

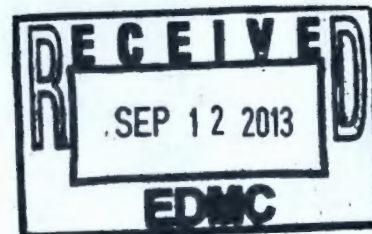


STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

August 14, 1997

Mr. James K. McClusky
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. James K. McClusky:

Re: Leak Detection Monitoring Requirements for the 244-CR Vault

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has been in recent discussions with the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and its contractors to determine the appropriate leak and intrusion detection requirements for the 244-CR Vault Tanks 001, 002, 003, and 011 and their respective sumps.

Tank 003 is presently inactive, but current planning utilizes the tank for future interim stabilization operations to store and transfer supernatant to the Double Shell Tank System. Tank 011 may also be used in the future for interim stabilization operations. Tanks 001 and 002 are believed to be empty and are awaiting closure.

Ecology believes that detection monitoring will provide the necessary response time to prevent release or increased movement of contaminants into and through the Vadose Zone. Based on our discussions, the following detection monitoring is required to minimize the threat to the environment from the 244-CR Vault.

1. Intrusion detection will be operated and checked weekly for sumps 001, 002, 003, and 011 and tanks 001, 002, and 011. If Tank 011 is activated, level detection will be required. If Tanks 001 and 002 are found to be empty by inspection, intrusion detection will not be required for these tanks as they have been inactive since 1985.

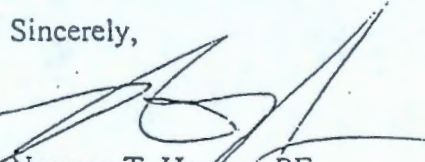
The sump intrusion detectors must be, at minimum, capable of detecting an intrusion of 26 gallons into a sump. The sump and tank intrusion detectors shall be functionally tested annually to determine operability. If intrusion is detected, the level must be obtained within 14 days and corrective actions initiated within 90 days unless otherwise directed by Ecology.

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2. Level detection will be operated in Tank 003 while this tank is actively supporting interim stabilization operations. During periods of inactivity (i.e., no waste transfer operations which transfer waste into the 244-CR Vault) or following completion of interim stabilization operations in C-farm, intrusion detection can be substituted for level detection provided it meets the requirements outlined in 1 above.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (509) 736-3048.

Sincerely,



Norman T. Hepner, PE
Nuclear Waste Program

NTH:rb

cc: Phil Miller, LMH
Mary Lou Blazek, ODOE