



OCT 19 2006

06-ESQ-145

Ms. Jane A. Hedges, Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
3100 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, Washington 99352

RECEIVED  
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EDMC

Dear Ms. Hedges:

CONTINUED FABRICATION OF SELECTED WASTE TREATMENT AND  
IMMOBILIZATION PLANT (WTP) VESSELS

Reference: Ecology letter from L. Cusack to R. J. Schepens, ORP, and W.S. Elkins, BNI, "Fabrication and Assembly Hold on Vessels with Pulse Jet Mixers (PJMs)," dated September 28, 2006. 0071283

This letter responds to the Reference and explains the practical, adverse consequences to the WTP Project associated therewith and requests the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to formally concur with continuing the identified work.

Interrupting or delaying fabrication work on the vessels identified in the Reference will result in the contractor's demobilization, layoff of qualified workers, and schedule delays. The subsequent remobilization of the workforce by the contractor also will adversely impact the fabrication and installation schedule and increase costs. Furthermore, the near term fabrication work, fabrication, and installation of external cooling jackets for vessel shells and bottom heads for Vessels HLP-VSL-0027A, HLP-VSL-0027B, and HLP-VSL-0028, will take three to four months and not preclude future installation of wear plates, if needed.

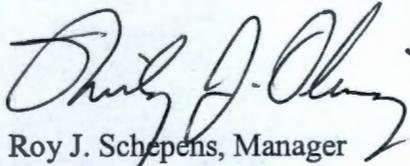
Based on agreement obtained in discussion with your staff (E. A. Fredenburg) on October 17, 2006, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) will proceed with fabrication and installation of cooling jackets on vessels HLP-VSL-0027A, HLP-VSL-0027B, and HLP-VSL-0028 commencing no earlier than October 23, 2006. DOE and BNI request that Ecology formally concur with continuing the identified work.

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If you have any questions, please contact us, or your staff may contact Mr. John Eschenberg, ORP, (509) 376-3681 or Mr. Leon Lamm, BNI, (509) 371-3600.



*fn*  
Roy J. Schepens, Manager  
Office of River Protection



W. S. Elkins, Project Director  
Bechtel National, Inc.

ESQ:LAH

cc: W. T. Clements, BNI  
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**Administrative Record**  
BNI Correspondence  
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