



0050261

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

February 17, 1999

Mr. James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Assurance, Permits, and Policy Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, Washington, 99352-0550



Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: Flow Monitoring Sensor Replacement at the 100-N Sewage Lagoon

The flow-monitoring sensor at the 100-N Sewage Lagoon effluent discharge point was damaged during the sub-zero weather in December, 1998. In order to prevent a recurrence, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Richland Operations Office, is installing a new ultrasonic Sigma 950 sensor, which remains out of the wastewater and should not be affected by freezing conditions.

Condition S8 of State Waste Discharge Permit ST-4507 requires that the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) approve the selection of flow monitoring equipment prior to installation. The specifications for the Sigma 950 sensor were received from USDOE on February 11, 1999. On February 12, 1999, Ecology visited the sewage lagoon to inspect the suitability of the location for this type of sensor.

The flowmeter installation as demonstrated to Ecology (in the northern end of the concrete box containing the outfall and weir assembly) should be adequately free of ripples to allow for proper sensor readings. Ecology, hereby, approves the installation of this sensor.



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If for any reason the wastewater surface is too variable for accurate readings, a baffle assembly could be easily installed at the proposed location to further calm any ripple-induced problems. The sensor needs to be inspected periodically to ensure that obstructions, such as spider webs or wind-borne debris, are not inhibiting the sensor's ultrasonic beam.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (509) 736-3011.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Skurla
Permit Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

SS:ld

cc: D.J. Ortiz, USDOE
Doug Sherwood, EPA
J.R. Wilkinson, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Russell Jim, YIN
Donna Powaukee, NPT
Bill Adair, FDH
Brian Dixon, Dyn
Mary Lou Blazek, OOE
Administrative Record: State Waste Discharge Permit ST-4507