



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 24, 1997

Mr. Roger Christensen
U.S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 550, MSIN: K8-50
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Kenneth Brog
Pacific Northwest National Laboratories
P.O. Box 999, MSIN: P7-75
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Messrs. Christensen and Brog:

Re: Close-out of July 31, 1997, Inspection of 305-B Storage Facility

On July 31, 1997, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) conducted an inspection of the 305-B Storage Facility in response to a reported spill of acid waste in the 305-B building. As a result of this inspection, Ecology cited the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL) with two violations of the 305-B dangerous waste permit. The following violations were documented in a notice of correction issued to USDOE and PNNL on August 29, 1997:

- 1) storage of dangerous waste in containers incompatible with the waste in violation of the State of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 173-303-630, subsection four; and,
- 2) failure to select shipping containers for off-site shipment per section 4.0, Process Information, and specifically subsection 4.1.1.1, Description of Containers, within the 305-B Dangerous Waste Permit Application.

Ecology has received and reviewed USDOE's September 4 and September 22, 1997, response letters addressing correction of the violations cited. In addition, Ecology requested and received documentation referenced in these letters which address improved management practices to prevent a reoccurrence of similar spills in the 305-B Storage Facility. As a result of these reviews, Ecology considers this inspection closed.

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (509) 736-3031.

Sincerely,



Bob Wilson, Compliance Inspector
Nuclear Waste Program

BW:ch

cc: Maple Barnard, USDOE
James Rasmussen, USDOE
Gary McNair, PNNL
Glenn Thornton, PNNL
Ken Waller, PNNL
Mary Lou Blazek, ODOE
Administrative Record: 305-B Storage Facility