



0051440

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

99-WPD-287

JUL 20 1999

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504

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



Addressees:

COMPLETION OF HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER INTERIM MILESTONE M-19-01 AND THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2000 PORTION OF MAJOR MILESTONE M-19-20

This letter is to notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) that the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) Interim Milestone M-19-01, which requires the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), to "Initiate treatment of contact handled low level mixed wastes" on or before September 30, 1999, has been completed. In addition the FY 2000 portion of Major Milestone M-19-00, requiring RL to cumulatively treat and/or dispose of 246 cubic meters of such waste by September 30, 2000, has been completed.

Major Milestone M-19-00 established a requirement to complete treatment and/or direct disposal of at least 1,644 cubic meters of contact handled low level mixed waste by the end of FY 2002. Cumulative treatment and/or direct disposal rates for FY end 2000 and 2001 were established at 246 and 822 cubic meters, respectively. No specific FY 1999 treatment and/or disposal rate beyond the requirement to initiate treatment of mixed wastes was established by either Major Milestone M-19-00 or Interim Milestone M-19-01.

Although Major Milestone M-19-00 does not specify how treatment is to be accomplished, the notes justifying revision of the original milestone (Change Number M-19-95-01A) describe a strategy that incorporates several different approaches, i.e., contracts with commercial firms, on-site facility use and direct disposal of certain qualified waste streams. In keeping with this strategy, the level of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) documentation required for commercial treatment contracts was determined, a non-thermal treatment contract to the Allied Technology Group (ATG) was issued, and all NEPA requirements related to the non-thermal commercial treatment contract was completed. These actions have resulted in the timely completion of Target Dates M-19-01-T01, M-19-01-T02, and M-19-01-T03.

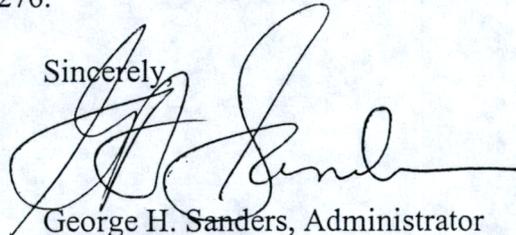
JUL 20 1999

In fulfillment of its contract, ATG has been working with Ecology and the EPA to obtain a permit that will allow them to treat and store mixed wastes. Ecology has issued the required permit to ATG, however, the effective date of the permit is later than originally scheduled, affecting ATG's ability to treat the first contracted volume of 560 cubic meters of contact handled low level mixed waste prior to September 30, 1999. ATG's current schedule calls for the first contracted waste volume to be delivered to their facility on September 1999, with activities beginning by November 17, 1999. The ATG non-thermal treatments contract and associated two one-year options have the capability to fulfill all the M-19-00 waste volume commitments.

In spite of the anticipated delay in ATG's ability to commence commercial treatment of mixed waste this fiscal year, the Tri-Party Agreement commitment to initiate treatment and/or direct disposal of contact handled low level mixed waste has been achieved. To date, approximately 345 cubic meters of contact handled low level mixed waste have been treated through a combination of treatment contracts and on-site facility use. The Central Waste Complex inventory of long-length contaminated equipment has been appropriately treated and staged for disposal; a contained-in determination was obtained that allowed for the direct disposal of qualified backlog soil waste packages; and selected mixed waste debris drums have been compacted and macro-encapsulated. It is also expected that further sampling and analysis will support the direct disposal of an additional 25 cubic meters of backlog soils before this FY's end.

Should you have any questions, please contact me on (509) 376-6888, or Elizabeth M. Bowers of Waste Programs Division on (509) 373-9276.

Sincerely,



George H. Sanders, Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

WPD:RFG

cc: J. R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
A. Valero, Ecology
Ecology Library, Kennewick
E. J. Murphy-Finch, FDH
J. S. Hertzfel, FDH
O. S. Kramer, FDH
J. D. Williams, FDH
Administrative Record, H6-06

M. Reeves, HAB
Environmental Portal, LMSI
P. Sobotta, NPT
M. L. Blazek, OOE
L. T. Blackford, WMH
R. H. Engelmann, WMH
J. A. Winterhalder, WMH
R. Jim, YIN