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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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August 2, 2012

12-NWP-134

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

Re: Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit, Part VI Post Closure Unit 2, 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins, Dangerous Waste Portion, Revision 8C, ID No. WA 7890008967 (Permit)

Dear Mr. Dowell:

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) have had two formal meetings and four informal meetings since you received our Notification of Non-Compliance letter dated July 2, 2012. These meetings identified data and historical information indicating that the issues identified in the letter relate to ambiguities in Permit implementation. The discussions have helped both USDOE and Ecology better understand the context and underlying Permit issues of both the one item of non-compliance and the two items of concern identified in the letter.

Based on new information and a strong willingness expressed by USDOE to resolve groundwater, closure requirements, and Permit issues, Ecology is willing to work with USDOE in further meetings and discussions to focus on developing a solution that reflects full compliance with the regulatory requirements.

Additionally, the dangerous waste permit conditions must integrate groundwater clean-up activities for the 100-HR-3 groundwater operable unit and the 183-H Solar Evaporative Basins. The parties will work together to resolve the Permit ambiguities. USDOE will hold its first workshop with Ecology no later than January 15, 2013, to develop a draft schedule for completing the work described above. Pending a successful outcome of these discussions and contingent on timely progress on the part of USDOE, Ecology is willing to hold the corrective actions identified in the July 2, 2012, letter in suspension.

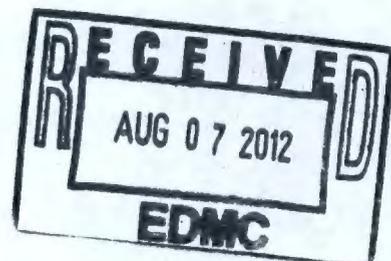
Please contact me if you have any questions at 509-372-7890 or kcon461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathy Conaway
Compliance Lead
Nuclear Waste Program

dc/dbm

cc: See next page



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Mr. Jonathan A. Dowell
August 2, 2012
Page 2

12-NWP-134

cc: Dave Bartus, EPA
Dennis Faulk, EPA
James P. Hanson, USDOE
Doug Hildebrand, USDOE
Fred Biebesheimer, CHPRC
Lorna Dittmer, CHPRC
David Dooley, CHPRC
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Susan Leckband, HAB
Ken Niles, ODOE
Administrative Record: 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins
Environmental Portal
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