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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 1386 • Richland, Washington 99352 • (509) 735-7581

August 30, 1994

Mr. James E. Rasmussen  
Acting Program Manager  
Office of Environmental Assurance,  
Permits, and Policy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, WA 99352-0550



Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: Permitting of Lagoons at the Hanford Site

The U. S. Department of Energy (USDOE) staff and contractor staff have asked for guidance regarding the water quality permitting requirements for lagoons on the Hanford Site on several occasions. Recently, I informed USDOE and contractor staff that Ecology's Water Quality Program was developing a policy regarding permitting requirements. This letter is to inform you that an interim decision has been made. The interim decision is that all lagoons containing liquids, including lined lagoons, require state waste discharge permits (216 permits). This includes evaporative lagoons and lagoons constructed as RCRA treatment, storage, and disposal units.

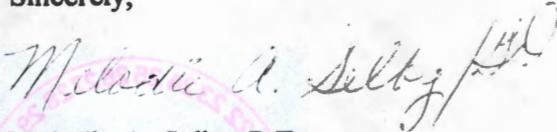
This is an interim decision based on our consultation with the Assistant Attorney General. The permitting of lined lagoons will be considered in the proposed water quality rule revision and consolidation, which is expected to be completed within two to three years.

I gave USDOE and contractor staff guidance which conflicts with this interim decision. I apologize for the inconvenience this conflicting guidance caused.

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If you or your staff have any questions regarding these permit applications, please call me at (509) 736-3021, or James Krull at (206) 407-6460.

Sincerely,



Melodie A. Selby, P.E.  
Nuclear Waste Program

MS:sr

cc: Annabelle Rodriguez, USDOE  
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Steve Lijack, MACTEC  
Dee Lloyd, MACTEC  
Administrative Record:  
Liquid Effluents Consent Order