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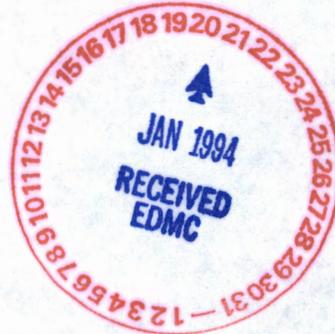


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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Mail Stop PV-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8711 • (206) 459-6000

October 1, 1990



Mr. Jim Thomas
Research Director
HEAL
South 325 Oak Street
Spokane, Washington 99204

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Re: Comment Letter on 616 NRDWSF and 300 WATS
Determination of Nonsignificance

I would like to thank you for your comments on the 616 Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility (616 NRDWSF) and the 300 Area Waste Acid Treatment System (300 Area WATS) SEPA Determination of NonSignificance (DNS) issued by Ecology. As I understand your comments, it is the Hanford Education Action League's (HEAL) position that Ecology has issued a DNS for each of the above-mentioned facilities without requiring adequate environmental documentation.

As you are aware, WAC 197-11-335(1) of the SEPA rules states, in part:

The lead agency shall make its threshold determination based upon information reasonably sufficient to evaluate the environmental impact of a proposal (197-11-055(2) and 197-11-060(3)). The lead agency may take one or more of the following actions if, after reviewing the checklist, the agency concludes that there is insufficient information to make its threshold determination:

- (1) Require an applicant to submit more information on subjects in the checklist (emphasis added).

The SEPA checklists for these projects were both submitted with additional documentation. The 300 Area WATS SEPA checklist was submitted with the 300 Area WATS Closure Plan, and the 616 NRDWSF SEPA checklist was submitted with a State Dangerous Waste Part B Permit Application. Each of these documents provides Ecology with the necessary information to make informed decisions regarding the potential environmental impacts associated with these activities. Based upon this information, a DNS is an appropriate determination.

The 616 NRDWSF Permit Application and the 300 Area WATS Closure Plan have been undergoing a rigorous plan review process. All of the concerns you have raised

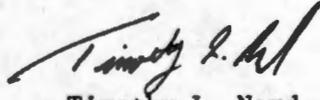
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were specifically addressed through the Notice of Deficiency (NOD) process. Prior to final approval of these documents, a 45 day public comment period will be provided. This will include formal public hearings if so requested. Further, these documents, along with the NODs are public record. I invite you or any other member of the public to review and comment on these documents.

Once again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to respond to the DNS. Should you have any further comments or concerns regarding this matter, please contact either myself or Mr. Toby Michelena of my staff at (206) 438-7021 or (206) 438-7016 respectively.

Sincerely,



Timothy L. Nord
Hanford Project Manager

cc: Toby Michelena

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