

START 9613503.2613

0045697

037547

Oregon

September 23, 1996

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. Phillip Staats
Washington State Department of Ecology
Kennewick Field Office
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336-6018

Mr. David Olsen
United States Department of Energy
P.O.Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



RECEIVED
OCT 04 1996
DOE-RL / DCC

Dear Messrs. Staats and Olsen:

We appreciate the opportunity to review the In Situ Treatability Test Plan (DOE/RL-95-107, Rev. 0).

44941

Oregon supports the study of new cleanup technology with the goal of increasing the effectiveness and reducing the cost of Hanford cleanup. We have made this position clear on many occasions with the Hanford Advisory Board and in other forums. While we have several concerns about this test plan, we will delay judgement on the technology until the one-year test phase is complete. We expect to participate in reviews of data developed during the test phase to determine if the technology offers a viable alternative to existing technology.

We are pleased the U.S. Department of Energy committed to use proven technology -- in this case, pump and treat -- while conducting the one-year test. While other technologies may prove more effective than pump and treat in the long term, we believe it is the best option today for treating and containing the contaminated groundwater.

If you have any questions in regard to these comments, please call me at (503)378-4906.

Sincerely,

Ken Niles
Acting Administrator
Nuclear Safety Division
Oregon Department of Energy

John A. Kitzhaber
Governor



625 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-4040
FAX (503) 373-7806
Toll-Free 1-800-221-8035