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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
3100 Port of Benton Blvd • Richland, WA 99352 • (509) 372-7950

April 7, 2006

Mr. Roy J. Schepens
Office of River Protection
United States Department of Energy
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Schepens:

Re: Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Milestone M-46-21, December 31, 2005

Reference: 1. Letter 05-TPD-115, from R. J. Schepens, ORP, to M. A. Wilson, Ecology, "Completion of Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order Milestone M-46-21 – 'Complete Implementation of Double-Shell Tank Space Optimization Study Recommendations (Tank Space Options Report No. RPP-7702, April 12, 2001),' " dated December 15, 2005

2. RPP-8554, 2003, "Single-Shell Tank Retrieval Sequence and Double-Shell Tank Space Evaluation, Rev. 2A"

The Department of Ecology received the letter (Reference 1) stating that the United States Department of Energy-Office of River Protection (USDOE-ORP) met the conditions of Milestone M-46-21 by December 31, 2005. This letter is to inform USDOE-ORP that with the planned DST 241-AP-108 fill demonstration to take place during the next 242-A Evaporator campaign, Ecology concurs that M-46-21 is complete.

The intent of the milestone is to increase the available double-shell tank (DST) storage space to accommodate the estimated waste volume from the near-term single-shell tank (SST) waste retrieval operations. These retrieval operations will require an additional 4.7 million gallons of DST storage space (Reference 2).

The efforts to meet this milestone focused on three primary initiatives:

1. Decreasing the DST dedicated operational reserve volume.
2. Concentrating the waste to a higher specific gravity.
3. Raising the allowable liquid level (volume) in the DSTs.



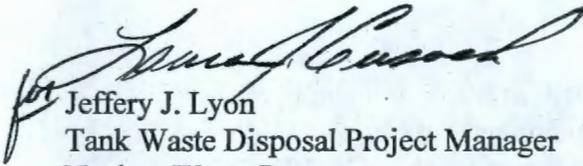
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Approximately 60 percent of the needed DST volume increase was met by reallocating dedicated DST operational reserve volume. Evaporating existing DST waste in 11 DSTs, along with the diluted SST retrieved waste, to a higher specific gravity would provide another 25 percent of the needed DST waste volume.

Ecology understands that the demonstration of the DST fill height initiative is pending and that all administrative actions are in place for the next evaporator campaign to verify this effort. Demonstrating that the DST fill height can be increased in the AP Tank Farm would provide the additional 15 percent of DST storage volume needed to fully complete M-46-21. We encourage you to complete this initiative as soon as practical, hopefully during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2006.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (509) 372-7914.

Sincerely,



Jeffery J. Lyon
Tank Waste Disposal Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

LAF:lkd

cc: Dave Bartus, EPA
Mary Burandt, USDOE
Roger Quintero, USDOE
Woody Russell, USDOE
Christopher Abraham, GAO
Nick Kirch, CH2M
Moses Jaraysi, CH2M
Phil Miller, CH2M
Jeffry Voogd, CH2M
Dennis Washenfelder, CH2M
Stuart Harris, CTUIR
Gabriel Bohnee, NPT
Russell Jim, YN
Todd Martin, HAB
Ken Niles, ODOE
Dirk Dunning, ODOE
Administrative Record: SST/Tank Waste Storage; M-46-21
CH2M Correspondence Control
Environmental Portal