



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

December 18, 2003

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EDMC

Mr. Joel Hebdon
Regulatory Compliance & Analysis Division
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A3-04
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Hebdon:

**Re: Modification of Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
Permit to Address Procedural Closure of the Radioactive Liquid Waste Tank (RLWT)
Within the 325 Hazardous Treatment Unit**

On October 17, 2003, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received a certified request, in accordance with the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-810(13), for the removal of the RLWT from the Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) unit located in the Radiochemical Processing Laboratory, of the 325 Hazardous Treatment Unit. The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) requested a procedural closure via the Hanford Federal Facilities Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) procedural closure process as provided in Section 6.3.3 used for units which were classified as being a TSD unit but were never actually used to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste.

Ecology has reviewed the Technical Data Synopsis and conducted a physical inspection of the RLWT; the lines leading into the RLWT were valved closed and locked, and all lines were physically observed to verify that no evidence of waste is present and that no physical modifications have been made.

Based on the information submitted by USDOE, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the research of historical data conducted by Ecology, Ecology agrees that a procedural closure of the RLWT is appropriate as outlined in Section 6.3.3 of the Tri-Party Agreement.

Ecology's Public Involvement team has drafted a schedule to proceed with closure of the RLWT. The required legal advertisement will run on January 18, 2004, and the 45-day public comment period is scheduled to begin on January 21, 2004 and end on March 8, 2004. After the public comment period is completed, Ecology will communicate the final decision within 30 days.

Mr. Joel Hebdon
December 18, 2003
Page 2

If there are any questions regarding this letter, please contact Michelle Anderson-Moore at (509) 736-5714.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Wilson
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: Theresa Aldridge, USDOE
Tony C. McKarns, USDOE
Eugene Grohs, PNNL
Alice Ikenberry, PNNL
Harold Tilton, PNNL
Todd Martin, HAB
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Russell Jim, YN
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~~Administrative Record: 325 Hazardous Waste Treatment Units (T-3-4)~~
Environmental Portal, FH