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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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September 14, 2017

17-NWP-126

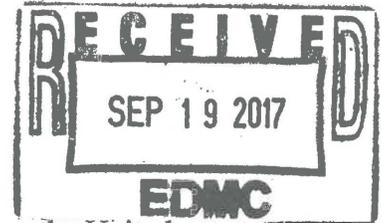
Mr. Doug S. Shoop, Manager  
Richland Operations Office  
United States Department of Energy  
PO Box 550, MSIN: H5-20  
Richland, Washington 99352

Mr. Ty Blackford, President and CEO  
CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company  
PO Box 1600, MSIN: A7-01  
Richland, Washington 99352

Re: Corrective Actions to Ensure Safe Storage of Waste in the Plutonium Uranium Extraction  
Plant (PUREX) Storage Tunnels 1 and 2

References: See page 2

Dear Mr. Shoop and Mr. Blackford:



The Department of Ecology (Ecology) received Letter 17-AMRP-0240 from the United States Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (USDOE-RL) on August 17, 2017 (Reference 1).

That letter responded to Ecology letter 17-NWP-098 issued August 4, 2017 (Reference 2), which requested USDOE-RL and CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) provide a schedule for the following by August 18, 2017:

1. Convening the panel of experts who will assess the corrective actions for Tunnel 2.
2. Completing the initial analysis of options and identification of data needs.
3. Completing the detail alternative analysis for Tunnel 2 and selecting an option to stabilize Tunnel 2 to make the continued storage of waste in the tunnels safe.

Letter 17-AMRP-0240 provided Ecology the date for convening the panel of experts who will assess the corrective actions for Tunnel 2 as listed in item 1 above. However, the letter did not provide Ecology the dates for items 2 and 3 above.

Ecology recognizes there is value added in assembling a panel for further investigation of the corrective actions to structurally stabilize PUREX Tunnel 2. Therefore, we amended Administrative Order Docket #14156 to Amended Order Docket # 15419 (Reference 3). The Amended Order adds Tunnel 2 to the full scope of Corrective Action 3 and provides additional time for USDOE-RL and CHPRC to complete Corrective Action 3. Corrective Action 3 is now due on December 8, 2018.



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While the due date for Corrective Action 3 has been extended, Ecology is still concerned with the potential of a collapse in Tunnel 2 that USDOE-RL's and CHPRC's integrity assessment identified. Specifically, we are concerned that enhanced surveillance and monitoring will not fully address the immediate risk associated with the Tunnel. Ecology wants to ensure the phased approach USDOE-RL and CHPRC propose proceeds expeditiously and on a schedule that allows you to meet the deadline for submitting the Amended Order's Corrective Action No. 3 by December 8, 2017.

Therefore, Ecology requests that USDOE-RL and CHPRC provide to us the schedule for following by September 29, 2017:

1. Completing the initial analysis of options and identification of data needs.
2. Completing the detail alternative analysis for Tunnel 2 and selecting an option to stabilize Tunnel 2 to make the continued storage of waste in the tunnels safe.

We appreciate the continued cooperation and focus on quickly addressing the urgent risks posed by the PUREX Tunnels.

If there are any questions regarding this letter, please contact Stephanie Schleif, Facility Transition Project Manager, at [stephanie.schleif@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:stephanie.schleif@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 372-7929 or Ron Skinnerland, Waste Management Section Manager, at [ron.skinnerland@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ron.skinnerland@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 372-7924.

Sincerely,



Alexandra K. Smith  
Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program

ss/lkd

Reference 1: Letter 17-AMRP-0240, dated August 17, 2017, "Administrative Order Number 14156 – Corrective Actions to Ensure Safe Storage of Waste in PUREX Storage Tunnel 2"

Reference 2: Letter 17-NWP-098, dated August 4, 2017, "Corrective Action to Ensure Safe Storage of Waste in the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant Storage Tunnels 1 and 2"

Reference 3: Letter 17-NWP-123, dated September 14, 2017, "Amended Administrative Order, Docket # 15419 amending Order Docket # 14156"

cc: See page 3

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cc electronic w/enc:

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Environmental Portal  
Hanford Facility Operating Record

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