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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 18, 2004

Mr. K. Mike Thompson
Richland Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A6-38
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Re: Proposed Class 2 Groundwater Modifications of the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit Attachment 33 to the Hanford Facility RCRA Permit, the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF), the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins, and the 300 Area Process Trenches (04-OES-0042)

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has received and reviewed the above referenced proposed Class 2 groundwater permit modifications. Ecology has determined that the proposed Class 2 modifications represent substantial alterations of the above referenced units groundwater monitoring programs, and as such do not meet the criteria of Class 2 modifications, and are hereby denied procedurally pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-830(4)(b)(vi)(A)(II) and substantively pursuant to the groundwater protection standards of WAC 173-303-645.

In making this determination, Ecology applied WAC 173-303-830 criteria for Class 2 and 3 modifications. WAC 173-303-830 specifies: Class 2 modifications apply to changes that are necessary to enable a permittee to respond in a timely manner to waste stream changes, technological advancements, and new regulations that can be implemented without substantially changing the conditions of the permit; Class 3 modifications substantially alter the facility or its operation.

Ecology also considered the groundwater protection standards of WAC 173-303-645 as they apply to the LERF, the 300 Area Process Trenches, and the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins. Ecology's review concluded the proposed modifications either did not meet the applicable groundwater protection standards of WAC 173-303-645 or were not accompanied with adequate explanation or information by which Ecology could determine how groundwater protection standards would be met.

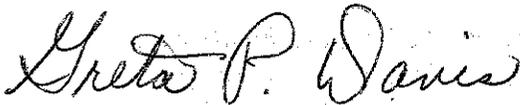
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Additionally, each of the RCRA units for which permit modifications were proposed reside in CERCLA Operable Units for which interim Records of Decision (RODs) have been issued and for which no final groundwater remedial decisions have been made. Therefore, Ecology will require the groundwater protection standards of WAC 173-303-645 be satisfied in relation to RCRA land-based units to ultimately support remedy selection and issuance of final RODs.

Again, the United States Department of Energy and contractor staff are encouraged to discuss proposed modifications with Ecology's unit managers to clarify any questions or concerns.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact John Price at (509)-372-7921 or Dib Goswami at (509)-372-7902.

Sincerely,



Greta P. Davis
RCRA Permit Coordinator
Nuclear Waste Program

GD:AH:JP:DG:nc

cc: Joel Hebdon, USDOE
Nick Ceto, EPA
Richard Gurske, DFSH
Todd Martin, HAB
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Patrick Sobotta, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Ken Niles, ODOE
Barbara Jarvis, Chair, Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board
Administrative Record: Hanford Facility RCRA Permit, 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins, 300 Area Process Trenches, LERF