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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

DEC 16 1994

95-PCA-079

Mr. Moses Jaraysi, Unit Manager
Liquid Effluent Retention Facility
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
1315 West 4 Fourth Avenue
MSIN B5-18
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Dear Mr. Jaraysi:

OPERATIONAL STATUS OF LIQUID EFFLUENT RETENTION FACILITY BASIN 44 39167

In December 1992, hydrostatic testing of the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) basins was initiated. LERF Basins 42 and 43 passed their tests, while Basin 44 failed because of excessive liner leakage. Due to difficulties in determining the location of the leak, it was decided to proceed with 242-A Evaporator operations using Basin 43, with the volume of Basin 42 as contingency. Evaporator campaign 94-1 and most of 94-2 were operated with this configuration. Basin 44 was isolated to ensure no waste would enter it while troubleshooting and repair of the liner proceeded. Washington State Department of Ecology requested notification when Basin 44 was placed in service following hydrotesting of the repaired liner. This letter provides that notification.

The hydrostatic test of LERF Basin 44 was successfully completed in July 1994, and the basin has been placed into operational service. The final activity to place the basin in service, the removal of the blank in the transfer line between the 242-A Evaporator and the basin, was completed October 19, 1994, during a scheduled Evaporator maintenance outage. Removing the blank was also the last activity for completion of the Operational Test Procedure for the LERF.

With Basin 44 operational, the basin status will be as follows: Basin 43 contains process condensate from the first two evaporator campaigns, Basin 42 contains some process condensate from completion of campaign 94-2 and will be used to receive waste in future campaigns. Basin 44 provides contingency volume in the event of a leak from the other basins and may be used for Effluent Treatment Facility testing. Prior to the start of filling Basin 42, about 340,000 gallons of raw water in that basin were transferred to Basin 44. This prevented the generation of additional waste had the process condensate mixed with the raw water. Basin 44 now contains this water and hydrotest

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water (about 1.5 million gallons total). A State Waste Discharge Permit Application for One Time/Limited Discharges to Ground (WAC 173-216) will be submitted to Ecology for transferring the raw water in Basin 44 to the 216-B-3 Expansion Pond System.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Cliff Clark of my staff at 376-9333.

Sincerely,

James E. Rasmussen

James E. Rasmussen, Acting Program Manager
Office of Environmental Assurance,
Permits, and Policy

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