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Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

JAN 13 1993

93-TPA-032

Mr. Paul T. Day
Hanford Project Manager
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352



Mr. David B. Jansen, P. E.
Hanford Project Manager
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Messrs. Day and Jansen:

FOCUS NEWSLETTER CONCERNING DISCHARGE TO 300 AREA PROCESS TRENCH

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Field Office (RL) has recently been the focus on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) action that is of great concern to us. At issue is a recent article that appeared in an October 1992, FOCUS newsletter which addressed Hanford's 300 Area Process Trenches. RL's first indication of the FOCUS newsletter was after Ecology had already decided to print and issue the newsletter.

The FOCUS newsletter did not undergo RL review. The FOCUS newsletter was not issued in accordance with the protocol established for Tri-Party Agreement related public releases.

The newsletter presents your agencies' proposal for conditions governing the continued discharge to the 300 Area Process Trenches. The newsletter represents these conditions as formal, approved Tri-Party Agreement Milestones when in reality, a Tri-Party Agreement change request has not been approved. In October 1992, RL disputed your agencies' assertion that the 300 Area Process Trench Tri-Party Agreement milestones were not completed on time, yet this assertion appears in this newsletter. In general, this FOCUS newsletter did not accurately represent the facts of the situation, and presented the public with only EPA's and Ecology's position.



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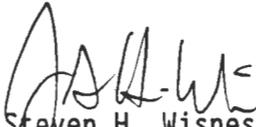
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In closing, I would like to re-iterate that RL is a partner to the Tri-Party Agreement and as such must be involved in reviewing articles that will go to the public via the Tri-Party Agreement communications network. The clean up of Hanford is a daunting task in which our respective agencies each have a role. Public involvement and information is crucial to Hanford's clean-up but the information going to the public must be truthful and accurate. Issuing articles that serve only to position our agencies prior to negotiations can only hurt each of our agencies credibility with the public and unnecessarily complicate clean-up at Hanford.

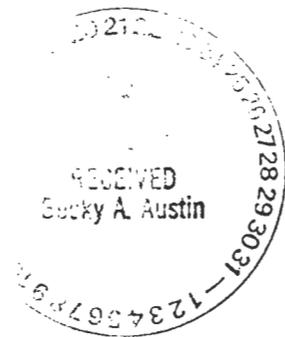
Sincerely,



Steven H. Wisness
Hanford Project Manager

EAP:JKY

cc: B. Austin, WHC
J. Stohr, Ecology



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Author: S. H. Wisness, RL
Addressee: P. T. Day, EPA
D. B. Jansen, Ecology
Correspondence No.: Incoming: 9300362
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