

United States Government

Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office

**memorandum**

DATE: JAN 10 2003  
 REPLY TO  
 ATTN OF: RCA:EBD/03-RCA-0111

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF FAILURE TO COMPLETE MILESTONES M-34-08, "INITIATE FULL SCALE K EAST BASIN SLUDGE REMOVAL" AND M-91-20, "T-PLANT IS READY TO RECEIVE THE FIRST CANISTER OF K BASINS FLOOR AND PIT SLUDGE"

TO: Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary  
 for Environmental Management  
 EM-1, HQ

The following provides an update to my memoranda of October 11, 2002, and October 25, 2002, that addressed my staff's projection that the subject milestones would not be completed by their due date of December 31, 2002. The milestones have been missed and I currently expect them to be completed by the end of April 2003. The DOE Richland Operations Office (RL) has also received a joint notification (attached) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Washington Department of Ecology notifying RL that we have missed the milestones and are subject to penalties as stipulated by the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement). However, no penalties have been assessed at this time.

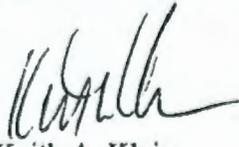
On a separate note, I am pleased to inform you that the Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Project completed Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-34-18A, "Complete Removal of Spent Nuclear Fuel Equivalent to 957 Metric Tons Heavy Metal from the K West Basin," on January 7, 2003. The milestone was completed one week late but penalties from the regulators are not anticipated. It required a major concerted effort by the SNF Project and my staff to turn the project around and get back on the baseline schedule.

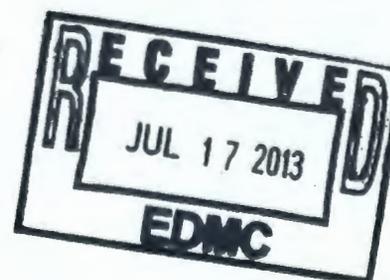
If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact W. Wade Ballard, RL Assistant Manager for Planning and Integration, at (509) 376-6657, or Joel Hebdon, Director, Regulatory Compliance and Analysis Division, at (509) 372-2400, or Steve Veitenheimer, Director, SNF, at (509) 373-9725.

m-034-08

Attachment

cc: See page 2

  
 Keith A. Klein  
 Manager



Jessie Hill Roberson  
03-RCA-0111

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cc w/attach:  
J. E. Rhoderick, EM-43  
R. S. Scott, EM-40