



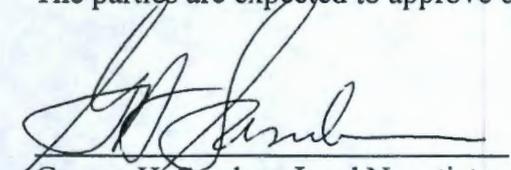
**CONCLUSION AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATION UNDER MILESTONE M-45
(COMPLETE CLOSURE OF ALL SINGLE SHELL TANK FARMS)**

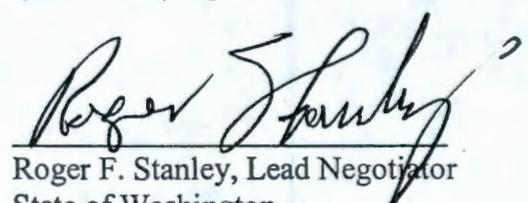
The State of Washington Department of Ecology and the U. S. Department of Energy (the parties) have concluded negotiations on commitments regarding initial Single-Shell Tank Waste Management Area (WMA) corrective actions, vadose zone and groundwater characterization, assessment, and the integration of vadose zone and groundwater activities at specified associated sites. A tentative agreement has been reached and a package of changes to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Agreement) has been developed and found mutually acceptable to the parties. These changes are attached to this Negotiation Conclusion Agreement. The parties also agreed during the course of negotiations to hold further discussion on potential efficiencies in the regulatory Data Quality Objectives (DQOs).

It is the intent of the parties that provisions of early milestone commitments in this change request be fulfilled as the change request is undergoing the process for finalization. Ecology and DOE also agree to remove the issue of applicability of the State Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) from the scope of these proposed M-45-98-03 commitments. The parties agree that the issues associated with the applicability of MTCA need not be resolved in order to finalize this change request, however, discussions on this issue will continue between the parties.

It is the parties' intent to submit the Tentative Agreement for a 45-day public comment period to run from approximately February 1, 1999 to March 17, 1999. Specific Public Comment Period dates will be coordinated to ensure HAB opportunity for review and comment. Following the public comment period, the parties will jointly prepare responses to public comments that have been received. The parties further agree to minimize additional delay, and if the parties are not able to resolve all issues with regard to comments, any unresolved matters shall be referred back for dispute resolution under the Tri-Party Agreement, Article VIII. However, any dispute resulting from these negotiations shall be initiated at the Inter Agency Management Team level as described in the Tri-Party Agreement.

The parties are expected to approve changes to the Agreement by April 15, 1999.


George H. Sanders, Lead Negotiator
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office


Roger F. Stanley, Lead Negotiator
State of Washington
Department of Ecology

JAN 08 1998

RECEIVED
JUN 25 2002
EDMC