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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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March 24, 2005

Mr. Matt S. McCormick, Assistant Manager
Richland Operations Office
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-11
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. McCormick:

**Re: Reduction of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Inspections of the 241-Z
Treatment and Storage Tanks**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the United States Department of Energy's (USDOE) request for reduced frequency of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) inspections at the 241-Z Treatment and Storage Tanks (241-Z). Inspections are required, according to Washington Administrative Code 173-303-320, of all treatment, storage, and disposal facilities/units. The intent of the inspections are "to prevent malfunctions and deterioration, operator errors, and discharges, which may cause or lead to the release of dangerous waste to the environment, or a threat to human health." This code goes on to say the "inspections need to be conducted often enough to identify problems before they can cause damage to human health or the environment."

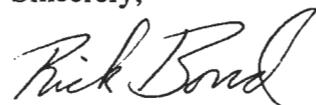
Ecology has reviewed the basis for the request and finds the request to be reasonable. USDOE may opt to change the frequency of their inspections based on the probability of an incident occurring. The 241-Z is no longer an operating treatment, storage, and disposal facility/unit and no further RCRA waste will be placed in the tanks. As the Ecology Project Manager, I require an inspection of the unit and surroundings be performed at a minimum of once monthly for the 241-Z tanks.



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Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 372-7885 or Jeff Ayres at 372-7881.

Sincerely,



Rick Bond
Transition Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

JA/nc

cc: Nick Ceto, EPA
Stacy Charboneau, USDOE
Richard Bloom, FH
Karl Hadley, FH
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Todd Martin, HAB
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