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Department of Energy

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Richland Field Office

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Richland, Washington 99352

NOV 19 1992



93-TPA-027

Mr. Roger F. Stanley,
Program Manager
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

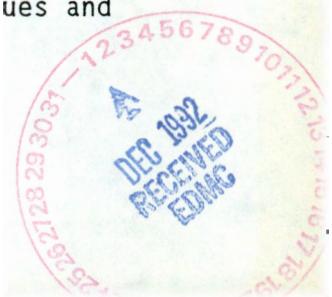
Dear Mr. Stanley,

HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER MILESTONE CHANGE REQUEST
M-23-92-XX

Reference: Letter, R. Stanley, Ecology, to J. D. Wagoner, RL, no subject,
dated November 12, 1992.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Field Office (RL) is in receipt of your recent letter. In the referenced letter, you have submitted a draft change request to the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement), milestone M-23-00. These changes serve to address areas that the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) perceives as violations to Federal and Washington State regulations, and to accommodate specific activities associated with the recent public announcement on an assumed leak from single-shell tank (SST) 241-T-101. RL shares Ecology's concerns with the gravity of the situation surrounding a leak from any underground storage tank and the potential for harm to the environment. We agree activities to mitigate environmental risks are necessary and are anxious to discuss the requests contained within your letter.

The Tri-Party Agreement established a framework for the environmental restoration of the Hanford Site, and created a series of procedures for implementing that cleanup activity. RL fully supports the Tri-Party Agreement as the framework for environmental cleanup and compliance activities. Although the Tri-Party Agreement specifies that RL has but twenty-one days to respond to the regulator determinations of permit or interim status violations, we graciously accept your extension to thirty days for this complex issue. RL hopes that through mutual understanding of the issues and working together we can reach an acceptable solution.



Mr. Stanley
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RL recognizes the priority of action desired by Ecology in the reference. Although actions had already been set in motion to address issues originating with the announced suspected leak from tank T-101, a re-prioritization of resources within RL will be needed to assess Ecology's proposed schedule. To provide the level of resources needed for this assessment requires attention be diverted from other on-going activities. One of these activities is the work in process towards negotiating the needed changes to the Tri-Party Agreement M-05-00 milestones regarding interim stabilization of SST. The same personnel involved in the M-05-00 change package are those that are responsible for planning the proposed actions contained within the reference. The impacts to the negotiation process on the interim stabilization milestones will need to be assessed.

In the interest of reaching a satisfactory plan and schedule for implementing necessary corrective actions between the three parties, RL desires to quickly meet with the Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives to discuss the proposed milestones contained in the reference and other issues which have a bearing. Due to prior commitments with your personnel, and the timing of the Thanksgiving Holidays, RL recommends a meeting on December 3, 1992, be held at Ecology's Kennewick, Washington, offices. If you concur with this, I will have my staff coordinate a specific time for the meeting with your staff and the EPA staff.

If you should have any questions regarding this, please contact myself at (509) 376-5441, or Mr. Steve Wisness of my staff at (509) 376-6798.

Sincerely,

James D. Bauer
James D. Bauer, Acting Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy

EAP:JKY

cc: D. B. Jansen, Ecology
D. C. Nylander, Ecology
G. C. Hofer, EPA
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B. A. Austin, WHC



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