



U.S. Department of Energy  
**Office of River Protection**

0057517

P.O. Box 450  
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JUN 27 2002

02-OMD-036

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
1315 W. Fourth Avenue  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

**RECEIVED**  
JUN 28 2002  
**EDMC**

Dear Mr. Wilson:

**SUBMITTAL OF M-23-24 SINGLE-SHELL TANK (SST) SYSTEM INTEGRITY  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

This letter transmits the SST Integrity Assessment Report required to complete the Hanford Facility Agreement and Consent Order (HFFACO) Milestone M-23-24.

Based upon the current structural integrity assessment and evaluations of potential degradation mechanisms, the report concluded that the reinforced concrete tank structures have an adequate collapse margin, justifying continued safe storage of the interim-stabilized waste. Concerning the tank liners, the tank leak history, corrosion, and uncertain conditions, the leak integrity of any of the SSTs cannot be demonstrated. As a result, we have been taking and continue to take actions to reduce the probability of future leaks.

In recognition of the inability to meet current regulatory leak integrity requirements, these tanks and ancillary systems should be considered not fit for use per 40 CFR 265.191. Notwithstanding this fitness determination, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the State of Washington Department of (Ecology) have recognized since 1988 that the SSTs did not comply, and could not be brought into compliance, with the tank design and operation requirements of the Dangerous Waste regulations. Consequently, DOE and Ecology have negotiated and agreed to a comprehensive series of enforceable milestones in the HFFACO to allow temporary continued use of SSTs pending SST closure. These HFFACO milestones include comprehensive schedules for removal of liquid waste pending waste retrieval, priority retrieval of waste based on environmental risk reduction, staging of SST waste into double-shell tanks, construction and operation of vitrification facilities to treat and immobilize waste, and final closure of SSTs. These actions are focused on reducing risk to the public and environment and eventually closing the tank farms consistent with the HFFACO.

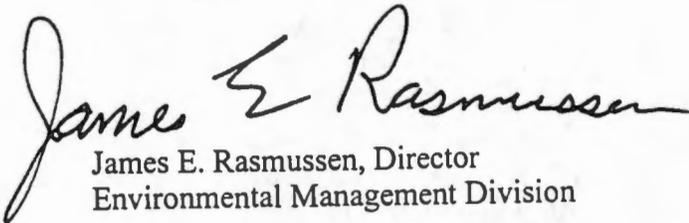
Mr. Michael A. Wilson  
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If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Deborah Williams, (509) 376-8488, or Woody Russell, (509) 373-5227.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental Management Division

OMD:DJW

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

J. Cox, CTUIR  
R. F. Stanley, Ecology  
J. Lyons, Ecology  
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TPA Administrative Record

cc w/o enclosure:

D. I. Allen, CHG  
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