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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

NOV 19 1997



97-EAP-777

Ms. Jeanne J. Wallace
300 Area Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 West Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018

Dear Ms. Wallace:

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO RESPOND TO NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY COMMENTS FOR DOE/RL-96-73, 324 BUILDING RADIOCHEMICAL ENGINEERING CELLS AND HIGH-LEVEL VAULT CLOSURE PLAN, REVISION 0

Reference: Letter, J. J. Wallace, Ecology, to J. E. Rasmussen, RL, and W. D. Adair, FDH, "Notice of Deficiency (NOD) for the 324 Building Radiochemical Engineering Cells and High-Level Vault Closure Plan, Revision 0," dated October 1, 1997.

47842

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) received the referenced letter from the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) that provided comments on DOE/RL-96-73, "324 Building Radiochemical Engineering Cells and High-Level Vault Closure Plan, Revision 0" (324 REC/HLV). The referenced letter required that responses be returned within 90-days.

47365

An extension of 90-days is requested for providing a final Notice of Deficiency (NOD) response table to the comments received on the 324 REC/HLV Closure Plan. During the comment resolution period, policy issues related to the comments will be discussed at the Project Managers' Meetings. Also, workshops will be scheduled between Ecology, RL, and the Project Hanford Management Contract contractors to discuss the draft responses and to resolve any remaining issues.

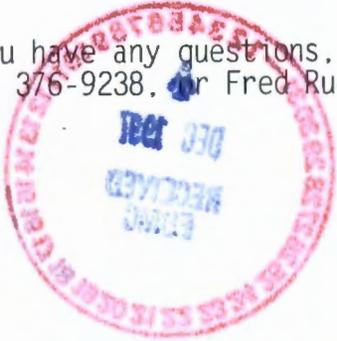
This 90-day extension is requested due to: (1) the number of NOD comments received, (2) the level of detail that needs to be addressed, (3) the number of comments requiring policy decisions, and (4) the need to reach agreement with Ecology on any policy decisions.

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Ms. Jeanne J. Wallace
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If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Mattlin, of my staff, on (509) 376-9238, or Fred Ruck, Fluor Daniel Hanford Inc., on (509) 376-9876.



Sincerely,


for James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Assurance, Permits,
and Policy Division

EAP:EMM

cc: **Administrative Record**
W. D. Adair, FDH
R. C. Bowman, WMH
R. H. Engelmann, WMH
M. N. Jarasyi, Ecology
R. Jim, YIN
D. Powaukee, NPT
S. M. Price, FDH
A. L. Prignano, WMH
J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
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