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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 26, 2006

Mr. Roy J. Schepens, Manager  
Office of River Protection  
United States Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 450, MSIN: H6-60  
Richland, Washington 99352-0450

RECEIVED  
JAN 09 2007

EDMC

Re: Missed Milestone M-62-08

Reference: Letter 06-TPD-046, from Roy J. Schepens, United States Department of Energy-Office of River Protection, to Jane A. Hedges, Department of Ecology, received June 29, 2006

Dear Mr. Schepens:

Change Number M-62-04-01 to the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order extended the due date for the interim milestone M-062-08 to June 30, 2006. In the letter referenced above, you notified Ecology of your inability to meet the extended due date.

Milestone M-062-08 states, "DOE will submit a Supplemental Treatment Technologies Report that describes the technical, financial, and contractual alternatives which in combination with the WTP and any required additional LAW vitrification facilities, are needed to treat all of Hanford's tank wastes."

Ecology is considering our response in light of this missed milestone. We understand that a full analysis of treatment options is not possible at this time. However, we do want information on United States Department of Energy's (USDOE) current state of knowledge relating to supplemental low-activity waste (LAW) treatment options. For each technology considered, please provide the following information by January 30, 2007:

- Description of the technology.
- Waste package performance data in comparison with the baseline borosilicate glass (WTP LAW A BP1).
- USDOE's analysis and conclusions from engineering and full scale tests. Ecology has received some test data reports, but we are also interested in USDOE's analysis of that data as it relates to lessons learned about the sensitivity of the technology, operational sensitivities, the application to future tests, etc.

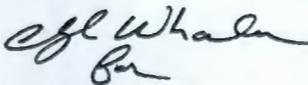
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Specific to the Bulk Vitrification (BV) technology, please provide the following additional information by January 30, 2007:

- USDOE's current plan, schedule and funding requirements for addressing each of the BV External Review Panel findings/issues.
- Vendor confirmation of performance assumptions in the Specification Sheet for major equipment such as the Dryer, Sintered Metal Filters, the Wet Scrubber System, and other offgas treatment equipment. Include current plans for full scale testing of unit operations at AMEC's Horn Rapids facility.
- Results from the October and November 2006 130L Dryer Test and an analysis of throughput and control reliability expected in full-scale operation. Specifically, we are concerned that the system as configured does not have adequate control reliability and cannot meet the throughput requirements needed. Please provide an analysis of the performance of the Dryer considering these elements. Also provide evaluations and recommendations from the vendor addressing advantages or disadvantages of a dry batch operation, as opposed to a wet batch operation.
- A conceptual model of how USDOE envisions using the BV technology to supplement the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) and list all assumptions. Include the location and number of lines in each BV facility, the expected throughput, specific tank wastes that could be treated in each facility, pre-treatment requirements if waste does not undergo processing in the WTP Pretreatment facility, and the recycling of effluents.
- Provide a Rough Order of Magnitude life cycle cost comparison with a second LAW vitrification facility. Identify all assumptions for construction, operation and decommissioning of the production BV facility(s), as well as and waste disposal costs.

We would like to meet with your staff at your earliest convenience to clarify any portion of our request, if necessary. Please contact Laura Cusack at 509-372-7291 or Robbie Biyani at 509-372-7884 to schedule this meeting.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Hedges  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

rkb/ljc/jc

cc: Peter Garcia, USDOE  
Billie Mauss, USDOE  
James Thompson, USDOE  
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Administrative Record: M-62-08