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DON'T SAY IT --- Write It!

DATE: March 4, 1993

TO: Scott McKinney

FROM: Nancy Werdel

A5-19

Telephone: (509)376-5500

cc: Julie Erickson

SUBJECT: T-106 BOREHOLE DRILLING

I am a little perplexed by your phone call this morning, as I thought that Ecologys had already stated their opinion, to continue drilling, when we held the telecon with Krystyna Kowalik and Chuck Cline on Tuesday March 2, 1993.

It is clear that there is no obvious solution to the issue. On Tuesday, after the phone call, my management discussed the issue and the pros and cons of the alternatives. The information obtained to date shows the lithology and contamination of radionuclides to the current depth of 125 feet. After some discussion it was decided obtaining additional data on the lithology and chemical contamination in the lower levels below 125 feet would greatly improve our knowledge of the current situation. In addition, the information obtained would be used to develop the need and extent of other boreholes in this and possibly other tank farms. It was determined that the technical benefits of continued drilling outweigh the costs at this time.

DOE has given WHC the direction to continue drilling to the depth specified in the Work Plan. DOE will be giving direction to WHC to drill to the next fine grained strata, at which point another evaluation will be necessary. If it is found that radionuclides have not migrated to this depth, drilling could be terminated or a non-QC sample or field screening equipment could be used to determine if chemical contamination is present. DOE can then asses whether the benefits of continued drilling are justified when weighed against the costs of this borehole.

WHC has not completed the development of the plans for continued drilling. These will be forwarded to you when they are completed. I have not included the costs of the borehole to date in this transmittal. Though the costs for this borehole have been higher than planned, the information obtained is very beneficial to the ER Program.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me.

