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Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

MAY 09 1991



91-TFPO-167

President
Westinghouse Hanford Company
Richland, Washington

Dear Sir:

TANK 101-SY ACTIVITIES

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management (EM) has delegated the authority to authorize the planned window C activities on Tank 101-SY to the DOE-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL). The authorization to proceed with these activities is subject to satisfactory completion of the operational readiness reviews being conducted by Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) and DOE-RL. Approval to proceed will be provided to WHC after these reviews are complete.

With the recognition that the main and back-up ventilation fans are not spark-proof, WHC has committed to address operation of the backup exhauster, in the event of the main ventilation system failure, and a strategy to upgrade the overall SY-Tank Farm ventilation system (WHC letter 9153526 dated May 7, 1991). WHC is requested to provide a description of the controls implemented to restrict operation of the backup exhauster during Tank 101-SY window C activities by May 10, 1991. In addition, WHC is requested to provide the plan for the SY-Tank Farm ventilation system upgrade strategy by May 14, 1991. As part of this strategy, installation of a filtered inlet for Tank 101-SY should be pursued as soon as possible. The plan should also address actions possible to further increase the ventilation flow for Tank 101-SY prior to window D.

The upgrading of Tank 101-SY instrumentation and data recording systems should continue as rapidly as possible. Every effort should be made to install the permanent dome space gas monitoring systems as soon as possible. We also support the WHC initiative to install a modern data logger for sensors in Tank 101-SY. DOE-EM has made arrangements for support by the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

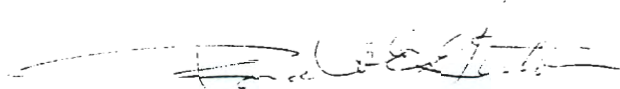
We understand that WHC has initiated the planning for Tank 101-SY window D activities. In addition to the preparations for specific activities, the plan should include the preparation and review schedules for the appropriate safety and environmental documents that require DOE review and approval. WHC is requested to submit the planning schedule by May 14, 1991, so we can advise DOE-EM when their support will be necessary to ensure all the appropriate approvals are obtained.



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If you have any questions, please contact me or Roger Christensen of my staff on 376-8992.

Sincerely,



Ronald E. Gerton, Project Manager
Tank Farm Project Office

TFPO:RFC

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