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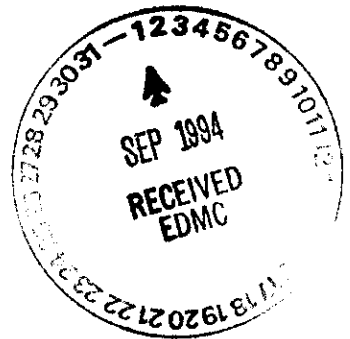
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

AUG 17 1994

Reply To
Attn Of: HW-124

James D. Bauer
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550 (A3-42)
Richland, WA 99352

John R. Hunter
Assistant Manager for Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, (A6-53)
Richland, WA 99352



9473294.2830

Re: Proposed Regulatory Path for Environmental Restoration
Disposal Facility (ERDF)

Dear Mr. Bauer and Mr. Hunter:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) have reviewed the regulatory path for the ERDF and are proposing a modification to the current strategy. We believe that the first two cells of ERDF should be authorized by a CERCLA Record of Decision (ROD) as a CERCLA landfill and not as a Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) as originally proposed in our May 14, 1993 letter.

The agencies have worked to craft a sound regulatory approach that protects the environment, preserves the remediation schedule, and is responsive to public values. Although we shared our proposed strategy with the Hanford Advisory Board on July 8, we are anxious to have the proposed plan so that we can have similar discussions with the tribes and the larger public.

The first two cells of ERDF would be constructed and operated as a CERCLA landfill and will be available for disposal of wastes under CERCLA, to include wastes from operable units currently designated as RCRA past-practices sites. Subsequent cells may be authorized by a new or amended ROD. Additionally, the agencies will consider permitting future ERDF cells as a RCRA landfill or CAMU.

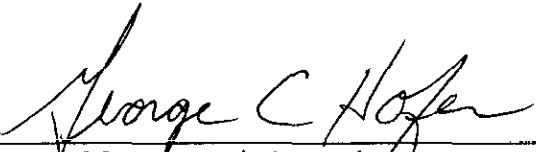
The regulatory agencies remain committed to the ERDF and believe this modification will ensure successful completion and operation of the initial two cells. We request that the

Department of Energy review and modify the ERDF regulatory package in order to reflect this change in the regulatory approach so that the proposed plan may be released to the public at the earliest opportunity.

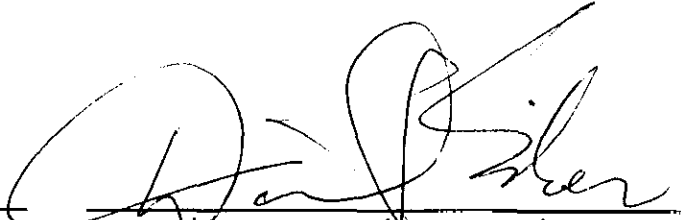
We look forward to working with the Department of Energy to ensure timely implementation of this new strategy. Please contact Pam Innis of EPA at 509-376-4919 and Norm Hepner of Ecology at 509-736-3048 to prepare the package for release for public comment.

Sincerely,

9113294.2851

for 

Randall F. Smith, Director
Hazardous Waste Division
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10



Dan Silver, Assistant Director
Office of Waste Programs
Washington Department of Ecology

- cc: S. Wisness, DOE
- R. Izatt/R. Freeberg, DOE
- J. Erickson, DOE
- O. Robertson/B. Foley, DOE
- B. Austin, WHC
- D. Fagan, EPA
- J. Ross, PRC
- B. Lum, USGS
- Administrative Record - ERDF