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U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

0074298

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01-REQ-053

SEP 27 2001

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 W. Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336

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Dear Messrs Sherwood and Wilson:

COMPLETION OF HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) INTERIM MILESTONES SERIES M-45-02F, M-46-00H AND M-46-01H, SUBMISSION OF SINGLE-SHELL TANK (SST) RETRIEVAL SEQUENCE AND DOUBLE-SHELL TANK (DST) SPACE EVALUATION REPORT

Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-46-00H, "Double-Shell Tank Space Evaluation," requires that a tank volume projection be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Washington, Department of Ecology on an annual basis. Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-46-01H, "Concurrence of Additional Tank Acquisition," requires the Tank Farm Contractor (TFC) to review and recommend whether or not to build additional DST's on an annual basis. Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-45-02F, "Submit Annual Updates to SST Sequence Document," requires the TFC to annually update the SST retrieval sequence. This letter transmits a combined SST Retrieval Sequence and DST Space Evaluation report satisfying Tri-Party Agreement Milestones M-45-02F, M-46-00H and M-46-01H.

This report presents the results of three distinct modeling cases. Case one meets the Tri-Party Agreement Milestone date for completion of SST Retrieval, completes waste treatment in 2028, and includes tank space options to save three million gallons of space by 2011. Case two retrieves SSTs within current DST capacity (completion in 2027), completes waste treatment in 2028, and includes tank space options to save 0.85 million gallons by 2011.

In Case two, SST waste is retrieved as DST space becomes available and is not constrained by funding for SST retrieval infrastructure. Both cases one and two include risk-based SST Retrieval Sequence derived from the SST Retrieval Sequence evaluation. A third case modeled is similar to Case one except the SST retrieval sequence retrieves tanks with the smaller remaining volumes first to stay within available DST space for a longer period of time.

Case one in the "2001 Double-Shell Tank Space Evaluation Report," first exceeds the available DST space in fiscal year (FY) 2010 by two tanks. The document lists a number of space-saving options that are being pursued to avoid the projected tank space shortage. Should the construction of new DSTs be required, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP), believes that new tanks would be available in approximately seven years (two years to acquire funding and five years to design, construct, and commission). Thus a request for funding by FY 2003 would allow new tanks to be available in FY 2009 to meet the projected

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space shortage in FY 2010. This is similar to Case one in the "2000 Operational Waste Volume Projection Report," which projected a need for four new DSTs beginning in FY 2010.

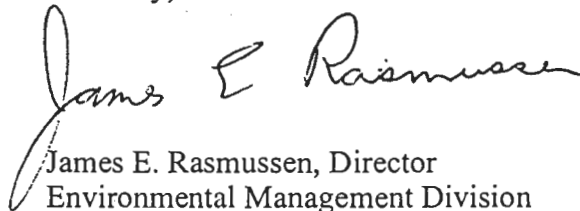
Recent SST retrieval commitments and upcoming planning activities need to be considered before the decision is made to construct additional tanks:

- Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-45-00B requires ORP to retrieve enough SST waste (current source tanks are S-102 and S-112) to occupy at least two million gallons of DST space by September 30, 2006.
- Additional SST retrieval beyond 2006 (M-45-00C) is yet to be re-negotiated and part of the negotiations will consider the need for additional compliant storage space. The current baseline relies heavily on the construction of the Phase 1 Hanford Tank Waste Treatment Complex in supporting the post-2006 SST retrieval actions.
- Milestone M-45-12-T01 will submit an options report documenting DOE assessment of actions that could be taken to increase available space for SST waste retrieval by February 28, 2002. These options could reduce the need for new storage tanks.

ORP believes that the above items need to be considered before committing to the construction of additional DSTs. The report for M-45-12-T01 will be submitted by February 28, 2002, which will still allow time to build additional DSTs if required. Additionally, ORP recognizes the risk to human health and the environment associated with the waste currently occupying the SSTs and is committed to incorporating this consideration in our discussions to follow. Future DST Space Evaluation reports will continue to incorporate these and other data as they become available.

If you have any questions, please contact E. J. Cruz, ORP, (509) 372-2606.

Sincerely,


James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Management Division

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Attachment

cc: See Page 3

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Messrs. Sherwood and Wilson
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cc w/attach:

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Administrative Record