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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

November 24, 1997

Mr. Neil Brown
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A0-21
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Brown:

Re: Data Quality Objectives (DQO) Process for the Private Vitrification Plants
Characterization of Source Tanks

Technical staff members from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) have been participating in the DQO process mentioned above for the last two months. The main purpose behind this participation has been to bring to your attention the regulatory requirements that need to be addressed by this process in support of permitting the two Privatized Vitrification Plants at Hanford. The following statements are listed to assist you in finalizing this process:

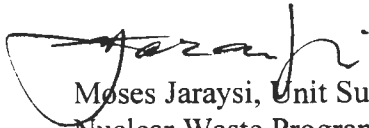
1. Due to the complexity related to the time and method of generation of the waste in the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) "source tanks," Ecology has determined that using adequately documented process knowledge, coupled with qualitative sampling and characterization of the waste in the "source tanks," is adequate to meet the regulatory characterization requirements "at the point of generation" for this waste.
2. Considering the tight permitting plans of the new Privatized Vitrification Plants and the projections of very limited funding for such activities in the future, it is imperative that this characterization of the "source tanks" satisfies the regulatory requirements in support of permitting the new plants. This characterization, as it satisfies regulatory requirements, must be completed prior to transfer of waste from the "source tanks" to the feed tanks, where further mixing of the wastes is likely to take place.
3. The permitting process for these plants will run in parallel with an Environmental Impact Risk Assessment process. This Risk Assessment Process requires full knowledge of the make up of the waste to be treated in these plants. Since this will be the only characterization effort to take place in the source tanks prior to the start of the Risk Assessment Process, it is prudent that this effort provides adequate information in support of the Risk Assessment Process.



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If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me at (509) 736-3016.

Sincerely,



Moses Jaraysi, Unit Supervisor
Nuclear Waste Program

MJ:ch

cc: Carolyn Haass, USDOE
James Poppiti, USDOE
Nancy Welliver, USDOE
Karyn Wiemers, PNNL
Administrative Record: TWRS