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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 10, 2002

Mr. Joel Hebdon, Director  
Regulatory Compliance and Analysis Division  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-58  
Richland, Washington 99352

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 22 2002  
**EDMC**

Dear Mr. Hebdon:

Re: **ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR POST-CLOSURE MONITORING AT THE 300 AREA PROCESS TRENCHES**

- References:
- (1) Ecology letter to J.B. Hebdon, USDOE-RL, from M.A. Wilson dated February 6, 2002.
  - (2) USDOE-RL letter to M.A. Wilson, Ecology, from J.B. Hebdon, "Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit Modification and Request for Temporary Authorization for Post closure Monitoring at the 300 Area Process Trenches," 01-RCA-086, dated December 12, 2001.

In a letter from the United States Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office USDOE-RL to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) dated December 12, 2001 (Reference 2), USDOE-RL formally requested a permit modification and temporary authorization. The request was for implementation of Class 2 permit modifications to allow implementation of a new statistical approach for groundwater monitoring data evaluation to determine whether contaminant concentrations are decreasing with time. In a letter dated February 6, 2002 (Reference 1), Ecology granted the temporary authorization for 180 days in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-830(4)(e). The temporary authorization is effective until June 9, 2002.

Ecology is re-issuing the temporary authorization for an additional 180 days. The reissued temporary authorization is effective from **June 10 to December 9, 2002**. Ecology has determined that the reissued temporary authorization involving a Class 2 permit modification request is warranted to allow the authorized activities of WAC 173-303-830 to continue. The proposed Class 2 modifications will go out for public notice

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beginning on **May 20** and ending on **July 25th**. After the public comment period concludes, Ecology will notify USDOE of whether or not the modification has been approved.

Once the permit modification forms are approved, the final permit modification will replace the temporary authorization. At this point, the permit modification will be complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Singleton at (509) 736-5722, or John Price at (509) 736-3029.

Sincerely,



Michael Wilson  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

MW:KC:nc

cc: David Einan, EPA  
Michael Goldstein, EPA  
Marv Furman, USDOE  
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