



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

MAY 21 2001

01-GWVZ-023

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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EDMC

Dear Ms. Hedges:

NOTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE EXCEEDANCE AT THE NON-RADIOACTIVE DANGEROUS WASTE LANDFILL (NRDWL)

NRDWL is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act facility in the 600 Area (southeast of the 200 East Area and adjacent to the Solid Waste Landfill), which has been monitored under an interim-status detection program (40 CFR 265.92). The average result of quadruplicate samples from downgradient wells 699-25-34A and 699-25-34B exceeded the critical mean value for specific conductance in February and March 2001. The field measurements were in line with historical trends, so no verification sampling was required.

Specific conductance is an indicator parameter under interim-status regulations. Because levels in downgradient wells have been determined to be statistically different from background, the two following actions are required:

"The owner or operator must provide written notice . . . within seven days . . . that the facility may be affecting groundwater quality. [40 CFR 265.93(d)(1)]; and

Within 15 days after notification under paragraph (d)(1) of this section, the owner or operator must develop and submit to the Regional Administrator a specific plan . . . for a groundwater quality assessment program at the facility. [40 CFR 265.93(d)(2)]"

This letter fulfills the first requirement. The specific conductance anomaly is presently hypothesized to be caused by nonhazardous constituents (sulfate, chloride, magnesium, and calcium) from the adjacent Solid Waste Landfill. A report will be prepared to address the second requirement and this will serve as both the assessment plan and the assessment report.

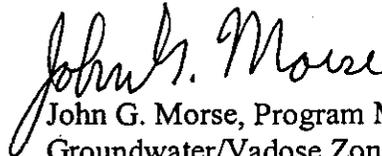
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If you want to discuss this matter further or require additional information, please contact Marvin J. Furman at (509) 373-9630.

Sincerely,


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

GWVZ:MJF

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