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

99-EAP-382

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Mr. Douglas R. Sherwood
Hanford Project Manager
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT), SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST M-34-99-01, "COMPLETE K-WEST (KW) BASIN CASK FACILITY MODIFICATION," INITIATION OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION

On June 15, 1999, the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) provided the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a change control form for Interim Milestone M-34-14A, requesting a change of the completion date from September 30, 1999, to April 30, 2000. The fourteen-day period has expired without a formal response from EPA, which constitutes disapproval of the request per the requirements of the Tri-Party Agreement Action Plan, Section 12.3.3. As a result of EPA's disapproval of the M-34-99-01 change request, RL hereby gives notice of its decision to initiate dispute resolution as set forth in the Tri-Party Agreement, Article XVI.

RL looks forward to working collaboratively with EPA to resolve concerns regarding the Cask Loadout System (CLS). We would like to meet with you and your staff within the next week to discuss the specific technical issues associated with this change request and to provide an indepth discussion of our proposed path forward for resolution of the safety concerns with the CLS. We will be prepared at that time to provide a detailed answer to the two primary questions you have asked, pertaining to the logic behind April 30, 2000, as the proposed milestone completion date and how such an extension would not impact the start of fuel movement by November 30, 2000. If you have any questions, please contact me on (509) 376-6888.

Sincerely,

George H. Sanders, Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

EAP:MFJ

cc: J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
R. W. Rasmussen, DESH
R. F. Stanley, Ecology
S. B. Cherry, FDH
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Administrative Record, H6-06