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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

April 21, 1998

Mr. Jim Mecca
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Mecca:

Re: Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF) Dangerous Waste
Permitting Process

Pursuant to Milestone 92-03, the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) submitted a Part A Permit Application Form 3 (Rev. 0, December 19, 1997) incorporating all Hanford Cesium/Strontium capsules on December 19, 1997. Since the capsules are physically stored at WESF, the Part A Form 3, also applies to areas within WESF directly related to capsule storage activities.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed its review of the latest revision to WESF Part A Form 3 and has the following comments:

Based on recent B Plant/WESF Project Manager meetings between USDOE and Ecology, the original WESF Part A Form 3, dated December 19, 1997, was revised. This revision was submitted to Ecology on March 25, 1997. The latest revision has the same date and revision number as the original document, which was submitted in December 1997. The date and the revision will require updating before Ecology will give final approval.

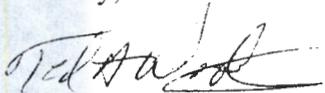
Ecology is concerned that USDOE has not yet indicated any plans to submit an operational Part B application for WESF. Since all indications are that WESF will be indefinitely storing all Cesium/Strontium capsules until the appropriate treatment for these capsules is available, a Part B Application must be submitted for storage of mixed waste. However, Ecology does understand that a commercial use could still be found for the capsules. If during the permitting process a commercial use is found, Ecology will work with USDOE to adjust the permitting requirements for the capsules to accommodate such an opportunity.

Mr. Mecca
April 21, 1998
Page 2

The only Tri-Party Agreement milestone for WESF permitting activities is M-92-03. Therefore, an additional milestone will be required for WESF Part B Application submittal. Ecology requests a meeting be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss an agreeable/appropriate schedule for delivering a Part B Permit Application between Ecology, USDOE, and the responsible contractor.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at (509) 736-3012.

Sincerely,



Ted A. Wooley
B Plant/WESF Project Manager

TAW:ch

cc: Cliff Clark, USDOE
Dave Evans, USDOE
Ron Morrison, FDH
Administrative Records: Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility

bcc: Moses Jaraysi, Ecology
Ron Skinnarland, Ecology
Roger Stanley, Ecology
Central Files: Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility