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

DEC 23 1996



96-WSD-351

Mr. Mike Wilson, Program Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
State of Washington
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Wilson:

THIRTY-DAY EXTENSION TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT) MILESTONE M-44-02C

On October 31, 1996, the U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) delivered Milestone M-44-02C, "Tank Waste Analysis Plan for Fiscal Year 1997," on schedule, to the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). Subsequently, Ecology formally notified RL of its rejection of the M-44-02C submittal. On December 4, 1996, RL responded by initiating the dispute resolution process of the Tri-Party Agreement. Since that time, a working group composed of RL, contractor characterization representatives, and Ecology representatives, has been working to informally resolve this dispute prior to its elevation to the Inter Agency Management Integration Team. The group believes it can reach an agreement on the outstanding issues. Due to scheduling problems and the holidays, it will not be possible to reach resolution by January 3, 1997. However, the group believes it can resolve the issues and the dispute before February 3, 1997.

Therefore, I request that you sign the attached request for extension immediately. If you have any questions please contact James F. Thompson on (509) 373-9757.

Sincerely,

George H. Sanders, Administrator
Hanford Tri-Party Agreement

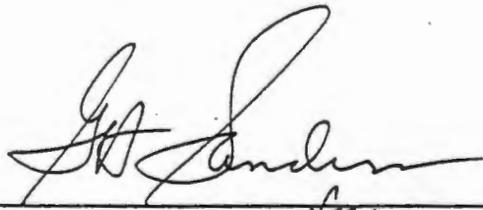
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Attachment

December 13, 1996

**THIRTY DAY EXTENSION TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY
AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER M-44-02C**

M-44-02C Interim Milestone, "Tank Waste Analysis Plan for Fiscal Year 1997," is in the dispute resolution process of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order. The end of the initial thirty (30) day period during which the Project Managers seek resolution of the dispute is extended thirty (30) days. This extends the end of that period from January 3, 1997 to February 3, 1997.



James E. Rasmussen
 Director, Environmental Assurance,
 Permits and Policy Division
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Richland Operations Office

Michael A. Wilson
 Manager, Nuclear Waste Program
 State of Washington
 Department of Ecology

cc: L. D. Arnold, FDH
 D. S. Dougherty, Ecology
 D. R. Sherwood, EPA
 C. C. Haass, DOE
 D. E. Jackson, DOE
 J. F. Thompson, DOE
 S. L. Dahl, Ecology
 Administrative Record