



April 14, 1992

Steven H. Wisness
Tri-Party Agreement Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, A5-19
Richland, Washington 99352



Re: Justification for Continued Liquid Effluent Discharges

Dear Mr. Wisness:

We have completed negotiations on a number of milestones in the Tri-Party Agreement related to liquid effluent discharges at the Hanford Site. The proposed milestone changes are now out to public comment. Based on the verbal public comment we have received so far, it is apparent we will be asked to justify why certain liquid effluent discharges are being allowed to continue. This is a legitimate concern on the part of the public and it is important that we are able to give a concise, accurate answer in our response to comments. Our technical staff discussed all of the feasible options and the rationale for dealing with each waste stream during the negotiations, but to our knowledge the information was not documented as backup information in a consistent manner for the record. That information, written in a straightforward manner that is suitable for response to public comments, is clearly necessary at this time.

We are requesting that you provide this office with written information pertaining to continuing discharges of the 33 Phase I and Phase II liquid effluent streams. The information requested includes a short narrative describing why discharge of each of the streams scheduled to continue beyond June 1992 is necessary. This should include an objective analysis of the options considered and the rationale for eventually deciding that continued discharge, with or without negotiated restrictions, was the best alternative. We know that many factors were discussed during negotiations and, in some cases, a combination of several factors may have led to a negotiated decision.

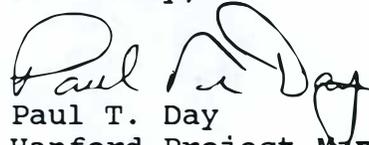
Please provide the requested information to this office by **April 30, 1992**, so we can incorporate it into our response to public comment and issue the response in a timely manner.

Additionally, we are requesting that the three parties meet as soon as possible to discuss two other issues related to the upcoming response to public comments. First, we need to discuss the timing and responsibilities for responding to comments to ensure that a timely and quality response is made. Second, we need to discuss any improvements to milestone M-17-00 that we can make as a result of verbal and written and public comment received. We would suggest that the Project Manager meeting on

April 23 would provide a good forum for the initial discussion. Followup meetings involving the technical staff who would be negotiating any further changes to M-17-00 and responding to public comments would obviously be necessary.

If you have questions on any of the above, please contact me at (509) 376-6623.

Sincerely,



Paul T. Day
Hanford Project Manager

cc: Dave Jansen, Ecology
Jim Mecca, DOE
George Hofer, EPA
Tim Veneziano, WHC



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Author	Addressee	Correspondence No.
S. H. Wisness, RL	P. T. Day, EPA	9202510B

SUBJECT: JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED LIQUID EFFLUENT DISCHARGES

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