



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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97-WDD-016

FEB 19 1997

Mr. Mike Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

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Dear Mr. Wilson:

COMPLETION OF HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) MILESTONE M-45-04A, "COMPLETE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR THE INITIAL SST RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS"

Attached is the Initial Single-Shell Tank (SST) Retrieval Systems (ISSTRS) design concept which meets the commitment for completion of Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-45-04A. The design concept is based upon providing Retrieval Systems for an equivalent tank farm utilizing hydraulic sluicing technology as per Project W-320 Tank 106-C Sluicing. In reference to Ecology's letter from S. E. McKinney, to B. L. Nicoll, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, RL, "The Initial Single-Shell Tank Retrieval System (ISSTRS) and Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-45-04," dated October 30, 1996, retrieval systems are to include all activities necessary to mobilize, retrieve, and transport the waste from SSTs to the Double-Shell Tank System.

Based on reductions in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 available funding, design efforts were curtailed following completion of a complete conceptual design package prior to final formal review and comment incorporation. This approach was agreed to by the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) as documented in the Project Manager's Meeting Minutes, dated December 5, 1996. The project schedule (Enclosure) can provide for completion of all design, procurement, and construction prior to June 30, 2003, utilizing schedule contingency, in accordance with Target Milestone M-45-04-T03 "Complete Construction for the Initial SST Retrieval Systems." This is based on a resumption of funding to continue design in FY 1998.

RL shares Ecology's concern on the utilization of hydraulic sluicing and associated potential for waste leakage during sluicing operations. The ISSTRS Project must address leakage as planned through the M-45-08 series. In addition, any available and demonstrated alternative retrieval technologies such as those being pursued through the Hanford Tanks Initiative, will be considered in relation to ISSTRS.

RL looks forward to continue working with Ecology to move forward with the SST retrieval activities in a cost effective and environmentally prudent manner. Ecology's input on moving forward with an appropriate design basis for the ISSTRS Project for FY 1998 activities is crucial in maintaining an appropriate project baseline.

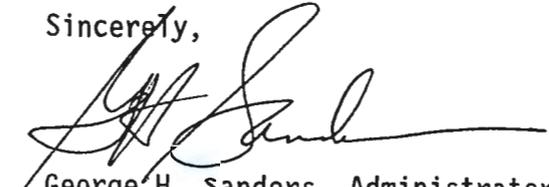
Mr. Mike Wilson
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If you have any questions, please contact Wendell Wrzesinski, on
(509) 376-6751.

Sincerely,



George H. Sanders, Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

WDD:WRW

Enclosure

cc w/encl:
S. McKinney, Ecology

cc w/o encl:
S. Dahl, Ecology
R. Murkowski, LMHC