
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: Completion of Dangerous Waste Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Contact-Handled Transuranic Mixed Waste Packaging and Interim Storage Facility.

Completion of Notice of Intent

On May 15, 2003, the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), Office of River Protection submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the Contact-Handled Transuranic Mixed Waste Packaging and Interim Storage Facility pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-281. This letter serves as notification of Ecology's written tentative decision to approve the demonstration of compliance with the requirements of WAC 173-303-281. Ecology will hold a public hearing in accordance with WAC 173-303-282-(4)(c)(ii) and accept comments on its tentative decision for a minimum of 45 days. Subsequent to evaluation of all public comments, Ecology shall make a final decision regarding demonstration of compliance with WAC 173-303-281. While achieving compliance, there was a lack of robustness to the submittal, and Ecology would like to reiterate clarification of the following two key issues:

- The USDOE has described proposed activities in this unit as "packing" and "storage"; however, the activities described in Section 2.2. also meet the following definition of "Treatment" provided in WAC173-303-040:

"Treatment" means the physical, chemical, or biological processing of dangerous waste to make such wastes non dangerous or less dangerous, safer for transport, amenable for energy or material resource recovery, amenable for storage, or reduced in volume, with the exception of compacting, repackaging, and sorting as allowed under WAC-173-303-400(2) and 173-303-600(3).

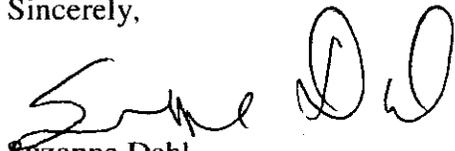


Mr. James E. Rasmussen
July 14, 2003
Page 2

- *This proposed activity does not qualify as an expansion under interim status as described in WAC-173-303-805. However, the unit may be added to the existing Hanford Facility Permit provided final status permitting requirements are met.*

To avoid delays in the permitting process, Ecology anticipates a more fully developed Part B Permit Application (Revision 0). Again, USDOE and contractor staff are strongly encouraged to discuss issues associated with this unit, with Ecology, to clarify any questions and/or concerns. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact me at (509) 736-5705 or Jean Vanni at (509) 736-3046.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Dahl
Tank Waste Disposal Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
Keith Klein, DOE
Billie Mauss, ORP
Roy Schepens, ORP
Robert Yasek, ORP
Ed Aromi, CHG
Felix Miera, CHG
Al Conklin, DOH
Todd Martin, HAB
J. Wilkinson, CTUIR
Donna Powaukee, NPT
Russell Jim, YIN
David Mears, WA AG
Gary Ballew, Benton County
Adam Syall, Benton County
Ken Niles, OOE
Administrative Record: Tank waste treatment requirements