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

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02-GWVZ-0029

Ms. Jane Hedges  
Perimeter Areas Section Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
1315 W. Fourth Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

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AUG 22 2003  
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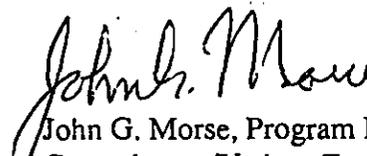
Dear Ms. Hedges:

NOTIFICATION OF EXCEEDANCE OF CRITICAL RANGE FOR pH IN 1301-N FACILITY

The 1301-N Liquid Waste Disposal Facility is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act facility in the 100-N Area, which has been monitored under an interim-status detection program (40 CFR 265.92). The average result of quadruplicate samples from downgradient well 199-N-3 in March 2002 was 7.25, which was below the lower limit of the critical range for pH (7.34 to 8.44). The critical mean was re-calculated for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002, which resulted in a narrower range of values for pH than had previously been used. The measurements were in line with the historical trend, so no verification sampling was required. We believe the low pH in well 199-N-3 is part of the overall distribution of pH in 100-N Area groundwater, and does not indicate contamination from the facility.

If you want to discuss this matter further or require additional information, please contact Marvin J. Furman, Groundwater/Vadose Zone Project, at (509) 373-9630.

Sincerely,

  
John G. Morse, Program Manager  
Groundwater/Vadose Zone Project

GWVZ:MJF

cc: R. J. Landon, BHI  
S. P. Luttrell, PNNL  
J. V. Borghese, CHI