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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

July 11, 1996

Mr. James E. Rasmussen, Director
Environmental Assurance, Permits, and Policy Division
U.S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed your request and closure certification submitted in the December 19, 1996, letter "Modification of the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Part A Permit To Address Procedural Closure of the Biological Treatment Test Facilities."

In response to your request, Ecology staff inspected this unit and reviewed the associated information. It was determined these units were never actually used to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste, including mixed waste, except as provided in WAC 173-303-200 or WAC 173-303-802. Ecology approves the request for the modification of the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Part A Permit to reflect the procedural closure of the Biological Treatment Test Facilities (M-20-44). This unit is closed in accordance with Section 6.3.3 of the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order.

Ecology's acceptance of the closure certification releases the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE)/Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL) from the interim status and fulfills the closure of this unit. However, if at anytime it is determined acceptance of the closure certification was made based on false or inaccurate information, the unit or portions of the unit will become subject to remediation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act corrective action, the Model Toxics Control Act, and/or the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act, as applicable.

The mechanism by which the Part A, Form 3, for this unit will be withdrawn is by denying final status and terminating interim status for this unit. Ecology will prepare a fact sheet and initiate the public comment period. Following the public comment period, Ecology will notify USDOE as to the final disposition of the permit. At that time, USDOE is to submit Form 3 for the unit

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stamped "Closed as of the current date." This will complete the process for modification of the Hanford Facility Dangerous Waste Part A Permit to reflect closure of this unit.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these issues, please contact me at (509) 736-3008 or Jeanne Wallace at (509) 736-3019.

Sincerely,



Ron Effland
Biological Treatment Test Facility Unit Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

RE:sl

cc: Maple A. Barnard, USDOE
Cliff Clark, USDOE
Ellen M. Mattlin USDOE
Dave Einan, EPA
Doug Sherwood, EPA
Harold Tilden, PNNL
Kenneth C. Brog, PNNL
B. Burke, CTUIR
Administrative Records: Biological Treatment Test Facility
300-FF-2 Operable Unit