



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

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0055453

01-OMD-037

SEP 27 2001

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 W. Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Wilson:

SINGLE-SHELL TANK INTERIM STABILIZATION CONSENT DECREE TANKS 241-U-102 and 241-U-109 INTERIM STABILIZED AND COMPLETION OF MILESTONES D-001-04-T01 AND D-001-10V

In reference to Consent Decree No. CT-99-5076-EPS between the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Department of Energy, filed September 30, 1999, the purpose of this letter is to notify Ecology that Tanks 241-U-102 and 241-U-109 have been determined to meet the interim stabilization criteria delineated in the Consent Decree. This determination is based on the pump flow rates at the time pumping was stopped, current interstitial liquid levels, waste porosity assumptions of the Interim Stabilization Project Plan, video inspection of the waste surface, and preliminary calculations of drainable liquid pending equalization of waste liquid levels. Interim stabilization of Tanks 241-U-102 and 241-U-109 meets the September 30, 2001 Consent Decree deadline requiring that no more than "5% of Organic Complexed Pumpable Liquids" remain in single-shell tanks not yet interim stabilized which are covered by the Consent Decree. Interim stabilization of Tanks 241-U-102 and 241-U-109 also meets the April 15, 2002 "Projected Pumping Completion Date" for those tanks, although that is not an enforceable deadline under the Consent Decree.

At the completion of pumping on September 10, 2001, Tank 241-U-102 had: a) approximately 1300 gallons of supernate, b) approximately 32,800 gallons of drainable interstitial liquid, and c) a pump flow rate of 0.02 to 0.03 gpm. The Department of Energy estimates that the drainable interstitial liquid in Tank 241-U-102, after equalization is complete, will be 40,000 gallons.

At the completion of pumping on September 10, 2001, Tank 241-U-109 had: a) no supernate, b) approximately 35,400 gallons of drainable interstitial liquid, and c) a pump flow rate of 0.02 gpm. The Department of Energy estimates that the drainable interstitial liquid in Tank 241-U-102, after equalization is complete, will be 45,000 gallons.

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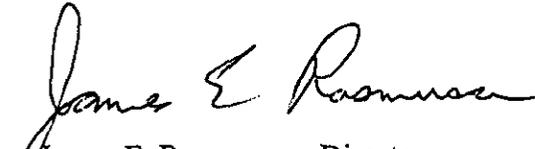
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Although the Department is confident in its determination of interim stabilization for Tanks 241-U-102 and 241-U-109, we intend to confirm these determinations after equalization of the liquid levels in Tanks 241-U-102 and 241-U-109. The time period for liquid levels to equalize in other previously interim stabilized tanks has ranged from three to ten months. The Department will continue to monitor liquid level changes and will submit the final volumes to Ecology when known. Consistent with our past practices under the Consent Decree, the Department of Energy is not seeking Ecology's concurrence with these two interim stabilization determinations. In the unlikely event that the final volumes of Tank 241-U-102 or Tank 241-U-109 exceed the interim stabilization criteria in the Consent Decree, the Department of Energy will notify Ecology and will take appropriate steps under the Consent Decree, including resumption of interim stabilization pumping.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dana Bryson, Director of the Operations and Maintenance Division, (509) 376-0947.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Management Division

OMD:DJW

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