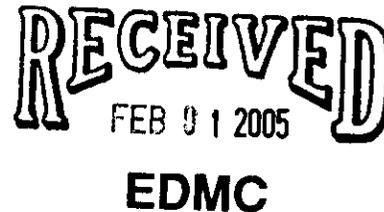




January 19, 2005

Keith A. Klein, Manager
 Richland Operations Office
 U.S. Department of Energy
 PO Box 550, MS A7-50
 Richland, Washington 99352



Dear Mr. Klein: *Keith*

Re: Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) Decommissioning

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to consider deferring portions of the Fast Flux Test Facility Decommissioning and Demolition (D&D) project until after higher priority cleanup projects at Hanford have been completed. While we support defueling, removal of liquid sodium, and other actions required to place the facility in a min-safe configuration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) believe that it may be appropriate to defer final D&D actions, given the reality of increasingly tight cleanup budgets at Hanford. We were recently briefed by your staff on the final FY 2005 budget; it is increasingly apparent to us that budgets are tight and will get tighter. We understand that in 2006, resources devoted to cleanup at Hanford are anticipated to decrease from 2005 levels.

Competing demands for increasingly scarce cleanup resources compel us to focus on those projects that have the greatest potential to address environmental risk; FFTF D&D is not one of those projects. The \$45,714,000 FY 2005 budget allocation for FFTF represents a significant portion of the Hanford EM cleanup budget. It is our view that FFTF work should proceed only until it can be placed in a min-safe configuration, at which point those funds projected to support FFTF D&D should be shifted to higher priority cleanup projects.

We look forward to discussing this proposal with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Wilson
 Michael A. Wilson,
 NWP, Program Manager

Nick Ceto
 Nicholas Ceto, Program Manager
 Hanford Project Office