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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

February 28, 2003

Mr. Roy Schepens, Manager
Office of River Protection
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Schepens:

Re: Hanford Tank Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) Schedule and Compliance with
Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (HFFACO) Requirements

Significant progress has been made in the last year in the management of Hanford tank wastes. However, recently, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has become concerned with the slip in design and construction schedule. Initially this schedule slip was only evident in the design production needed to keep the permitting on schedule. A few weeks ago Ecology was briefed about a design and construction schedule slip that could delay start of hot operations by as much as 15 months.

As you know, the WTP is cornerstone to tank waste remediation. The successful implementation of design, construction, and operation is a paramount issue. To that end, Ecology requests that the United States Department of Energy (DOE) forward critical path analysis and milestone float status for each of the following milestones:

- M-62-07A, Initial Erection of Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Vitrification Facility Elevation -21' Structural Steel Columns, Beams, and Q Deck Elevation +3 (Bechtel National, Inc. [BNI] Baseline Schedule Activity 4DL131B000 as part of DOE Contract No. DE-AC27-01RV14136), due October 30, 2003.
- M-62-07B, Complete Assembly of LAW Vitrification Facility Melter #1 so it is ready for Transport and Installation in the LAW Vitrification Building (BNI Baseline Schedule Activity 4DL132A300 as part of DOE Contract No. DE-AC27-01RV14136), due November 30, 2005.
- M-62-09, Start Hot Commissioning – Phase I Treatment Complex, due December 31, 2007.
- M-62-10, Complete Hot Commissioning – Phase I Treatment Complex, due January 31, 2011.

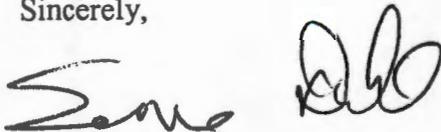
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- M-62-00A, Complete Pretreatment Processing and Vitrification of Hanford High Level Waste (HLW) and LAW Phase I Tank Wastes, due February 28, 2018.
- M-62-00, Complete Pretreatment Processing and Vitrification of Hanford HLW and LAW Tank Wastes, due December 31, 2028.

This information is being requested in accordance with Sections 4.1 and 11.8 of the Action Plan of the HFFACO.

Please forward this information to me by March 21, 2003. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (509) 736-3005.

Sincerely,



Suzanne L. Dahl
Tank Waste Disposal Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

sdb

cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
James Rasmussen, USDOE/ORP
Bill Taylor, USDOE/ORP
Ron Naventi, BNI
Ed Aromi, CHG
Todd Martin, HAB
Al Conklin, WDOH
David Mears, WAG
J.R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
Donna Powaukee, NPT
Russell Jim, YIN
Ken Niles, OOE
Administrative Record: Tank Waste Treatment Requirements