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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

March 31, 1995

Mr. James E. Rasmussen, Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

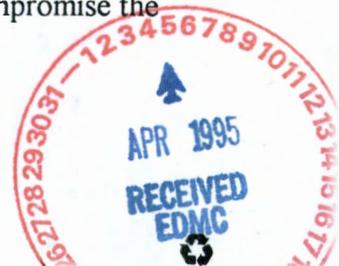
Re: Modification of Permitting Requirements for Lagoons on the Hanford Site

As a result of requests from the U.S. Department of Energy and contractor staff, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a letter on August 30, 1994, providing guidance on state waste discharge permitting requirements for lagoons on the Hanford Site. This letter modifies the lagoon permitting guidance described in the August 30, 1994, letter.

The original guidance states all lagoons containing liquids, including lined lagoons, require state waste discharge permits under Chapter 173-216 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). After further review of permitting requirements under other state permitting programs, Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program has decided to modify this interim decision. The modified guidance is lagoons containing liquids, including lined lagoons, are permitted under other state regulatory programs such as WAC 173-303 (e.g., the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility) will not require state waste discharge permits under WAC 173-216. For lined lagoons not permitted under other state regulatory programs, Ecology reserves the right to require state waste discharge permits under WAC 173-216 on a case by case basis.

For existing lined lagoons, Ecology will issue a request for a permit application, as deemed necessary. If construction of new lagoons is planned, I urge you to contact Ecology early in the planning process to determine if a permit is needed. Operation of unlined lagoons will require a state waste discharge permits under WAC 173-216.

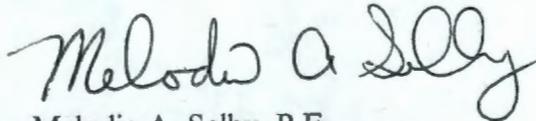
We believe this modification will help streamline the permitting process, and not compromise the protection of the environment.



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I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the confusion regarding Ecology's guidance. If you have further questions regarding this issue, please call me at (509) 736-3021, or Steve Skurla at (509) 736-3011.

Sincerely,



Melodie A. Selby, P.E.
Nuclear Waste Program

MS:SS:skr

- cc: Randy Krekel, USDOE
- Hector Rodriguez, USDOE
- Brad Atencio, WHC
- Dan Biade, WHC
- Paula Davis-Vedder, WHC
- Don Flyckt, WHC
- J. Stan Hill, WHC
- Jeff Luke, WHC
- Kathleen Tollefson, WHC
- Jerry Turnbaugh, WHC
- Janice Williams, WHC
- Larry Bast, ICF KH
- Daniel Danch, ICF KH
- Brian Dixon, ICF KH
- Aolad Hossain, ICF KH
- Charles Mortimer, ICF KH
- Jeff Thornock, ICF KH
- Steve Lijeck, MACTEC
- Dee Lloyd, MACTEC
- Fran Erickson, PNL
- Administrative Records: Liquid Effluents Consent Order ✓

