



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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September 8, 2008

Mr. Ken Niles, Assistant Director
Oregon Department of Energy
625 Marion Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RECEIVED
SEP 11 2008
EDMC

Re: Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-91-01

Dear Mr. Niles:

Thank you for your August 15 letter regarding the project management plan for handling transuranic and mixed low-level wastes at Hanford. The Department of Ecology shares your concerns regarding the delays associated with the M-91-01 Milestone. We worked closely with the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) to establish realistic, achievable dates. We think the *M-91 Transuranic (TRU) Mixed/Mixed Low-Level Waste Project Management Plan* (HNF-19169, Rev. 4) accomplishes that and also takes a broad look at waste management needs.

Facilities and capabilities to support the retrieval, treatment, and disposal of remote handled transuranic waste are needed, and the timeline for construction has been prolonged. That timeline reflects that USDOE is limited by the level of funding and competing priorities such as construction of the Waste Treatment Plant, retrieving tank waste, completing the River Corridor, and closing the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

We agree that the 618-10/11 burial grounds are a high priority. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the lead regulatory agency for this work scope. They confirmed that the cleanup of these burial grounds will not be impacted by the delay of the facilities or capabilities as required by the M-91-01 milestone.

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

Sincerely,

Jane A. Hedges
Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

ds/pll

cc: See next page

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cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
Dave Brockman, USDOE
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Susan Leckband, HAB
Administrative Record: M-91-01
Environmental Portal