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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 4, 2000

Mr. Bryan L. Foley
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: H0-12
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Foley:

Re: Approval of 200-CW-1 Operable Unit Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) Work Plan

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The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) approves the 200-CW-1 Operable Unit RI/FS Work Plan. Ecology notes that, while the document is approveable, certain technical review comments remain unresolved. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) to provide issue resolution within the context of subsequent primary documents.

Ecological Assessment

Ecology has previously communicated to USDOE that there is a consistent deficiency in how biological impacts are addressed in the 200 Area. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has previously provided comments on the 200-CW-1 Work Plan:

- letter from Jay McConnaughey, WDFW, to Bryan Foley, USDOE, 8/4/99, Re: Comments on the 200-CW-1 Operable Unit RI/FS Work Plan and 216-B-3 RCRA TSD Unit Sampling Plan 51693
- response letter from Bryan L. Foley, USDOE, to Jay McConnaughey, WDFW, 9/21/99, Re: Response to Comments on the 200-CW-1 Operable Unit Remedial Investigation Plan 51908

It is Ecology's opinion that USDOE's response is unsatisfactory. USDOE's key assertion is that "At this time, additional studies are not deemed necessary, as the information defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its 'Guidance for Conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies Under CERCLA (1988)' has already been collected." Ecology has separately requested that USDOE submit a remedial investigation report containing subject information for the 200 Area as a whole. Therefore, Ecology does not withhold approval of the 200-CW-1 Work Plan. It is incumbent on USDOE to provide issue resolution within the context of the remedial investigation report.



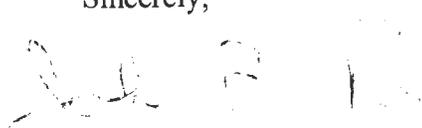
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The other unresolved comments that do not affect approval are:

- Pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303, the closure plan for final closure of a dangerous waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) must go through public involvement. USDOE asserts that public involvement on the permit modification fulfills this requirement. Because this comment relates to a subsequent primary document (the Feasibility Study [FS]/Closure Plan), it does not affect approval of this Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan.
- The last two activities presented in the schedule do not match the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) change package. Because it is expected that subsequent TPA change packages will periodically update this schedule, this comment does not affect approval of this RI Work Plan.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (509) 736-3029.

Sincerely,



John B. Price, ER Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

JBP:sdb

cc: Dennis Faulk, EPA
Jay McConnaughey, WDFW
Mary Lou Blazek, OOE
Administrative Record: 200-CW-1