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Department of Energy

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JUN 30 1994

94-ASB-041

Mr. Douglas R. Sherwood
Hanford Project Manager
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Roger F. Stanley
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P. O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Messrs. Sherwood and Stanley:



HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER MILESTONE M-11-00

Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-11-00 requires DOE to complete construction and initiate operations of the Hot Cells Expansion at the 222-S Laboratory by June 30, 1994. The purpose of this letter is to notify EPA and Ecology of a possible two week delay to meeting this milestone. DOE expects to be able to declare operations of the hot cell expansion on or before July 15, 1994.

WHC has completed their Operational Readiness Review and have declared the facility ready for operations. In compliance with DOE Orders, the DOE Internal Review of the Hot Cell Start-Up is underway, and is expected to be completed before June 30, 1994. After the internal review is completed, the independent DOE Readiness Assessment Team will begin their review. Start-up delays were primarily due to problems with the safety documentation and tie-in between the hot cells and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). Schedules for sample receipt, into the 222-S Laboratory, have been evaluated, and the delay should not impact any of the analyses.

It is RL's understanding that there are some concerns associated with the scope of the hot cell start-up. The purpose of the milestone M-11-00 was to double the analytical throughput of the 222-S Laboratory by the addition of the hot cells expansion. Two of the seven cells are required for receipt, extrusion, breakdown and homogenization of a typical tank core sample. The other five cells were designed to perform analytical testing, and will become operational as needs are identified. Prior to this addition, the hot cell extrusions were the pinch point of the 222-S Laboratory capacity. By adding the two extrusion cells, the 222-S analytical capacity will increase from 24 Analytical Equivalent Units (AEUs) in Fiscal Year 1994 to 50 AEUs in Fiscal Year 1995. The next limiting factor of analytical capacity, at the 222-S Laboratory, is expected to be in staffing and instrumentation. 222-S will employ additional shifts and install the necessary instrumentation as required to support programmatic needs.

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Messrs. Sherwood and Stanley
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If you have any questions, please contact me on (509) 376-2028, or you can call Paul Carter, Chief of the Analytical Services Branch on (509) 376-0016.

Robert S. Holt / for
Patrick W. Willison
Acting Hanford Project Manager

WMD:DMW

cc: Billie Mauss, Ecology
M. L. Bell, WHC
B. A. Austin, WHC

94-ASB-041

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