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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

3100 Port of Benton Blvd • Richland, WA 99352 • (509) 372-7950

November 20, 2007

Mr. David A. Brockman
Richland Operations Office
United States Department of Energy
P. O. Box 550, MSIN: A7-50
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: United States Department of Energy (USDOE) M-91-45 Milestone *Annual Progress Report on Remote-Handled Mixed Waste and Contact-Handled Mixed Waste in Boxes/Large Containers*

Dear Mr. Brockman:

The Department of Ecology received the *Annual Progress Report on Remote-Handled Mixed Waste and Contact-Handled Mixed Waste in Boxes/Large Containers* attached to USDOE letter 07-AMC-0293 September 30, 2007. 0073953

We are pleased with the efforts presented in the Annual Progress Report for the 2007 Accomplishments and updates at the October 2007 Project Management Meeting, which include:

1. Revisions to the PermaFix Northwest (formerly Pacific EcoSolutions) Contract to expand capability to treat larger mixed low-level waste (MLLW) packages.
2. Approval of Critical Decision Zero (CD-0) documentation by USDOE for the Solid Waste Processing Center capital construction product. This approval will allow the next step to officially begin conceptual design for a facility (or modification of a facility) to treat large containers of both MLLW and transuranic waste and remote-handled (RH) waste.
3. Retrieval of Test Reactor Isotope General Atomics (TRIGA) RH waste from the low-level burial grounds.

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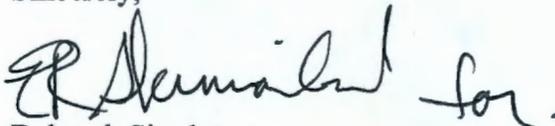
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Mr. David A. Brockman
November 20, 2007
Page 2

However, Ecology was disappointed that a schedule and associated volume of RH or large container wastes was not presented. Ecology is concerned that USDOE is in jeopardy of missing both M-91-15 Milestone, "Complete Acquisition of Facilities and/or Capabilities and Initiate Treatment or RH MLLW and Contact-Handled (CH) MLLW in Boxes and Large Containers," by June 30, 2008; and M-91-43 Milestone, ". . .Begin Treating RH MLLW and Boxes and Large Containers of CH MLLW to Meet LDR Treatment Requirements at a Minimum Rate of 300 Cubic Meters Per Year Beginning No Later Than June 30, of 2008."

If you have any questions, please contact me at 509-372-7923.

Sincerely,



Deborah Singleton
Waste Management Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

mm/pll

cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
Mark French, USDOE
Robert Piippo, USDOE
Greg Sinton, USDOE
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
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Susan Leckband, HAB
Ken Niles, ODOE
Administrative Record: M-91-03/PMP
Environmental Portal