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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

September 3, 1998

Mr. George H. Sanders
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: P7-22
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Re: Letter from Robert J. Julian to George H. Sanders, dated July 1, 1998, *Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) June 1998 Milestone M-90-O2-T01, "Complete Immobilized Low Activity Waste (ILAW) Interim Storage Facility Conceptual Design"*

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the above referenced document, the Report to Congress, Treatment and Immobilization of Hanford Radioactive Tank Waste, and the ILAW Disposal Strategy Decision Plan and note that ILAW will potentially be extended beyond high level waste vitrification. Also, the ILAW Decision Plan will look at alternatives to utilizing the Grout Vaults. In reviewing the Conceptual Design Report (CDR), Ecology finds the cost to utilize the Grout Vaults for disposal of ILAW to be quite high. Ecology agrees a review of other alternatives be done to see if an agreed to solution can be found. Therefore, no comments to the CDR will be forthcoming.

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If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (509) 736-5702.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Julian, Storage and Disposal Sub-Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program



RJJ:sdb

cc: Doug Sherwood, EPA
Jackson Kinzer, USDOE
Phil LaMont, USDOE
Larry Arnold, FDH
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