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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

3100 Port of Benton Blvd • Richland, WA 99354 • (509) 372-7950

May 15, 2008

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EDMC

Ms. Shirley J. Olinger, Manager
Office of River Protection
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450, MSN: H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Single-Shell Tank (SST) Retrieval Selection and Sequence Document, RPP-21216,
Revision 3, Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (HFFACO) Milestone
M-45-02N

Dear Ms. Olinger:

The Department of Ecology appreciates your submittal of the referenced document. This document was provided to meet the requirements of HFFACO Milestone M-45-02N, "Submit Biennial Updates to SST Retrieval Sequence Document and Double Shell Tank Space Evaluation Document and Ecology Concurrence of Additional Tank Acquisition with 60 Days."

Ecology completed our review. We've determined that the document must provide:

1. A model evaluation using the Ecology retrieval assumptions, with no restriction on the number of simultaneous retrievals in the southwest quadrant, calculating the necessary amount of new double shell tank (DST) space.
2. Additional detail in sections 5.2.1, "Potential Double-Shell Tank Space Options," and 6.6, "Sensitivity of the Ecology Case to Double-Shell Tanks Capacity" to evaluate the pros and cons of additional DST space. This text will be based on the results of the requested evaluation in item 1 through the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) start-up.
3. An evaluation of the single shell tank (SST) retrieval completion date by supplying high level waste (HLW) at an optimum feed blend. This must address the results and evaluate a maximum blending case, unrestrained by risk-based retrieval or tank farm closure objectives. "Unrestrained" means retrieving SSTs, based on optimizing blending and maximizing waste loading in the HLW melters, rather than prioritizing the retrieval sequence based on retrieving high risk tanks first. Include the assumption that retrieval technology performance would not be a constraint. Two items that could be considered are increasing the number of simultaneous retrievals and that the Mobile Retrieval System performs as well as Modified Sluicing for retrievals.



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April 3, 2007
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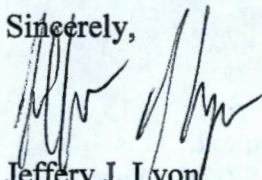
4. Document the planned scope of work, and work completed as of today, for investigation of new retrieval technologies that perform better than modified sluicing and mobile retrieval systems.
5. An evaluation that would complete all SST retrievals by 2040. Use of USDOE-ORP assumptions, or further modifications to other assumptions, will need to be reviewed and agreed to by Ecology.

We would also like to meet to discuss these topics and our Review Comment Record (RCRs) comments. The RCRs provide further detail to the 5 topics listed above. The comments will be provided electronically.

Our discussion should include the scope of the next milestone M-45-02-O.

If you have any questions, contact me at 509-372-7914.

Sincerely,



Jeffery J. Lyon
Tank Waste Storage Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

nu/pll

- cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
 Moses Jaraysi, CH2M
 Mark Knight, CH2M
 Jeff Voogd, CH2M
 Stuart Harris, CTUIR
 Gabriel Bohnee, NPT
 Russell Jim, YN
 Susan Leckband, HAB
 Dirk Dunning, ODOE
 Ken Niles, ODOE
 Admin Record: SST/Tank Waste Storage
 CH2M HILL Correspondence Control
 Environmental Portal, LMSI

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